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ThumbPrint News

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

MAY 2012



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CROSSING THE BORDER

By William Easton

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

One fine summer morning as I was jogging or cycling near the Blue Water Bridge, I was asked for directions by a passing motorist. Nothing unusual about that, and although I am a transplant to the area, I was happy to comply. As I recall, this happened before September 11, 2001, and probably even before completion of the second bridge span in 1997.

But the question proved a bit surprising. The driver of a luxury car with several passengers wanted to know where he could next find some way to cross the lake. He was northbound, but I refrained from suggesting that he hadn't yet reached the lake, which geographically is still north of the bridge. (Outflow of Lake Huron into the St. Clair River occurs exactly at Latitude 45. 05. 30N, per BoatNerd.com.) According to my quick mental map vision, I concluded that unless he had a boat or plane he could not cross Lake Huron from the United States. If he just wanted to cross a lake to Canada, he could of course drive about 350 miles to the International Bridge across Lake Superior at Sault Ste Marie.



En route he would cross the Mackinac Bridge where the two Great Lakes, Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, merge. But there simply wasn't vehicle traffic between the two countries on Lake Huron. Nor was there any international vehicle traffic across Lake Michigan. Crossing Lake Erie or Lake Ontario by car requires

See *THE BORDER*, Page 18

Spotlight on a Small Town – Almont

By Ralph McKinch

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Small towns and villages abound in the Thumb of Michigan, each with their own fascinating story to tell. Some are almost ghost towns, shadows of their former days of prosperity. Others exist today, thriving but retaining nostalgic elements of their historic past. Such is the village of Almont, located in the southwest corner of Lapeer County. Almont is the sixth oldest village in the State of Michigan.

The Native Americans and roving packs of wolves roamed and hunted the area that would become Almont long before the first white man set foot on the soil here. In 1827, William Allen, his son G. W. Allen and James Thorington became the first white men to arrive. The heavily wooded area yielded to their axes as Levi Washburn, a hunter and guide from the township of Washington, helped the group to cut a road through what now is Almont to the valuable woodlands of the pineries beyond. The southern portion of the area also offered land that was conducive to agriculture.



The west side of South Main Street circa 1894

Lydia Chamberlain, in the spring of 1828, was the first purchaser of land in the township, although James Deneen in the fall of the same year also purchased land here and became its first settler.

See *ALMONT*, Page 12

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Do You Remember These?

As with a large percentage of the population today, I communicate on a somewhat regular basis with many of my friends and family on that social network, Facebook. Yesterday, one of my friends sent me a link to a YouTube video. It featured the Statler Brothers singing "Do You Remember These?" I listened to it several times as memories of the 50s and 60s started flooding into my brain. References to Howdie-Doodie, penny loafers, sock hops, Captain Midnight, Tutti-Frutti, Cracker Jack prizes, knock knock jokes, cooties and many more were things I remembered but hadn't thought about in a while. There were also some things mentioned that I either never knew or had long forgotten.

The Statler Brothers, consisting of Harold Reid, Phil Balsey, Jimmy Fortune and Don Reid, had a long 40 year career. After retiring from concerts and tours in 2002, they went on to being inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of fame in October of 2007 and then the Country Music Hall of Fame in June of 2008. The song "Do You Remember These?" originally aired on television in 1982. The lyrics were written by Don and Harold Reid and Larry Lee. How many of the things mentioned do you remember?

Do You Remember These?

*Saturday morning serials chapters 1 through 15,
Fly paper, penny loafers, Lucky Strike Green,
Flat tops, sock hops, Studebaker, Pepsi Please,
Ah, do you remember these?*

*Cigar bands on your hand, your daddy's socks rolled down.
Shticks, snow globes and aviator caps with flaps that button down.
Movie stars on Dixie Cup tops, and knickers to your knees,
Ah, do you remember these?*

*The Hit Parade, grape Tru-Ade, The Sadie Hawkins Dance,
Pedal pushers, duck tail hair and peggin' your pants.
Howdy-Doody, Tutti-Frutti, the seam up the back of her hose,
Ah, do you remember those?*

*James Dean, he was keen, Sunday movies were taboo,
The Senior Prom, Judy's mom, rock and roll was new.
Cracker Jack prize, stars in your eyes, ask daddy for the keys,
Ah, do you remember these?*

*The boogey man, lemonade stand, takin' your tonsils out,
Indian burn and wait your turn, and 4 foul balls you're out.
Cigarette loads, and secret codes, and savin' Lucky Stars,
Can you remember back that far?*

*The boat neck shirts, and fender skirts and crinoline petticoats,
Mum's the word, and a dirty bird and a double root beer float.
Moon hub caps, and loud heel taps, and "he's a real gone cat."
Ah, do you remember that?*

*Dancin' close, little moron jokes, and cooties in her hair,
Captain Midnight, Ovaltine, and The Whip at the County Fair.*

*Charles Atlas Course, Roy Roger's Horse, and "only The Shadow knows"
Ah, do you remember those?*

*Gable's charm, froggin' your arm, loud mufflers, pitchin' woo,
Going steady, Veronica and Betty, white bucks, and Blue Suede Shoes
Knock Knock jokes – Who's there? Dewey. Dewey who?
Do we, do we remember these? Yes, we do,
Ah, do we do we remember these?*

As my age continues to creep up towards that big 60 at the end of this year, I find myself becoming more and more nostalgic. I used to enjoy listening to my parents and grandparents reminisce about "the good old days", and now, as a grandmother myself, I find it is reversing, with the little ones listening to my stories. Time just seems to fly by so quickly!

As I am writing this, I am enjoying the warm Florida weather at my new Sarasota vacation home and am preparing for the first visit of my two youngest grandchildren. I painted an old wooden trunk bright sky blue, and decorated it with cutouts of fish, dolphins and starfish. From the craft store, Michaels, I found colorful precut foam letters about four inches high, which I used to spell out "TOYS" on the lid. Then, the fun part began – trying to fill it with toys from Walmart that could be their special treat to use at Grandma's Beach House.

At home, both of the grandchildren play with many complicated computerized toys that were unheard of during my childhood. Heck, they even know how to use a Smartphone to take a photo. Grandma still uses a "dumb" phone. At least it IS a cell phone!

So, when I was shopping for toys for them to use here, I tended to get a bit nostalgic, thinking of things that I enjoyed when I was about their ages. I ended up getting jump ropes, hula hoops, jacks, and board games, such as checkers, tiddly winks and Chutes and Ladders. I also got a large mesh bag of plastic beach toys that we can use to build sand castles.

When I got everything back to the house and started putting them away into the toy box I had so lovingly created, I heard a sound coming down the street that I hadn't heard for ages – the musical lyrics coming out of a speaker mounted on the roof of an ice cream truck. And, as I looked out the window, I saw about ten neighborhood children running down the sidewalks with change in their hands ready to pick out their favorite frozen treat from the colorful selection portrayed on the side of the truck. How perfect, I thought. My thoughts went back about 50 years ago and I almost saw myself in that crowd of kids.

I am sure that when my grandchildren arrive, they are going to have fun digging into that toy box and discovering what delights Grandma has filled it with, even though the toys are much simpler than those they have back home. And, when the ice cream truck comes by, I will be joining them in picking out an icy frozen treat as I reminisce about by-gone days and look forward to the exciting days ahead sharing many tomorrows with the grandchildren.

DIANE KODET

Editor, ThumbPrint News

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MY FIRST BIKE

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

It seems as I have come to realize there's an aging process, which I am more aware of each day; those events that took place last week or maybe even yesterday are difficult to remember. However, experiences that occurred several decades ago seem so vivid. I can recall many of the "firsts" in my life.

As an example, I remember my first bicycle. As I recall, I was 8-years old and, at the urging of my mother, my father surrendered his need to protect me from all dangers of life and purchased a new blue Western Flyer bicycle from the local Western Auto store. I have no idea what that bike cost over 60 years ago, but I imagine it was far less than the \$350 it now demands as a collector's item.

In the early fifties you couldn't buy the various size bikes now on the market. There were probably two sizes available in most stores and my father bought the smaller one. That was alright, but he decided I would have problems getting my leg over the cross-bar, so my first bicycling adventures were experienced on my brand new "girl's" bike. Yes, he was still being protective, but I could tolerate that because I now had a bike.

I didn't know how to ride a bike, so my father got me started by demonstrating how to mount the bike, which was fairly easy for me since it was a "girl's" model, and how to maintain my balance, which wasn't very easy. He demonstrated only once how to use the brakes and assumed I would know how to steer the two-wheeled vehicle. That was the extent of my lessons. The rest was up to me.



At first I wasn't allowed to ride on the streets or sidewalks in our quiet Algonac neighborhood. I was to confine myself to our double-lot property with its long dirt and gravel driveway that curved past the rear of our house. That was my training ground and I now realize that was probably better since I'm convinced I would have seriously injured myself elsewhere.

On my first day of training with no one watching, I took my bike to the end of the driveway and pointed it towards the house. With great courage and a running start I jumped on, which again was easy since it was a "girl's" bike. I pedaled towards the house as fast as my short legs would allow, initially fearing that I might falter or lose my balance. As I remember, it was a wobbly ride, but alas I was moving.

As I approached the curve at the rear of the house I sensed that I was moving faster than I should be. Then, in the blink of an eye, any confidence I might have gained in my short first ride disappeared as I became desperately aware that I had forgotten how to stop my bike or even how to slow it down. I couldn't recall how to work the brake, so I reluctantly used the next best thing; the corner of the house.

With the common sense of an average 8-year old boy and although it hurt, I continued the process of starting, riding, and crash stopping for several trips down the driveway. Then my mother, who had heard the thumping as I hit the side of the house, discovered why my knee and arm had abrasions and brought my first training day to a conclusion. I did receive further instructions from my father, which saved the corner of the house and me from further damage.

A couple of years passed and I was given my first "boy's" bike. It was a bright red Schwinn with a white seat and matching handle-bar grips. And, my first bike, now scratched and dented, became the first bicycle of my oldest sister who didn't care that it was a "girl's" bike.

Since that first bike I have owned many bicycles of various sizes, shapes and numerous speeds. For years while living in California, a multiple-speed bicycle was a part of my lifestyle and I would often travel 60-80 miles on beach trails and along Pacific Coast Highway. I even wore a helmet for safety and learned how to use the brakes effectively, some lessons that would have been helpful so many years before.

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I could go on to explain my first book, first baseball glove, first kiss, first car, first date, even my first romantic heartbreak – tales I have told or may share in the future. But, my purpose here in offering one recollection is to encourage you to just close your eyes and remember your first _____ (fill in the blank).

These are the experiences that help to develop our character and hopefully create the wisdom we can share with our children and grandchildren. As you think of other events in your life, see how quickly the cares and negative aspects of the day that may surround you disappear as you recall an easier time. And, if you're a guy and anything like me, it won't even matter if your first bike was made for "girls." 🍀

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**YOUR INCREDIBLE,
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By Stella Otto
ThumbPrint News Columnist

Welcome to our new column "Your Incredible Edible BackYard." Author Stella Otto is a horticulturist with a degree in pomology; that's a fancy word for fruit production; from Michigan State University. She is a Benjamin Franklin Award Winning author and publisher of the *BackYard Orchardist: A complete guide to growing fruit trees in the home garden* and the *BackYard Berry Book: A hands-on guide to growing berries, brambles, and vine fruit in the home garden*. Stella has been a garden columnist for *Northern Home* magazine. Her articles and book excerpts have appeared in numerous magazines including *Organic Gardening*, *Kitchen Garden*, *New Garden Journal*, *Traditional Gardening*, *Acres USA*, *Burpee Home Gardener* and *Country Journal*.

Stella Otto has been a featured guest on National Public Radio, *America's Home Grown Veggie Show* and numerous other garden radio shows. She has also appeared on Discovery Channel's *Home Matters*, demonstrating aspects of landscaping creatively with fruit.

A Master Gardener program and college Introductory Horticulture instructor in northern Michigan, Stella has presented numerous workshops to urban garden groups, garden clubs, and at local garden centers. She currently gardens in Leelanau County and shares her more than 30 years of experience growing fruit, vegetables and herbs.

At the Ground Level – Steps for Preparing a Successful Garden

As I write this in mid-March, the weather is more befitting mid-June or July. Who knows what it will be when you read this in early May. This unusual weather has certainly left everyone scurrying to prepare the garden for the growing season. As an introduction, let's consider what is needed for a well-prepared, edible garden.

First, the soil is highly important. Seek a soil with both sufficient water holding capacity and adequate drainage of excess moisture. Generous organic matter content helps provide the nutrient exchange capacity needed for a successful edible garden. A loam or sandy loam soil is ideal. Clay soils often hold excess water or when too dry, become brick hard. Sandy soils, in contrast, drain water and leach nutrients too quickly. Both of these soil conditions can be modified somewhat over time with the addition of lots of compost or organic matter.

Next, almost all fruit trees, berry bushes, vegetable and herb plants need a minimum amount of sunlight to produce to their fullest. An average of at least six hours daily is the general rule of thumb. Locating the edible garden in the woods or on the shady north side of a building will present challenges in raising a crop. That is not to say that all crops thrive in hot sun and high temperatures. Leafy greens, such as lettuce and spinach, peas, and broccoli all thrive in the cooler temperature of spring or early fall. Currants and gooseberries grow best when lightly shaded from driving sun and temperatures above 80 degrees.

Once an appropriate location is found, it is important to prepare it properly. To

avoid competition for water and nutrients, all weeds and sod need to be removed. This may require application of a contact weed killer, such as Round-up. Avoid any weed killers that will remain active in the soil or those that deter germination. They will not differentiate between weed seeds and the seeds you plant. Thorough spading or rototilling will loosen the soil and prepare a good seed bed for root development. Once planting is complete, the soil should be firmed and watered to rid it of any large air pockets. Applying a mulch of straw or other loose, coarse organic matter once seedlings emerge will help keep weeds at bay.

Finally, choosing the right fruits and vegetables for your garden conditions is the key to a successful harvest. There is great variation in how long it takes fruit and vegetables to ripen to their fullest flavor. Selecting varieties that ripen within your normal growing season are most likely to produce a tasty, bountiful crop. 🌱

Editor's note: Stella Otto is an award winning author, horticulturist, and Master Gardener instructor. Her books The BackYard Orchardist: A complete guide to growing fruit trees in the home garden and The BackYard Berry Book: A hands-on guide to growing berries, brambles, and vine fruit in the home garden are available as signed copies at her website www.stellaotto.com. Also at her website, find The Backyard Fruit Gardener with information and a subscription "Ask the Expert" Q & A resource for all of your fruit gardening needs.

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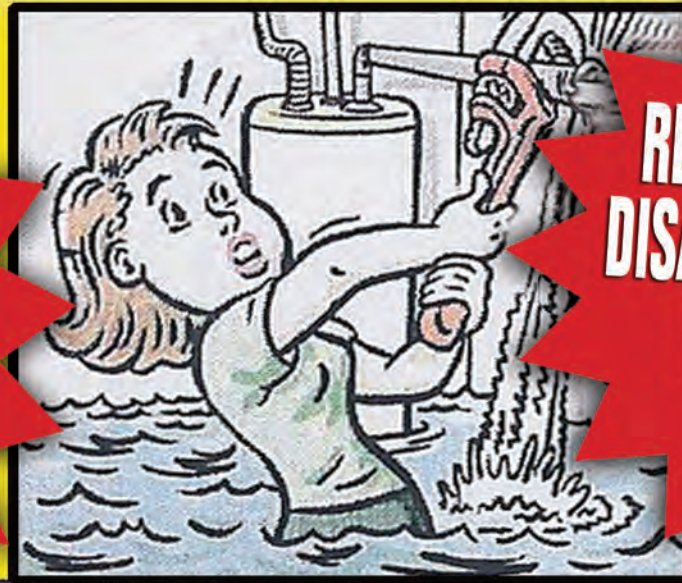
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LANDSCAPING THE THUMB



Master Your Mowing

By Paul Bujak

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Ahhh . . . the smell of fresh cut grass. One of the best smells of summer is almost here. As you are reading this, you are probably thinking about how your lawn is going to look this season. A high quality fertilizer application can help spruce up your yard, but there is one other important step in achieving that fabulous looking lawn. The way you mow your grass can affect the overall health and appearance of your property. It's very important to follow some important guidelines when managing your lawn this summer.

Cutting Height

There is a general rule of thumb for grass height during the summer. I recommend keeping your lawn cut at a minimum of three inches tall during the hot summer months. You don't want to stress your lawn by cutting it any shorter. Longer grass also provides shading that will inhibit crabgrass from forming.



Grass Clippings

This year, ditch your grass bag and use your clippings as a natural fertilizer. The best thing you can do for your lawn is to leave the grass clippings to decompose. By using a high quality mulching lawn mower blade, you can finely shred your clippings. These clippings provide your yard with extra nitrogen, water and nutrients. Also, a longer grass looks more lush and dense compared to a short cut lawn.



When to Cut

The best time to cut your lawn is either late morning or in the evening during the summer. Plan on mowing once a week to keep the grass from becoming too tall. Avoid cutting grass in the early morning or when it is wet. Wet grass is slick, cuts unevenly, and clumps up on your lawn. Besides, who wants to spend the whole summer raking up clumpy grass?

Cutting Directions

Have you ever noticed a lawn that has nice, evenly cut lines that resemble a diamond pattern? This technique is fairly easy to accomplish. By cutting every week at the opposite angle you can achieve a nice professionally cut lawn. When you cut your lawn in different patterns you'll avoid creating ruts and uneven mohawk effects in your yard.



By following these tips you will not only save time and money but you will have a luscious green lawn your neighbors will envy. So sit back, relax and grab a cold lemonade and enjoy your fabulous looking lawn this summer.

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Dandelions Eat 'em to Beat 'em!

Recipes gathered by Louise Allen
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer



Many a home-owner has waged war on that aggressive, pesky weed of spring lawns and gardens – the dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*). Yet herbalists consider it to be a valuable herb that can be used as a food and as a medicine. Like other leafy greens, dandelion greens are an outstanding source of vitamins A and K. Naturally slightly bitter, cooking them with other ingredients can make them into a delicious meal accompaniment. This year take a new approach in the war on dandelions – pick them and eat them! Fresh, young leaves are the tastiest and always be sure to pick from an area that you are sure has not been sprayed with herbicides, pesticides, or any other chemicals. **Here are a couple of great recipes to try:**

Cheesy Dandelion Greens Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1½ pounds dandelion greens, washed and trimmed (can also substitute kale, mustard greens, turnip greens, collard greens, or mixed greens)
- salt and black pepper
- 1½ cups chicken or vegetable broth, divided
- 1 cup half-and-half
- 4 tablespoons butter
- ¼ cup flour
- ½ cup grated parmesan cheese
- ½ cup ricotta cheese (whole milk or part skim)
- 3 tablespoons dry bread crumbs
- 2 ounces mozzarella cheese, shredded, about ½ cup



Preparation:

Butter a 1½-quart baking dish or casserole; preheat the oven to 375°.

Cut out and discard the tough stems; if using kale or collards, cut out thick center ribs. Rinse all the greens and shake off any excess water, chop them into half inch pieces. In a large skillet, cook the greens over low heat, adding them by handfuls and stirring them down as they wilt. Add ½ cup of chicken broth, then cover the skillet; braise for 10 to 15 minutes, or until tender. Pour off any liquid left in the skillet, then season the greens with salt and pepper. Transfer to a bowl and set aside.

Heat the remaining one cup of broth and half-and-half in a saucepan, just until bubbles form around the edge of the pan.

In the large skillet, melt the butter over low heat. Add the flour and cook, stirring, for one minute. Add the hot broth mixture

all at once and stir over medium heat until the sauce is smooth and thickened. Whisk in the grated parmesan and ricotta cheeses. Stir the greens into the cheese sauce and pour the mixture into the prepared baking dish. Sprinkle with the bread crumbs and then sprinkle the grated mozzarella over the top; bake for 20 minutes, or until the sauce is bubbling and the mozzarella is melted and lightly browned. Serve immediately. Serves six.

Dandelion Greens with Currants and Pine Nuts

Ingredients:

- About 2 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- 1 lb. dandelion greens, ends trimmed, roughly chopped (about 2½ qts.)
- ¼ tsp. each kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 3 tbsp. each dried currants and toasted pine nuts
- Lemon wedges (optional)



Preparation:

Heat one tbsp. oil in a large nonstick frying pan over medium heat. Add garlic and cook until fragrant, stirring, about 30 seconds.

Add dandelion greens in batches, turning frequently with tongs. Increase heat to medium-high, sprinkle with salt and pepper, and continue to cook, turning with tongs, until greens are wilted and tender-crisp, about five minutes.

Add currants and pine nuts and cook one minute more. Transfer to a serving dish and drizzle with about one tbsp. more oil. Serve with a squeeze of lemon if you like. Serves six.



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The Angel Advisor

Visiting Angels St. Clair and Sterling Heights Awarded 2012 "Leader in Excellence"

By Jeffrey Johnson

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer



Visiting Angels announced today that it received this year's distinguished "Leader in Excellence" Award by Home Care Pulse, the leading firm in quality assurance for private duty home care. The "Leader in Excellence" Award was awarded to less than 20 private duty home care agencies across the country, who consistently ranked among the highest in 10 or more out of 12 quality metrics assessed by Home Care Pulse. As a "Leader in Excellence," Visiting Angels St. Clair represents a top performer in the national home care industry.

This accomplishment also shows Visiting Angels' long-term dedication to excellent care and quality improvement. To qualify for this award, 10% of their clients were polled each month by Home Care Pulse to rate the care they received through personal phone interviews. These client satisfaction ratings were factored into their overall ranking over a 12-month period. Using feedback from clients and employees, as well as quality benchmarks from Home Care Pulse, the management team set goals to reach the highest level of excellence possible.

"Our number one concern is care recipient satisfaction of our services. This has been a difficult area to measure in the past, but now I feel we have a pulse on our customers care. I am so proud of our St. Clair and Sterling Heights locations. They have both received the 'Best of Homecare' for the third time and 'Leader in Excellence' award and all the work has paid off with a better, more reliable service for the families we care for," says Stephen Novak, owner of Visiting Angels. "Receiving the 'Leader in Excellence' award was a tremendous surprise and our two offices are the first and only ones in Michigan to receive it. To receive this award, an agency must maintain the highest standards for one year, which we have been able to do and continue to do," Novak adds.

Visiting Angels also earned the "Best of Home Care" designation from Home Care Pulse in 2010, 2011 and 2012, which acts as a guide to help consumers choose the best home care agency in their area. "Leaders in Excellence" are the top-performing "Best of Home Care" agencies in the nation. Performance is evaluated based on factors such as staff training, communication, caregiver performance, caregiver morale, response to problems, likeliness to recommend, and overall quality care.

"Our goal at Home Care Pulse is to help agencies reach their goals and deliver the best home care possible, and so it's very rewarding to us to recognize Visiting Angels as a 'Leader in Excellence.' We've been impressed by their commitment to their clients and caregivers, as well as the quality of the overall care they provide. They really stand out in their community as a top home care provider," commented Aaron Marcum, President of Home Care Pulse.

"Visiting Angels is a private duty, non-medical senior homecare agency providing meal preparation, light housekeeping, medication reminders, hygiene assistance, companionship, respite care and so much more for nearly nine years. We also specialize in Alzheimer's and Dementia care, having most of our caregivers certified with the Dementia Care Professionals of America (DCPA) whom we have a National Partnership with. All our caregivers are bonded and insured and are checked out thoroughly with personal references and national criminal history checks," added Novak. "Our goal is to help our seniors age gracefully at home with dignity."

To find out more about Visiting Angels' commitment to excellence, please visit www.VisitingAngels.com/stclair or call 810-326-4357.

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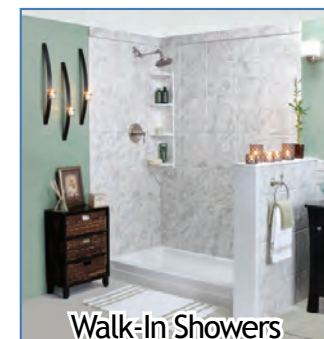
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You should see what's going on at the
“Treasury of Lost and Found Memories” History Center

1424 Pointe Aux Road in Port Austin

Submitted by the Port Austin Historical Society

While our mild winter slowly slid by, work at the History Center went full speed ahead.

In 2009, the building known as the Port Austin Civic Center was moved to its current location and re-named the History Center.



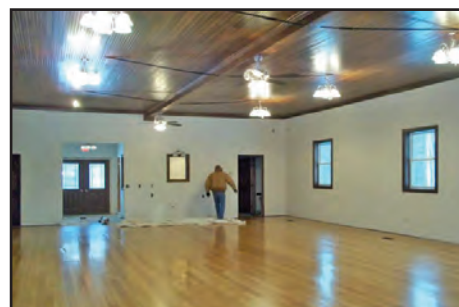
The History Center in Port Austin

Chris Clancy and Catherine Kennedy met with children from North Huron School and a formal title for the building was created: Treasury of Lost and Found Memories. The building will also include information from Grindstone, Huron City, Kinde, Oak Beach, Port Crescent and Port Austin Reef Lighthouse artifacts.

The Historical Society Group has worked tirelessly to acquire funding to refurbish the structure and restore all building codes. The Group would like to commend Judy Goretski for her tremendous kick start of funding with the idea to sell footage in the building. The kids at the Tech Center are working on a Donor Tree to be placed in the entry way of the building. Anyone who would like to make a donation of \$25 or more, in memory or in honor of someone, will have a leaf engraved for the tree. Please contact Treasurer Judy Binkley at (989) 428-3036 if you are interested. We have purchased 300 leaves and have sold 142 thus far.

The land on Pointe Aux Barques Road was leased to the Historical Society for 99 years at \$2.00 per year by the Port Austin Sewer and Water Authority. The building was donated by the Village of Port Austin and Talaski Movers moved it at no cost.

First the land was cleared and the drive way stabilized with shale. All necessary permits were obtained. Under General Contractor Richard Petit work began. The old stage and bathrooms were converted to a storage area. Then came installation of new windows and all utilities, water, gas and electric. A new roof, siding and



The natural wood ceiling and floor were completely refurbished during renovation.

septic system were added. Foam insulation was put on the outside walls and insulation blown into the attic. Drywall was hung and the walls painted.

While working in the building, there were treasures to be found including

a beautiful natural wood ceiling and flooring. The ceiling was washed and varnished and the floor was completely re-done.

A new covered porch was added and storage under the building was created.

On several occasions students from Olivet College, under the direction of Mr. Mike Fales, got their hands and knees both dirty doing whatever was needed to help complete the project. They were a wonderful addition to our work crew and we greatly appreciate their efforts. The students plan to help with our Grand Opening later this summer and two students are planning to intern at the Center for the summer months.

The landscaping is scheduled to be completed this spring along with a fully functioning “old time” kitchen. There will be a genealogy corner and a designated area for Port Austin Light House. 🌱

PROJECTED HOURS

May	
Wednesday (Workday)	10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday	1 p.m.-4 p.m.
June, July & August	
Daily	10 a.m.-4 p.m.
September & October	
Saturday & Sunday	1 p.m.-4 p.m.
Classes and events are scheduled by reservation.	

SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- July 6 thru August 31, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. – Friday Night Guest Writers Night
- July 20, 2012 – Old Fashion Bingo Party
- The circus is coming in August!
- September 8, 2012 (Tentative Date) – Our Grand Opening
- September 26, 2012 – Benefit Dinner at the Pasta House
- September 29 & 30 (11 a.m.-4 p.m.) – County Wide Museum Tour
- Look for the Historical Society Booth Saturdays at the Farmers Market and the return of the 300 Club Raffle (\$30 a ticket, 300 tickets sold, 24 chances to win).



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ALMONT

Continued from Page 1

For the next two years, James' nearest neighbors lay ten miles to the south. To the north was Saginaw Valley, what was then but an obscure trading post, not the bustling city it is today. James eventually headed west to California, with many other fortune seekers, during the height of the Gold Rush, dying there shortly after.

Other early settlers were Jonathan Sleeper, who built a log house just south of the center of the village in the fall of 1830 and Oliver Bristol, who built the first frame house. Oliver's brother, Bezaleel, followed soon after. Also in 1830, Elijah Sanborn purchased land here but didn't settle on it until 1831. The winter of 1830-31 was unusually long and cold, with heavy snowfall. These early pioneers had a hard time keeping themselves and their few livestock warm and fed and battled constantly to keep the wolves from their doors, literally. The nightly howl of wolves and the abundance of bears were a constant reminder of the dangerous conditions that still lurked in the out of doors.

James Deneen not only had the distinction of being Almont's first settler, but also was the father of the first white child born in Lapeer County, Anna Deneen. The death of the infant son of Bezaleel Bristol, also one of the earliest settlers, resulted in the first funeral and the first sermon ever preached in Lapeer County. The preacher, known as "Old Father Abel Warren," was a pioneer preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church, providing his traveling services to Lapeer and several adjoining counties.

From 1831 until 1833, many other names were added to the list of the earliest settlers of Almont, including John Walden, Abner Fisher, William Boles, Josiah Sleeper, Benjamin Sleeper, Philip Frisbie and his father, Nathaniel Smith, Philip Smith, and many others.

In 1833, Elisha Webster built the first



South (East) Main Street circa 1894, prior to fire (from north)

sawmill in the town. Daniel Black built the first home on the site of the present village of Almont and is still known as the founder of the village.

Another important event occurred in 1833, the beginning of the Scotch Settlement in the southwest portion of the township by David Taylor, John Hopkins, James Thomas and William Robertson. This became the first permanent settlement in Lapeer County. Along Scotch Settlement Road (as it is still known today) there exists a cemetery that was used by these first Scottish settlers. On the grounds of the cemetery at one time the Presbyterian Church stood, as well as an early school further down the road.

Another large surge of settlers arrived in 1834. Perhaps this is one of the reasons that in that winter, Daniel Black established a sort of tavern in his log house. In order to comply with the existing laws for running a tavern, Daniel had to keep two extra beds in his house for patrons, provide stables for two teams of horses, and had to travel to Pontiac to obtain a tavern license for \$18. The tavern became quite popular, especially with the young folks who would travel over rough

roads from as far away as Rochester and Utica to attend dances there. Daniel also went on to serve as township collector for ten years.

Also during 1834, the township was organized under the name of Bristol (named for Oliver Bristol, the second permanent settler) and the first town meeting was held. The first school house was built out of logs and Charlotte Freeman became the first teacher, receiving 74 cents a week for her services. Dr. Caleb Carpenter became the first doctor to settle in the village. The Almont Methodist Episcopal Society was organized, also in 1834, with five members.

In 1836, the county of Lapeer was organized and the present township of Almont was incorporated within. However, the name that was adopted was Newburg. Newburg at that time recorded a school house, four businesses and five dwellings. Dr. Caleb Carpenter became the first supervisor.

On January 26, 1837, Michigan became the 26th state to be admitted to the Union.

By 1838, several entrepreneurs had opened businesses in Newburg. Philo Farnum owned a shoemaking shop, Lewis Alverson ran the first grocery store, followed by Charles B. Keeler's store of dry goods and groceries. Albert Southwell

established the first blacksmith shop. The first hotel was built by Hubbard Hall, but he then immediately sold it to Henry Wing to run. Dr. Jones built the first physician's office and Stephen A. McGeorge became the town's gunsmith. A gristmill was built by Adam Boles and Orrin Belknap opened a mercantile business.

Dr. Caleb Carpenter, Newburg's first supervisor, was also responsible for the first mail arriving into Newburg, providing the residents with an important communication link to the outside world. Once a week, weather and roads permitting, Dr. Carpenter would travel by horseback to Royal Oak, to bring the mail back to his home village. The first regular post office was established in his home in 1835, followed by Charles Keeler's store in 1836. Ezra Hazen became the postmaster in 1838.

Following on the heels of the M.E. Church, other religious denominations evolved in Newburg. The Baptist Society was organized in 1837 with 16 members under Reverend C. Churchill. In 1838, nine people formed the organization that would become known as the Almont Congregational Society, with fourteen more soon joining. Their first pastor was Reverend Hiram Smith.

The 1840s entertained an influx of new settlements and new businesses until little wild land was left untaken. The Scotch Settlement continued to grow. A wagon shop, a law office, a pearl ash factory, a carding and fulling mill and an ashery business were now added to the local list of merchants.

In addition to Scottish settlers, Newburg also saw a significant arrival of settlers from Germany and Ireland.

During all of this period of early growth and development, the settlers of what would become Almont also took time out for entertainment. And, just as they worked hard, they played hard. Again, this interesting account by Dr. William B. Hamilton in 1876 of a local contest that took place in the summer of 1843 gives an insight into the daily lives of these hardy



Hotel Almont circa 1900

Almont, in addition to having been called Bristol at one time, also earned the folk name of Tapshire. The story, which was reported by Dr. William B. Hamilton on July 4, 1876, is quite interesting:

About this time our village was first christened and strangely enough the baptismal font was a keg of whiskey. A "bee" had been called to open a road one-half mile north from the corners. To aid in the work, a keg of spirits was procured by subscription; but someone who loved a horn himself, fearing, perhaps the men might abuse the blessing, slyly took measures to prevent this, and serve a private end besides, by boring a hole in the keg, drawing off a large portion and filling up with water,

and then carefully obliterating all traces of the operation. So he may be truly said to have in-auger-ated the first effort in behalf of temperance. When the whiskey came to be used, it did not have the expected effect; suspicion was excited, an investigation instituted, and the discovery made that the keg had been tapped. So it was then and there decided to call this place Tapshire, and the oldest inhabitants often called it such to this day. Philip Frisbie suggested the name."

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and adventurous people:

The summer of this year is probably remembered by many on account of a grand squirrel hunt in which the whole town took part, the north being pitted against the south. It was arranged in connection with the second celebration of the 4th of July. A dinner was to be provided by contributions from the farmers, and fifty squirrel tails were required from a man and twenty-five from a boy to entitle him to a seat at the table. The hunt lasted a week, and almost anyone who chose to try could secure the requisite number, so exceedingly plentiful was the game. The result of the hunt was 5,700 tails, the southern division being victors. A grand jollification followed.

It wasn't until 1846 that Newburg became known as Almont, which is the name the village became incorporated



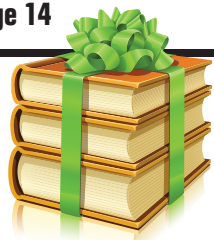
Almont High School circa 1907

under in 1855. There are several theories as to where the name Almont originated (according to Wikipedia) with apparently no definitive agreement on the matter. In Hildamae Bowman's book, *Almont, The Tale of Then and Now*, written in 1985, she states that James Thompson, who donated the town clock that is located in the steeple of the First Congregational Church, is said to have proposed the name to honor the Mexican general, Juan Almonte. Another theory, proposed by John Doppke, a member of the Almont Historical Society, in 2000, attributes the naming to the fact that many Scots settled in the Almont area and, like many immigrants to the U.S. did, they named it after something in their homeland that was familiar. Near the town of Ayr in Scotland there is an Almont Hotel. "Almont," a Scottish derivation of "auld mound," refers to early burial hills that were landmarks in the Ayrshire region of Scotland, where over 200 families emigrated from, arriving to live in southeastern Michigan. Prominent Indian mounds existing in the Almont region of Michigan may have prompted the settlers to name the town "Almont" or "auld mound." Whether the first theory or the second, or even perhaps a third is correct, the reason behind the name Almont may never be known for sure, as no historical documents provide the definitive answer.

In 1931, the Hurd Lock Company moved to Almont, and was the largest employer of Almont residents. It was a small manufacturing company that helped supply parts for the automobile industry and for the war effort. In 1962, the company moved to Greenville, Tennessee, putting many local people out of work. Several former Hurd employees went on to form the Almont Lock Company, which is still in existence today. Today, the village of Almont is home to just under 3,000 people. The village itself has a total area of 1.5 square miles. Three schools provide education to the village children: Orchard Primary for preschool through 4th grade, Almont Middle School for 5th through 8th grade, and Almont High School for 9th through 12th grade. Numerous fires devastated the landscape of the downtown throughout the late 19th and early 20th century, but much of the architecture has been preserved. The downtown offers exciting discoveries, including many historic buildings. The Downtown Development Authority redeveloped an area destroyed by fire in July of 1992, into a community gathering place, complete with park benches, seasonal plantings, and the Catherine G. Leete water fountain. On summer Saturdays, visitors can enjoy fresh produce and crafts that are available and hunt for bargains at the Flea and Farmer's

Market. Many antique shops provide the antique buff with treasures galore. Local restaurants provide hometown hospitality and quaint charm. Traveling outside of Almont, one will still today see rolling hills and surrounding farm country, which grow acres of corn, beans, wheat, lettuce and cabbage, as well as peaches, apples, strawberries, blueberries and raspberries. Almont is a favorite first stop for those traveling up M-53 to the Thumb. In October of each year, Almont hosts the Almont Heritage Festival, which features art, agriculture and antiques. Fall is also the time of year to visit three area orchards, Brookwood Fruit Farm, Bishop's Townsend Farm and Hy's Cider Mill. Almont truly is a gem to be discovered in the Thumb of Michigan and is only a day's trip from anywhere in the metropolitan Detroit area. 🍷

Editor's note: Many thanks to the Almont Downtown Development Authority for providing many of the vintage photos for this article. They are located at 134 N. Main, Almont, MI 48003. Their phone number is (810) 798-8125 and their website is www.almontdda.com. On their website can be seen photos of their award-winning Almont Fountain Park as well as other downtown information.



The Book Nook



Finding Happiness

By Todd Patkin
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

I want you to do me a favor. Look ahead to the rest of 2012 and ask yourself – realistically – what lies in store? If you're like most people, a huge portion of your life

will be spent anxiously plugging away at a job you may or may not enjoy with coworkers you may or may not like. Okay, yes, you work hard to build a better life for your family. But here's the question: Will you have time to enjoy them? Will you be too exhausted to throw the ball with your son? And how many nights will you get home too late to tuck him in this year?

This pattern of stress and striving has to stop. We already live in uncertain and depressing times, and our lifestyles are driving us not toward new heights, but over the brink. And if you're not careful, you may suffer the same fate I did.

When I was thirty-six years old, I was successfully leading my family's auto parts business. I was well respected in my community, I had a wonderful wife and son . . . and I also suffered a nervous breakdown. Yes, at that point in my life, I enjoyed what I did and was truly proud of my successes, but I was also pushing myself too hard and prioritizing the wrong things, and eventually, it all caught up with me.

For months leading up to my breakdown, I suffered from a paralyzing depression and anxiety, and found it difficult to complete tasks as simple as deciding whether to order coleslaw or potato salad with my lunch. But I still consider myself to be very fortunate.

As horrific as it was, my breakdown was actually also my breakthrough. It was an in-your-face wake-up call that forced me to realize that I was driving myself too hard, and for the wrong reasons. I finally had to say, "Enough is enough! I am done destroying myself and ruining my life!" Admitting to myself that my former way of life wasn't working was the beginning of

my road to recovery and true happiness.

For the past decade, I have taken a closer look at what really makes people happy and unhappy, and I have seen most of my goals and priorities shift. In the same way, it's in your best interests to shift your habits and focus.

I have come to realize that how happy and fulfilled you are is largely under your control, and that it has less to do with success and accomplishments than you might think. I believe that most people are experiencing many – if not all – of the stressors that led to my breakdown, so please don't wait until you, too, reach a breaking point to make changes in your life. I'm totally convinced now that true happiness is a possibility for everyone, so take the lessons I have learned to heart.

If you're ready to change the way you approach life before you drive yourself over the edge, read on for a few of the life lessons that I have learned:

1) You have to choose and prioritize happiness – it doesn't just happen. If you subscribe to the belief that your happiness is wholly dependent on what happens to you, you'll always be dissatisfied. Your fulfillment largely depends on the choices you make: how you see the world, what you allow to influence you, what you focus on, and how you react to circumstances, regardless of whether they're good or bad. In other words, it's not what happens to you; it's how you look at what happens to you.

If you want to make a dent in your stress levels, you have to make choosing happiness a priority every day. With all of the responsibilities on our plates, nothing is likely to happen unless we specifically focus on it. So make happiness one of the two or three priorities you absolutely must accomplish each day. To remind yourself, put a note where you can see it – maybe on the refrigerator or bathroom mirror. And if that sounds selfish, it's not. If you're extremely stressed or become depressed because of the way you're living your life, you're hurting many more people than just yourself. And what's more important than teaching your kids to be happy? Always

remember that children learn by example. If they see you living a harried, stressed life, that's the pattern their lives will follow as well . . . and their children's and so on.

2) Striving for work/life balance is worth its weight in gold. Times are tough, and some of us are finding it necessary to work long hours to keep our jobs and livelihoods. Others have fallen into the trap of the work-ego addiction: over time, you become hooked on the "high" you feel when you accomplish something, get a promotion, etc., and you begin to spend more and more time at the office. Whatever the reason, if extremely long hours are becoming a habit for you, break it. No matter how good your intentions are, overloading on work will cause your relationships, mindset, and even health to suffer.

Prior to my breakdown, it was normal for me to work seventy- or eighty-hour weeks. In my personal dictionary, "rest" and "relaxation" were synonymous with "irresponsibility" and "slacking." Boy, was I wrong. Working as much as I did is more than the human body is designed to take continuously. If you drive yourself that hard, you'll eventually begin to run on fumes before you shut down entirely. Being firm about creating and maintaining a healthy work/life balance is no more selfish than prioritizing happiness – in this case, it's about simple self-preservation! And if you're still skeptical, remember this: no one looks back on their lives at age 80 and says, "Gee, I wish I'd spent less time with my family and friends and more time at the office."

3) We are our own worst critics. If you're like most people, you probably tend to focus a lot of your mental energy on the things you mess up rather than on the things you do well – even though most of us do a hundred things right for every one thing we do wrong. And although you may not realize it, focusing on that one wrong thing is very dangerous, because our thoughts are incredibly powerful. Until you give yourself permission to break free of the cycle of self-blame and negativity that causes you to be stuck demanding perfection from yourself in every situation, you'll never have a chance to be a truly relaxed, content, and happy person.

It's not easy to rewire your habitual thought processes, but you need to build yourself up more and beat yourself up less. I used to expect nothing less than perfection out of myself, which was delusional! We're all human, which means

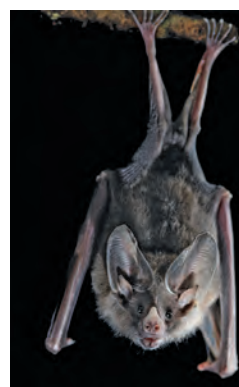
that we're going to make mistakes from time to time. That doesn't mean that we're in any way unworthy or undeserving of love. In fact, learning to love myself was at the core of my own happiness journey. If you aren't satisfied with who you are, you'll always be looking outside yourself for validation . . . and you'll never be truly content. And like me, you might also push yourself beyond healthy limits in order to get accolades from other people.

4) It's never too late to start living in the present. How often do your thoughts "live" in the present? More to the point, how often are they instead fixated on your "disappointing" or "disturbing" past or spent worrying about your future? If you are like most people, your percentage of time not spent in the present is way, way too high, and thus you're missing out on life itself. If you're letting what's already happened eat away at you or fretting about what might come to pass, you're not enjoying the blessings all around you. You're exacerbating your anxiety and unhappiness by choosing to dwell on things you can't change or control.

I used to spend a majority of my time rehashing my past mistakes and worrying about what might happen in the future, neither of which did anything for my peace of mind or self-esteem. In fact, these unhealthy and self-critical thoughts were a major contributor to my breakdown. Now that I'm making a conscious effort to live in the present, I'm actually enjoying all of the great things in my life instead of letting them pass me by unnoticed. Plus, I'm actually a lot more productive now that all of that mental space that used to be occupied with worries has been freed up!

Finding Happiness: One Man's Quest to Beat Depression and Anxiety and – Finally – Let the Sunshine In (StepWise Press, 2011, ISBN: 978-0-9658261-9-8, \$19.95) is available at bookstores nationwide, from major online booksellers, and at www.findinghappinessthebook.com.

Todd Patkin grew up in Needham, Massachusetts. After graduating from Tufts University, he joined the family business and spent the next eighteen years helping to grow it to new heights. After it was purchased by Advance Auto Parts in 2005, he was free to focus on his main passions: philanthropy and giving back to the community, spending time with family and friends, and helping more people learn how to be happy. Todd lives with his wonderful wife, Yadira, their amazing son, Josh, and two great dogs, Tucker and Hunter.



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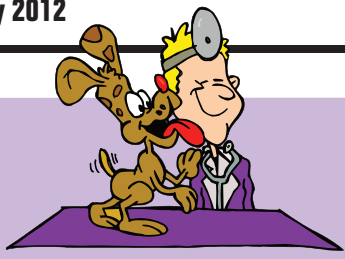
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Animal Control





Intestinal Parasites in Our Pets

By Dr. DiBenedetto *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

What are intestinal parasites? They are parasites that live and grow in the intestinal tract of our pets. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) classifies intestinal parasites as zoonotic. Zoonoses are diseases that can be transmitted from animals to people. Children, elderly people, pregnant women and those with chronic diseases like diabetes or cancer are at a much higher risk of contracting zoonotic diseases. That's not to say people within these categories cannot own animals, but certain precautions should be taken. For example, always wash your hands after handling your pet or cleaning up after your pet, do not feed your pets raw or undercooked meats, remove waste from your yard at least two to three times weekly, always cover children's sandboxes, do not go barefoot in a park or play ground where there is exposure to animal feces and wash all fruits and vegetables before eating them.

The most common intestinal parasites diagnosed in humans and in pets are roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms and whipworms. The CDC reports widespread contamination of soil with these parasites. They attribute this to the growing number of pets people have and to the fact that

one female worm can produce more than 100,000 eggs per day, which progress to the infective stage within two weeks, resulting in millions of infective larva in the environment. Once these eggs are infective they can live in most environments for years. Another factor that compounds this is that most of the time there are no clinical signs to alert you to the fact your pets have an intestinal parasite. For these reasons making sure your pet has a yearly exam that includes checking his/her feces for intestinal parasites is very important.

Veterinarians provide an important public service by recommending regular fecal examinations, providing well-timed deworming treatments, counseling clients on potential public health hazards, and advising them on any precautionary measures that may need to be taken.

Because puppies and kittens often contract the parasites from their mothers, not only should the mothers be treated, but prophylactic deworming on the puppies and kittens should start at two weeks of age and be given every two weeks until eight weeks of age in order to prevent an active infection. Young adult and mature adult animals are less likely to contract

these parasites. They have stronger immune systems and many do not have as much exposure to wildlife, parks or to other dogs and cats. Plus, the monthly heartworm preventatives include intestinal parasite protection as well. So any animal on a monthly preventative is getting dewormed every month, thus stopping an active infection from developing. This applies to not only the chewable preventatives but also to the topical ones as well. Many of these preventatives also incorporate flea control.

There are very safe and effective treatments/preventatives for intestinal parasites. I recommend that the preventatives be given year-round due to our unpredictable Michigan winters and the fact that the preventatives work backwards, meaning that if we have a warm December the preventative must be given January 1st to kill any infective larva that were contacted

in December. This also provides added protection against the intestinal parasites and the fleas which can be a year-round risk. It is much easier to prevent these diseases and decrease environmental contamination than it is to treat them. 🐾

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

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Melanie Duquesnel

The Phishing Tsunami

HOW TO AVOID GETTING HOOKED

Everyone with an email address has experienced one phishing scam or another, but lately it seems as if consumers are drowning in a phishing tsunami. In fact The National Consumers League reports phishing and spoofing were among its top scams last year.

In case you are one of the lucky ones who are not familiar, phishing refers to fraudulent emails that attempt to bait users into personal or business information such as bank account and social security numbers. Phishing emails often include fake links that take users to phishing sites that look very similar to trusted sites, but steal private data when visitors try to log into accounts or complete forms on these sites. There

is also a more specific type to be aware of that is called "spear phishing" which harvests personal information from public sites and incorporates these details about the user into the phishing email in an attempt to convince the target that it is a legitimate request.

Although phishing messages can hijack any brand, most phishers spoof the most well-known and trusted brands. According to OpenDNS, the most spoofed brands in 2011 were PayPal, Visa and MasterCard, but other brands and financial services organizations, even the Better Business Bureau, have been victims of phishing scams.

In the last few years, criminals have successfully bilked billions of dollars

from unsuspecting victims who have been tricked into giving personal information, opening fraudulent attachments or clicking on phishing links. So, the question is, if even the savviest of technology users can be duped, how can you avoid taking the bait?

Here are some tips about phishing emails that can help you protect you and your family:

Do not click on a link inside an email from an unfamiliar person or company.

Even if an email seems to be from a trusted source, be wary and do not click if it asks to confirm personal information for reasons such as your account is about to be closed, an order has been placed in your name, or your information is missing, etc.

Always check if the email is really from the company it purports to be from by entering the company's URL manually into the browser or by using a search engine to locate the Web site.

Look for misspelled words, bad grammar and slightly altered web addresses.

Never give out personal information like Social Security numbers or bank information to anyone before making sure it's a legitimate request.

Protect your computer with anti-virus and anti-spyware software and spam filters.

Check to make sure sites are secure.

Look for a lock symbol at the bottom of your browser or "https" in front of a website address before ever entering sensitive information.

Do not enter sensitive information in a pop-up screen. Phishers can direct you to a real company's Web site, but insert a fake pop-up screen which feeds the information you enter to the phisher.

Do not open email attachments unless you are expecting them and know what they are.

Report any phishing, even if you aren't hooked, to the company that the phisher was spoofing.

Most importantly, act immediately if you've become a victim of phishing. Notify the companies with whom you have the exposed accounts right away and follow the instructions at the FTC web site.

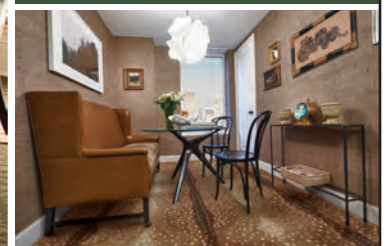
If you have any other questions regarding spoofing or phishing scams, you can also visit www.bbb.org or call 248-223-9400. 📍

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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Is it time for an ADVENTURE?

(Family Features) Women are on the move – especially women of the Baby Boomer generation.

If you've felt the urge to see different places and experience a new adventure, you're not alone. The Travel Industry Association estimates that 32 million single American women traveled at least once last year – and a lot of them were Boomers.

"I'm in my early sixties, and in the last year, I traveled thousands of miles – with my husband and children, with girlfriends and alone," says Harriet Lewis, Vice Chairman of Grand Circle Corporation. The company specializes in international travel and adventure for Americans aged 50 or older.

Lewis says that travel can make a difference in our lives as individuals, and in the lives of those we come in contact with.

"During a recent trip to Egypt, I climbed Mount Sinai late at night in order to see the sunrise. The experience changed my life," says Lewis. "The Middle East was an area of the world I had explored before, but not in such depth, and spending time with people in Syria, Jordan, Israel and the Sudan in the past year has shifted my worldview. Travel changes us. It makes us more curious, more thoughtful, more tuned in to our world."

Lewis advises other women who are considering traveling to ask themselves some questions as part of their preparation:



- What do you want to gain from your travel experience: Adventure? Culture? Relaxation? Inspiration?
- Which destinations, countries or regions interest you most? Make a list, put them in order, and outline the steps you need to take to make your "bucket list" a reality. Do you need to schedule vacation time or start saving?
- Do you want to travel with friends, family, or go it alone? Do you want to make your own travel plans or go with a tour operator that will handle the planning for you?
- If you choose a tour operator, consider the size of the groups (the smaller the better), your cost per day and what

you are getting for your dollar. Are the guides local, knowledgeable, and able to connect you with local homes, schools and communities so that you get a real taste of local life?

- If you are traveling with a tour as a solo traveler (popular among women these days regardless of marital status), ask what the company offers solo travelers in terms of making them feel comfortable. Will they help match you with a roommate of the same gender? How will they break the ice? What do they do when it comes to meal times to ensure that solos have partners or friends to eat with?
 - How can you get the best value for your dollar? Compare what a tour operator can offer you vs. what you can find on your own. Can you use your airline miles to save costs? If you choose a tour, are the single supplement fees free or reasonable? Are there certain times of the year where costs are lower based on seasonality?
- Lewis believes that taking the time to ask these key questions will ultimately give you a much more fulfilling experience. "Travel is the best way I know to enhance your life," she says. "I really believe what Mary Anne Radmacher said about travel is true for women: 'I am not the same having seen the moon shine on the other side of the world.'" 🌱

Dream Destinations

The style of travel you choose is just as important as your destination.

- **River and small ship cruises** currently top many travelers' wish lists. They allow you to unpack once and enjoy a leisurely pace, while your small ship can access ports that larger ships cannot, opening up small cities, towns, and villages for you to explore. Most popular for 2012 are river cruises in Europe and Russia, and small ship Mediterranean cruises.
- **Meeting local people and experiencing local cultures** are very important to travelers, especially women. Connecting with people in their homes, schools and communities is much easier to do when traveling in small groups, which is why small group adventures are another extremely popular way for women to travel today. Top destinations include Burma, Botswana, India, Turkey, Kenya, Tanzania, Peru and Costa Rica.

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THE BORDER

Continued from Page 1

some island hopping, but it can be done.

Now if the outstate tourist (Michigan plates, I noticed) had simply wanted to reach Ontario, he could have backtracked and crossed the St. Clair River by ferry. I assumed that he had driven into Port Huron via I-94 from metropolitan Detroit. So he had already missed crossing the Detroit River to Canada via the Windsor Tunnel or Ambassador Bridge. I could have guided him back onto M-29, taking him along the scenic St. Clair River skirting Marysville and along the main thoroughfare of the city of St. Clair. (Coincidentally, the St. Clair River and the Niagara River, essential links to the St. Lawrence Seaway, are both about the same length – 36 miles or 60 kilometers.)



The Marine City/Sombra ferry

Reaching Marine City, he could have driven onto the Blue Water Ferry, paid a modest toll and arrived in the pretty little Ontario village of Sombra in a few minutes. Then, depending upon his Ontario destination, he could drive north on the St. Clair Parkway to Sarnia and the expressways to Niagara Falls and Toronto. Or, traveling in a southeasterly direction, he would soon reach Chatham and Uncle Tom's Cabin in Dresden. This route was equally accessible had the luxury car arrived via I-69 from the West. (I knew of course that any Thumb area resident driving into Port Huron would know that the lake couldn't be crossed.)



The ferry landing in Algonac

Driving further south on M-29 along the river to the St. Clair Flats where it widens into Lake St. Clair (the sixth great lake), the tourist would reach Algonac. There he could cross on the Walpole-Algonac



Port Huron circa 1910, Huron Street and ferry landing

Ferry for a similar toll. He could spend some time in something of a "No Man's Land," since the entire island is a First Nation Reserve occupied by indigenous people with their own government, mostly independent of Canadian administration. A few miles drive passing signs in the native language would take him to a short lift bridge and onto the St. Clair Parkway. The tourist could then have taken that meandering scenic route north through the welcoming communities of Sombra and Courtwright to Sarnia and Highway 402. Or he could have driven in a southeasterly direction through Chatham and stopped in Dresden at the home of Josiah Henson, now Uncle Tom's Cabin Museum, about whom the story of the Underground Railroad was written. From there, Highway 401 can be reached near Windsor.

Of course, with the destination being Canada at that time, the traveler would have met only the most superficial questions at the border, probably just about citizenship and if any weapons were being carried. The quantity of tobacco and alcohol might have been ascertained, along with questioning whether anyone was bringing in more than ten thousand U.S. dollars. Depending upon the exchange rate, the tourist might have sought to exchange U.S. into Canadian currency. (Paper currency was replaced by the "Loonie" (\$1) and "Toonie" (\$2) in 1987 and 1996 respectively.) He would notice speed limits and distances in kilometers; the bi-lingual signage begins to appear closer to Niagara Falls and Toronto.

So now, what do I tell the outstate tourist – or even the locals who may be reluctant to drive to Canada since "9/11"? Well, there still is no vehicle crossing of Lake Huron. Furthermore passenger service was ended on the CN train that runs through the underwater St. Clair Tunnel in Port Huron. Now, there are two almost identical bridges in Port Huron, with the more southerly one heading east from Port Huron to Point Edward and Highway 402. The cost for taking the bridge has risen to \$3.50 each way, although there is a small savings from buying a package of tokens on the Canadian side. Because of increased security precautions, there may be delays



BY-GONE FERRY SERVICE TO CANADA

In addition to the two ferries now running between Michigan and Ontario, there have been three others in business during the 20th Century. From North to South they were:

Port Huron to Sarnia

One of its founders was Congressman and philanthropist Henry McMorrin. Its landing site in Port Huron was at the mouth of the Black River adjacent to what is now called the Military Street Bridge, near where the railway bridge remains apparently permanently raised above the water. With the opening of the Blue Water Bridge in 1938, presumably opposed by ferry interests, the ferry's demise was sealed. Struggling along as a passenger-only ferry in the 1960s, it was history by the end of the decade.

St. Clair to Courtwright

This ferry service dated back to the mid-19th Century. It originated as a rail car ferry, with the New York

Central Railroad constructing tracks on the Canadian side. Apparently, no trains ever crossed there. Morgan Dalgety, scion of the Canadian family that still owns the Blue Water Ferry, acquired ownership of that ferry in 1959. It closed in 1964.

Roberts Landing to Port Lambton

This was a busy connector. In fact, there was discussion of locating the Blue Water Bridge at this location just north of Algonac State Park at one time. Service here also dates back well into the 19th Century. There were several owners and ferries built both for the owners and acquired from the Harsen's Island ferry owners. The Dalgety family also acquired this service in 1983 but it was terminated two years later when the U.S. Customs office would no longer serve this location. Today, all that remains at Robert's Landing is the "Auto Ferry To Canada" sign shown above.

as long as seen by tourists years ago. Those who cross frequently can usually avoid waiting traffic lines with a NEXUS card purchased for \$50, which is good for five years and that directs the holder into a faster moving lane with less questions. All passengers must show their own card. Today similar questions about weapons, tobacco and alcohol are posed. Now, Americans must produce a passport, or some other acceptable proof of identification. The State of Michigan, along with several other border states, offers an "enhanced driver's license" at an extra cost that will suffice. Once in awhile, a vehicle is pulled over for a random check. That requires everyone to leave it for a more thorough search by authorities of either country, while the driver and all passengers are detained in an office. There, in my experience, more detailed questions are asked. All of which can mean a travel

delay, still probably not as long as at the Blue Water Bridge when summer weekend tie ups can force a return stateside via one of the river ferries.

In conclusion, remember that you can't drive a car across Lake Huron! It doesn't freeze over as the river occasionally has. While I've heard stories of swimming, that probably would be a poor option. Walkers, runners and cyclists no longer can cross the bridge. They can take the ferries, as several hundred do for the Blue Water Ramble bike tour in the fall. I don't believe



Ferry on Black River, Port Huron

that sailboats on the July Mackinac Race touch land in Canada on either course. Finally, those who want to fish across the lake or river must check those regulations in both countries. But for Thumb area readers and all other tourists seeking to explore our close neighbor, I say, "Bon Voyage." 🍀



Memoirs from The Restless Retiree

The Hunt for Cheaper Gas!

By Gabriel Jones, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

“Gabriel, why are you driving up and down different streets? I thought we were going to the supermarket. It’s the other way.”

“I’m checking the price of gasoline at different gas stations as we’re driving. We need some gas, but I’m not paying the high prices that most of the stations are charging. I’m looking for the cheapest price per gallon.”

“Well, why don’t you drop me off first at the market and then you can look for the

gas while I shop.”

“OK, love. That sounds like a good idea.”

After a short drive, Gabriel pulls into the market parking lot.

“I know it’ll take you some time to shop. Call me on the cell phone when you want to be picked up.”

“Alright! But, don’t take too long. I’m not buying that much.”

“See you later, love...”

Gabriel drops off his wife and heads for the other side of town.

“I know where I can find cheaper gas.”

After driving for a while . . .
“OH, OH, WHAT’S WRONG WITH THE CAR?”

Gabriel slowly pulls over to the side of the road and comes to a complete stop.

“I THINK I’M OUT OF GAS!”

But . . . wait a minute . . . it’s not as bad as it seems.

I can still call roadside service with my cell phone, get gas, and still be able to pick up my wife when she calls.

Roadside assistance soon arrives and the man comes to look at Gabriel’s car.

“Yep, you’re out of gas. I’ll put five



gallons in to get you on your way. You’ll owe me \$25.00.”

“TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS! For what! I have a roadside service card. What is the \$25.00 charge for?”

“For five gallons of gas at \$5.00 a gallon. Your roadside service card doesn’t give you free gas.”

Gabriel couldn’t speak as he reached for his wallet.

Gabriel then went to pick up his wife at the market.

“Well, Gabriel . . . did you get the cheap gas that you wanted?”

Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🍀

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The following was submitted to the Editor by Linda Mahac of China, Michigan:

Local Farmers Celebrate 65th Wedding Anniversary

Friends and relatives gathered at the Village Cafe in Richmond on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 to celebrate the 65th wedding anniversary of Nelson and Grace Leach. The group celebrated the occasion with a homemade, fresh coconut cake. Nelson served in the Marine Corps during World War II and was back home in the spring of 1946. He met “Gracie” in October of that year, and they were married on March 8, 1947. The young couple started Leach Farms in Richmond and are still active in farming to this day.



A Big Thumbs Up to NELSON & GRACE LEACH



Grace and Nelson Leach of Richmond recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. A big “Thumbs Up” from ThumbPrint News.

Dear *ThumbPrint News*,

My name is Leonard DeFrain and I live in Harbor Beach, Michigan and I am 92 years old and have a lot of history of the Thumb area.

Now, my reason for writing this letter is that I have a lot of history of White Rock, and after reading the article about White Rock written by guest writer, Stacy N. Elliot, I now have a lot more history of it. I have more than 50 pages in my scrapbook. I now have three different stories about the man killed there. History varies from writer to writer and of course sometimes in translation a word here and there could make a difference. At my age I do not travel outside Harbor Beach. Thanks very much for an excellent write-up and if you ever get to Harbor Beach you could look over what I have of the place plus many pictures of the Storm of 1913 on the Great Lakes, train wrecks, and much more.

Just Me,
Leonard A. DeFrain

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Look for my article in next month's paper!

PENDULUMS

By **Rennae Hardy**
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Ancient China provides one of the earliest known uses of a pendulum. During the first century, a seismometer device of the Han Dynasty was invented by Chinese scientist, Zhang Heng. Much later, in the late 1500s, an Italian physicist, mathematician, astronomer and philosopher, Galileo Gailei, at the age of twelve, made an interesting discovery. Galileo observed a lamp swinging overhead while visiting a cathedral. Curious, he timed the large and small swings using his own pulse. He discovered something that no one else had realized; the period of each swing was exactly the same. "The Law of the Pendulum," which would eventually be used in timekeeping to regulate clocks, made Galileo Gailei instantly famous.



Historically, pendulums were used as gravimeters to measure the acceleration of gravity in geophysical surveys. Today pendulums are used in scientific instruments such as accelerometers and seismometers, as well as the continued implementation found in pendulum clocks.

During the fifteenth century, pendulums were used as a tool for dowsing. Dowsing is believed to have originated in Germany and was primarily used to locate metals. Dowsing or Divining Rods made of L-shaped metal, were and still are used as tools to find a myriad of objects. Dowsing, witching and doodle-bugging are used when attempting to locate ground water, buried metals and ores, gemstones, oil, grave sites and even currents of earth radiation (ley lines).

A pendulum can also be used as a divination tool. These pendulums consist of a weighted object, generally a crystal or stone, suspended from a cord or chain. A pendulum works through the autonomic nervous system, an extension of "self" if you will. When an inquiry is posed, the subconscious mind responds by creating an ideomotor response – an unconscious or involuntary bodily movement made in response to a thought rather than to a sensory stimulus. This in turn triggers an extremely subtle neuromuscular reaction that sends a signal from the brain to the fingers, causing the pendulum to move. As divination tools, pendulums are primarily used to ask yes or no questions.

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Before using a pendulum, you will need to establish the interpretation of its swings. Simply ask the pendulum to show you its yes position, show you its no position, and show you its neutral position. Once you have the directional swings identified; you can seek answers to your questions, incorporate a divination board and/or utilize pendulum charts easily found on the internet.

Pendulum enthusiasts will often consecrate and program their pendulums. Choosing a specific stone correlating to an intended purpose, or thoughtfully assigning a spiritual connection to individual pendulums give these special tools one

designated function. One may be used for divination work, another for locating lost objects and yet another for healing.

Healing pendulums "dowse" the body's chakras (energy centers), releasing blocked energy to assist in reestablishing balance. The directional patterns following suggest whether or not the chakra is or is not blocked. A circular motion would indicate no blockage while a side-to-side motion would indicate a blockage.

Pendulums may be considered mysterious, but in actuality they are practical tools. If you're seeking answers, perhaps a pendulum can help you swing in the right direction. 🌱

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WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY?

By Diane L. Kodet
ThumbPrint News Editor



May

- 1** On this day in 1844, Samuel Morse sent the first telegraphic message. 
- 2** On this day in 1919, the first U.S. air passenger service started.
- 3** On this day in 1952, the first airplane landed at the geographic North Pole.
- 4** On this day in 1925, the League of Nations conference on arms control and poison gas usage took place.
- 5** On this day in 1865, the first U.S. train robbery occurred (in North Bend, Ohio).
- 6** On this day in 1921, the American Soccer League formed.
- 7** On this day in 1970, "Long and Winding Road" became the Beatles' last American release. 
- 8** On this day in 1846, the first major battle of the Mexican War was fought at Palo Alto, Texas.
- 9** On this day in 1899, the lawn mower was patented.

- 10** On this day in 1865, Jefferson Davis was captured at Irwinsville, Georgia.
- 11** On this day in 1904, Andrew Carnegie donated \$1.5M to build a peace palace.
- 12** On this day in 1792, a toilet that flushed itself at regular intervals was patented. 
- 13** On this day in 1916, Indian (Native American) Day was first observed.
- 14** On this day in 1796, the first smallpox inoculation was administered, by Edward Jenner.
- 15** On this day in 1862, the Department of Agriculture was created.
- 16** On this day in 1866, Charles Elmer Hires invented root beer. 
- 17** On this day in 1845, the rubber band was patented.
- 18** On this day in 1917, the U.S. passed the Selective Service act.
- 19** On this day in 1884, the Ringling Brothers' circus premiered. 
- 20** On this day in 1874, Levi Strauss marketed blue jeans with copper rivets, priced at \$13.50 a dozen.
- 21** On this day in 1908, the first horror movie (Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde) premiered in Chicago.

- 22** On this day in 1884, one-armed pitcher, Hugh Daily, fanned 13 hitters.
- 23** On this day in 1955, the Presbyterian Church began accepting women ministers.
- 24** On this day in 1959, the first house with a built-in bomb shelter was exhibited (in Pleasant Hills, Pennsylvania).
- 25** On this day in 1962, the Isley Brothers released "Twist and Shout". 
- 26** On this day in 1987, the Supreme Court ruled that dangerous defendants could be held without bail.
- 27** On this day in 1933, Walt Disney's *Three Little Pigs* was released. 

- 28** On this day in 1863, the first black regiment (54th Massachusetts) left Boston to fight in the Civil War.
- 29** On this day in 1912, 15 young women were fired by Curtis Publishing for dancing the "Turkey Trot" during their lunch break. 
- 30** On this day in 1901, Memorial Day was first observed in the U.S. 
- 31** On this day in 1884, John Harvey Kellogg patented corn flakes. 



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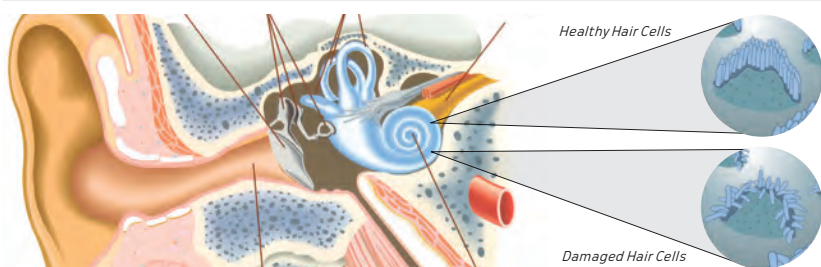
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Kid's Korner

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer



Here is a fun and easy craft that children of all ages can make. It is a personalized wastebasket that can be used in a bedroom, bathroom or it can be given as a gift. The idea for this comes from *The Old Farmer's Almanac for Kids, Volume 4*.

Creating Your Own Personalized Bucket

Items needed:

- 1 tin or galvanized steel bucket (can be found at paint stores, craft supply shops, flea markets, or discount and hardware stores)
- Enamel paints
- Small paintbrushes
- Buttons
- Glue



Directions to make:

- Paint the bucket one color and let it dry.
- Using two different colors, paint stripes around the top.
- With a bright color, paint flowers around the bucket.

Use green paint to paint the leaves and stems.

- When the paint is dry, glue a button onto the center of each flower.

Variations to try:

- Paint Xs, Os, or other shapes around the bucket.
- Attach stickers to your bucket (be sure the paint is dry).
- Dab on paint with a sponge cut into a star or other fun shape.
- Paint a design of your own, such as a sun, a simple landscape, or an unusual free-form design.

Editor's note: The Old Farmer's Almanac for Kids, Volume 4, can be ordered online or from your favorite local bookstore (ISBN-10: 1571985549). This book has been honored with five International Book Awards – Best Children's Book Series, Best Children's Educational, Best Children's Nonfiction, Best Young Adult Educational, and Best Young Adult Nonfiction. The Old Farmer's Almanac for Kids keeps youngsters entertained for hours with fun facts, fascinating stories, and easy (and educational!) projects and activities.



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THE GRAPE VINE

Debunking the Top Five Wine Myths

By David White

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

“Red wine with fish?” muses James Bond, as he confronts the villain in *From Russia with Love*. “Well, that should have told me something.”

James Bond may be a great spy, but he wouldn't make a great sommelier. Believe it or not, fish sometimes works with red wine – and white wine often works with meat.

This is just one of the many wine myths that remain omnipresent. Here are the top five:

Myth #1: Serve white wine with fish and red wine with meat.

James Bond wasn't entirely wrong. As a general rule, it isn't a terrible idea to pair lighter foods like fish with white wine. But plenty of seafood dishes work better with red wine. If your fish is meaty or charred or served with tomatoes, mushrooms, or a fruity sauce, it'll likely be complimented best by a delicate red like Pinot Noir.

Similarly, plenty of meats work better with white wines. Spicy cuisines

like Chinese, Thai and Indian, demand rich, high-acid wines like Riesling and Gewurztraminer.

Myth #2: Sparkling wines like Champagne are only for special occasions.

France's big Champagne houses have spent millions trying to convince us that Champagne is best enjoyed when celebrating. That might be true. After all, wine shops see a huge spike in sales around New Year's and Valentine's Day. However, sparkling wines can be enjoyed all year long.

Most sparklers are characterized by vibrant acidity and freshness, so they work with a variety of dishes. Sparkling wines can cut through spicy food, complement savory food, and elevate even the simplest of dishes. Burgers and Champagne anyone?

Myth #3: Sophisticated wine drinkers avoid Chardonnay and Merlot.

Among self-appointed wine experts, it's become fashionable to bash Merlot and Chardonnay. This isn't entirely without reason.

When Americans started developing a taste for wine in the 1990s, Merlot became the go-to grape for red, and Chardonnay became the go-to grape for white. The market quickly became flooded with cheap, nondescript wine.

For Chardonnay, this resulted in wines that tasted mostly like butter and oak which leads many to declare themselves members of the “ABC Club” to let people know they'd drink “Anything but Chardonnay.” Meanwhile, oceans of Merlot were simply bland and boring.

The fact is, both Chardonnay and Merlot are responsible for some of the greatest wines in the world. Sure, both demand the right soil, the appropriate climate, and skilled winemaking. But when those demands are met, as they often are, both grapes can produce remarkably delicious, complex wines.

Myth #4: There are no good wines for less than \$20.

The world is awash in affordable, great-tasting wine. But many drinkers insist on contending that it's difficult to find a good wine for less than \$20. They're not just wrong; they're delusional.

Sure, it's difficult to find a good Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon for less than \$20, just as it's difficult to find affordable caviar. But there are plenty of delicious options from the world's unheralded wine regions, such as Portugal's Douro Valley, Washington's Columbia Valley, the Languedoc-Roussillon region of France, and virtually all of South Africa.

Even to seasoned oenophiles, these regions can be overwhelming. So don't hesitate to ask your local wine shop for advice.

Myth #5: Serve white wines chilled and red wines at room temperature.

This is probably the most pervasive wine myth. And it's why most people and even most restaurants serve red wines too warm and white wines too cold.

Before the advent of thermostats, homes were much cooler than they are today. So serving red wine at “room temperature” made sense; it still made for a refreshing beverage. Today, most Americans keep their homes at about 72 degrees, a temperature that'll make even the finest red wine taste rough and alcoholic.

Legend has it that white wines are served “cool” because historically, they came straight from the cellar. A cellar, of course, is warmer than your average refrigerator. Most of us set our refrigerator at around 35 degrees. Serving any wine this cold will mask its flavors.

Fortunately, you don't need a fancy thermometer to serve wine at its optimal temperature. If you're drinking a red wine, pop it in the refrigerator for 25-30 minutes. If you're drinking a white wine, pull it out of the refrigerator about 25-30 minutes before you're going to drink it. 🍷

Editor's Note: David White, a wine writer, is the founder and editor of Terroirist.com. His columns are housed at Wines.com, the fastest growing wine portal on the Internet.



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ThumbPrint News Travels to the Duke of Wellington Pub!

ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb of Michigan (over 980 businesses in eight Thumb counties are now drop locations for the newspaper), but *ThumbPrint News* has also traveled to the states of Utah, Nevada, Georgia, California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Alaska, Florida, North Carolina and Missouri, and to the countries of Bonaire, Mexico, Canada, Costa Rica, Iraq, Nigeria, Belize, St. Lucia, Wales, Cuba, Jamaica, Argentina, Spain and Afghanistan. *ThumbPrint News* was even seen on television on the *Tonight Show with Jay Leno!*

When we began inviting our readers to submit photos of where they have taken *ThumbPrint News*, we never expected such an overwhelming response! The newspaper has traveled to five of the seven continents so far! This month, *ThumbPrint News* traveled once again to Wales. On the right is the note we received from Felicia Szczepanski, along with a couple of great photos.

If you are a reader of *ThumbPrint News* and have taken our newspaper with you on a vacation or to an unusual place – or have done something unique with it, you may submit an email and photo to us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net. (The photo should be in jpeg format.) Please tell us a little about the photo and include your name, address and phone number in case we have further questions. Please be patient as you wait for your photo to appear in *ThumbPrint News*, as we are receiving a tremendous amount of photos each month! When it does appear, we will send you a complimentary copy. 🍀



IRS Offers Relief to Unemployed Workers

By **Cindy Redmann**

Tax Consultant

The IRS is offering some relief to taxpayers struggling to pay their taxes due to unemployment or a significant loss of income.

The agency said it will give certain taxpayers a six-month grace period on “failure-to-pay” penalties. Without the grace period, a taxpayer who is late paying their taxes incurs a fee of .05% of their tax bill per month, up to 25% maximum, the later they become. But now some taxpayers won’t incur any fees until October 15.

Although taxpayers won’t get hit with the penalty, they will still accrue interest during the six-month period and beyond until the taxes are paid. Over the course of a year that amounts to about 3% of the annual tax bill.

Taxpayers who qualify for this grace period must have been unemployed for 30 consecutive days or longer during 2011 or 2012 – up to the April 17 filing deadline this year. Self-employed taxpayers who saw their business income drop 25% or more due to the economy are also eligible.

There is an income limitation, however. For taxpayers who are filing single or head of household, income cannot exceed \$100,000, while married taxpayers filing jointly, income cannot exceed \$200,000. Those who are eligible for the relief will need to complete form 1127A. But make sure you file or send in your taxes by April 17. The penalty for late filing is much more severe.

In addition to the penalty relief, the IRS is also allowing more taxpayers to spread out payments on their tax bills. Taxpayers with bills as high as \$50,000 are now eligible for installment payments – up from a previous cap of \$25,000.

The IRS also boosted the maximum installment term to 72 months, up from 60 months. Taxpayers entering these new installment agreements are required to sign up for monthly direct debit payments. And interest is still charged on the outstanding balance.

“Our goal is to help people meet their obligations and get back on their feet financially,” said IRS commissioner Doug Shulman.

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It's Not Gone!

Think of all the things that go down your drain to your septic tank: grease from your kitchen sink, hair and oil from your shower and washer, body waste from your toilets. We tend to think – or not think – about what happens to all that waste. It doesn't just disappear.

Fats, oils and greases (FOGs) are put into your septic system everyday. Once they reach your septic tank, good anaerobic bacteria start to consume the waste. The FOGs not consumed by the good bacteria become solid waste. They build up at the top and bottom of your tank in the form of scum, often several inches thick. Pieces of these solids break off, and along with the liquid from your tank, go into your field. Much like plaque can clog our arteries and cause a heart attack, solids from your tank can clog your septic field and cause expensive repairs if you don't remove them.

Regular maintenance for your septic system is a must. The old saying "If it's not broke, don't fix it" is not true. Eventually your septic system or field will fail. Fields are expensive to replace.

Proper maintenance and care to your tank and filtering systems should be done on a regular basis based on your lifestyle, the number of people in the home, and usage.

Remember, we drink what we flush. Eventually, your field water enters back into the ground water. You don't want to contaminate our drinking sources. Call ABC Home & Commercial Services Septic Division at (810) 794-5678 if you have any questions about your septic system.

NEVER

- put bleach into the system. Bleach kills the good bacteria.
- put garbage from table waste in at any time.
- put cigarette butts in the toilet. They can clog the orifices in the field.



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Up To 8 Ton
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\$400

Up To 8 Ton
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\$525

ThumbPrint News Contest

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, email us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Contest" in the subject line. Be sure to include your name, phone number and full address. Of all persons submitting correct answers by the 15th of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a gift basket valued at more than \$100 at the end of this year! On December 31, 2012 one winner will be drawn and the lucky person will be notified. In April's edition, we asked our readers to identify what the following object was:



No one correctly identified the object as being an antique carpet stretcher.

Patented in 1897, the lethal looking pointed hooks of this carpet stretcher grabbed into the carpet while the installer pulled it tight. Nails were driven through the carpet and into the wooden floor to hold the carpet taut.

For our May contest we are asking the question, "What is it?" Identify what the object below is and email your answer to thumbprintnews@comcast.net. Again, be sure to include your name, address and phone number in case you are correct and are entered into the random drawing for a gift basket valued over \$100 at the end of the year! Good luck!



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Animal Young Word Search

Late spring brings the birth of many animal babies. Just especially for this time of year, we have created a challenging two-step word search. First, you must fill-in the name for each of the following animal's young (according to the *World Almanac and Book of Facts*, 2012) and then find each of the young in the word search below. To make it a little easier, the answers will all

be in alphabetical order, and the first one is done for you. If you are really stuck, a list of the answers also appears on page 30. (It is suggested that you check the answers anyway before beginning the word search, as there can be more than one name for some of the animal young.) Good luck!

A	P	G	C	H	I	C	K	T	E	N	G	Y	C	T
L	R	O	V	O	F	O	Z	F	Z	S	Y	S	V	
T	K	Y	L	H	J	B	Y	L	T	B	P	T	X	B
E	J	I	H	L	P	R	U	A	R	R	I	Y	Q	B
L	H	Q	T	P	I	O	N	C	L	X	D	R	U	Y
G	M	C	E	G	E	W	U	Q	T	G	E	I	Y	L
O	P	Z	D	T	W	P	O	L	F	Y	R	A	L	L
H	P	B	F	X	W	C	U	G	T	G	L	Z	N	I
U	A	Z	G	N	I	L	R	E	G	N	I	F	J	F
X	I	G	N	I	L	R	A	E	Y	E	N	K	E	T
V	R	P	Y	R	E	P	E	E	H	C	G	L	E	J
H	C	K	B	G	O	S	L	I	N	G	V	Y	S	Y
F	P	U	P	V	Q	I	B	B	S	E	V	W	E	G
O	U	M	J	C	O	C	K	E	R	A	L	O	B	O
P	P	M	X	F	T	E	L	L	U	P	J	Z	E	K

1. ELEPHANT Calf
2. PARTRIDGE _____
3. PENGUIN _____
4. ROOSTER _____
5. LLAMA _____
6. SWAN _____
7. EEL _____
8. JELLYFISH _____
9. ZEBRA (female) _____
10. FISH _____
11. GOOSE _____
12. HEDGEHOG _____
13. OPOSSUM _____
14. GOAT _____
15. FROG _____
16. TURKEY _____
17. HEN _____
18. FOX _____
19. SPIDER _____
20. CATTLE _____

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Janet Vermet Vanderiviere The only paper that I read front to back, all the way through!
April 4 at 3:07pm Like

Time on Main Street Thanks for the great article "A Good Ol' Cup Of Joe" in the February edition of Thumbprint News. Our customers were pleased to learn the interesting facts like: Espresso has only 1/3 of the caffeine of a regular cup of coffee and "Cowboy" coffee was made by putting ground coffee in a CLEAN sock and heating it over a campfire! We won't try that!
February 21 Like

Fred Marengo You have created a paper that is enjoyable and informative. With your success you may have to publish weekly!
December 5, 2011 Like

Jim Coomer Enjoyed your spotlight article on Walled Lake. I would like to share the article on my Facebook page but, could not find it? Keep up the good work.
January 1 Like

Thomas Pilarowski great source of info
October 1, 2011 Like

Thumb Area Activities & Events for May 2012

If you have an event in June that you would like listed in the June issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by May 12, 2012. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some of the events that were submitted to us, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

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

Genesee

Flint – May 5

Cinco de Mayo 5K/10K Run, 1902 Hammerberg Road, 8:00 a.m. Race begins outside Tavern on the Green. Arrive early for the group picture. Bring your hombres and familia to support this festive event so they can cheer you across our exciting finish line. Registration closes on Thursday, May 3 at 11:59 p.m. The first 300 participants will receive a sombrero with chin strap. Visit www.tritofinish.com.

Huron

Port Austin – May 26

Farmer's Market, downtown, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. For information call Joyce at (989) 738-7600.

Port Austin – May 26 & 27

Lady's Slipper Festival Art in Nature Art and Craft Fair, Huron County Nature Center, 3336 Loosemore Rd. Accepting artists until May 22, as space allows. The show will be outdoors on the trails of the Nature Center. 20-25 artists, including painting, pottery, woodcrafts, carving, photography, etc. Music, food and fun for all! Call (989) 551-5400 or visit www.huronnaturecenter.org. Vendor application available on-line.

Lapeer

Almont – May 12

Almont Lions' Euchre Night, Almont Lions Hall, 222 Water St., doors open at 6:00 p.m., play starts at 7:00 p.m. Two sets of five games with a break in between. Refreshments, lunch will be served during break. Prizes for top three points holders. \$15 donation at the door. If player brings a first time player, both play for \$10 each. Last game until September. Call Don at (810) 798-9609.

Dryden – May 31-June 2

St. Cornelius Annual Rummage Sale, St. Corne-

lius Catholic Church, 3834 North Mill St. 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. each day. \$2 bag sale Saturday.

Macomb

Richmond – May 4-6 & 11-12

Richmond Community Theatre presents *Harvey*, 69619 Parker St., Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m., Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Call Sandy at (586) 727-1973 or visit www.richmondtheatre.com.

St. Clair Shores – May 4, 18 & 25

Classic Movie Fridays, William R. Gilstorf Meeting Room, St. Clair Shores Public Library, 22500 Eleven Mile Rd., 1:30 p.m. For upcoming films call (586) 771-9020 or visit www.scslibrary.org.

Mount Clemens – May 6

Full Moon Flashlight Tour, Anton Art Center, 125 Macomb Place, 9:40 p.m. High quality reproductions of masterpieces form the DIA's collection will be on display throughout downtown. Bring your own flashlights and meet at the Art Park to explore them tonight during the largest full moon of the year! For more information visit www.theartcenter.org or call (586) 469-8666.

New Baltimore – May 12 & 13

American Cancer Society's Relay of Life Event, New York New York in the Premier Plaza, 33151 23 Mile Rd., 4:00 p.m. The Sisters of Sole Relay for Life Team present Songs for a "C"ause. \$5 entrance fee. The Time Machine will be hosting six local bands (The Time Machine, The 108's, Big Dave and the Bourbon Cowboys, Adam Petrous, Big Papa and the Machine, Sleeping Giant and No Vacancy.) Silent auctions, photo booths, a psychic and more. Call Anne at (586) 242-2754.

Utica – May 12 & 13

Utica Antique Market, ¼ mile east of Van Dyke, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Saturday and 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sunday. Features 1000s of items from small trinkets to beautiful furniture. Call (586) 254-3495.

New Baltimore – May 19

Annual Flower Show and Used Book Sale, MacDonald Public Library, 36480 Main St., 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. For information please email Joan at joanpeer@att.net.

Clinton Township – May 20

Music on Main Concert Series, Main Library, 40900 Romeo Plank, 2:00 p.m. The last concert before

summer will feature the musical group, Picks and Sticks. Free and open to all ages. No registration required. Call Jamie at (586) 226-5103.

Richmond – May 28

Annual Memorial Day Parade, sponsored by the Richmond VFW Post, beginning at Richmond High School parking lot, going north on Main St. (M-19) to the Richmond Cemetery, 10:00 a.m. The City will purchase two wreaths, one for the St. Michael Cemetery and one for the Richmond Cemetery. For more information contact VFW Post 6802 at (586) 727-1436.

Oakland

Plymouth – May 4-6

Michigan Earth Day Event, Green Street Fair, Inc., Kellogg Park, Main St., Penniman Ave., Ann Arbor Trail, noon-7:00 p.m. on Friday, 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. on Saturday and 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Green Street Fair, Inc. was founded to help educate and inform people of all ages about the benefits of green, organic, and eco-friendly products and services. Visit www.oaklandcountymoms.com.

Novi – May 5

Michigan Earth Day Event, MSU Tollgate Farm, 28115 Meadowbrook Rd., 10:00 a.m.-noon. Celebrate National Earth Day by giving back to the planet. In partnership with MSU Extension, Tollgate people will be mulching, planting trees, weeding, Garlic Mustard Weed pulling, and preparing the Hungry Garden for the spring planting. Gloves and equipment provided. Extra shovels and rakes appreciated. Beverages and snack provided. Visit www.oaklandcountymoms.com.

St. Clair

Algonac – May 1

Genealogy Circle, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 6:00 p.m. Support fellow genealogy searchers in their quest to trace their family history. Share knowledge, success and pitfalls as you research at the library. Access our in-house Ancestry Library Edition. Adults only. Call (810) 794-4471.

Emmett – May 4 & 5

Emmett Lions Club Annual Yard Sale, Emmett Lions, 10830 Mary St., 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. For more information email John at ljcog@aol.com.

Lakeport – May 5

Mother's Day Tea, Burtchville Township Library, 7097 Second St., 11:00 a.m. Bring the girls and ladies in your family to this multi-generational celebration to enjoy snacks, tea, and music. Sponsored by Burtchville Township Friends of the Library. Call (810) 385-8550.

Kimball – May 8

Spring Cupcake Decorating for Kids, G. Lynn Campbell/Kimball Township Library, 1995 N. Allen Rd., 4:00 p.m. Kids can have a hands-on experience decorating spring-themed cupcakes. A cake decorator will lead the event. Ages 6-12. Registration required. Call (810) 982-9171.

Fort Gratiot – May 11-13

Kids in Distress Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser, inside Birchwood Mall. Furniture,

themed baskets, gift cards and much more to bid on. Kids is a non-profit organization serving children throughout St. Clair County with 100% of the proceeds going towards socks, shoes and underwear for children in need. Bidding ends at 3:00 p.m. For information email Chris at mrspurpleflowers@gmail.com.

Fort Gratiot – May 12

May Melodies, Port Huron Golf Club, 4101 Fairway Drive, 11:30 a.m. International Symphony Association's annual meeting and fashion show. Fashions will be presented courtesy of Suzanne's. 50/50 drawing, drawings for door prizes. Music provided courtesy of The Piano Trio. Proceeds benefit the International Symphony Orchestra. For information or to purchase tickets for \$25 each, call David at (810) 982-7828.

Harsens Island – May 12

Tashmoo – The Park and the Steamer, 2nd in Lecture Series, Harsens Island Lions Hall, 230 LaCroix, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society, this lecture will feature Arthur Woodford, library administrator, historian and author. The island's rich history will come alive with this presentation. Art will also conduct a book signing of his new book, *Tashmoo-Park and the Steamer Tashmoo*, at the conclusion of the presentation. Call Bernard at (586) 530-7100.

Marine City – May 12

Blessing of the Bikes/Poker Run, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., registration at 10:00 a.m., Blessing and Poker Run at 11:00 a.m. \$20 per vehicle and \$10 for each additional poker hand. Chinese Auction, raffles and refreshments following the Run. All are welcome. Call Susan at (810) 765-3523.

Port Huron – May 16

Get Your Body Moving, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 2601 Electric Avenue, 2:00 p.m. in the Baggot Street Café (Cafeteria), Join Occupational Therapist Steve McMahan as he explores entertaining tips and techniques designed to increase activity and mobility for seniors 55 years of age and older. Free programs include refreshments and an opportunity to share social time. To make your reservation to attend Healthy Aging: "Get Your Body Moving," call 1-888-MERCYME.

Fair Haven – May 18

Euchre Party, St. Peters Lutheran Church, 6745 Palms Rd., registration at 6:30 p.m., games start at 7:00 p.m. \$5 donation includes free goodies, coffee and tea. Hot dogs and pop are \$1 each. Cash prizes! For information call (810) 765-8161.

Marine City – May 18

Washington Life Center's 27th Annual Senior Prom, 403 N. Mary St., Doors open at 5:00 p.m. The cost for members is \$15 and \$19 for non-members (suggested donation). Includes dinner with two entrees and live music from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. with Closing Time. Tickets must be purchased at the Washington Life Center by Monday, May 14. Call Susan at (810) 765-3523.

Marysville – May 19

Teddy Bear Sleepover, Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware, 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Bring



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Animal Young Word Search

Here are the answers to the Animal Young Word Search that appears on page 29:

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. CALF | 5. CRIA | 9. FILLY | 13. JOEY | 17. PULLET |
| 2. CHEEPER | 6. CYGNET | 10. FINGERLING | 14. KIT | 18. PUP |
| 3. CHICK | 7. ELVER | 11. GOSLING | 15. POLLIWOG | 19. SPIDERLING |
| 4. COCKERAL | 8. EPHYRA | 12. HOGLET | 16. POULT | 20. YEARLING |

your teddy bear on Friday and enjoy stories, games and a craft. Tuck your bears in at the library for the night and rejoin them Saturday morning for stories and a snack. Ages 3-10. Registration requested. Call (810) 364-9493.

Memphis – May 19

Plant Swap, Memphis Library, 34830 Potter St., 10:00 a.m. The garden area will be open for a Plant Swap. All plants should be wrapped individually, labeled and in good health (planting tips/color-optional). This is an inexpensive way to get new plants for the garden. For information call (810) 392-2980.

Emmett – May 20

Emmett Lions Club Annual Roast Beef Dinner, V.F.W. Hall, downtown Emmett, noon-4:00 p.m. For information email John at ljog@aol.com.

Marine City – May 20

Holy Cross Alumni Association Annual Brunch, Columbus Banquet Center, 6385 King Rd., 10:30 a.m., immediately after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at Holy Cross Church. \$9 per person. Send your name, address, year of graduation, and check to Mr. Bruce Beaton, 137 South Water St., Marine City, Michigan 48039. For information call (586) 242-3886.

Port Huron – May 23

St. Clair County Family History Group, Port Huron Museum, 1115 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. This is annual meeting for election of officers and trustees and for topics you would like for future meetings. Guests and new members are welcome. Call (810) 989-0399 or visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miscfgh/.

Harsens Island – May 26

Memorial Day Open House and 1st Year Anniversary, Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society Museum, 3058 South Channel Drive, San Souci, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. For information, call Bernard at (586) 530-7100.

Sanilac

Port Sanilac – May 9

American Red Cross Blood Drive, St. Mary Parish Center, M-46, 7066 Main Street, noon-5:45 p.m. Sponsored by Port Sanilac Post 8872 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Blood supplies are always low in summer months and your donation is urgently needed. Come and help save a life. Call Jeffery at (810) 622-8893.

Carsonville, Deckerville, Port Sanilac – May 10, 11 & 12

Buddy Poppy Days, various street corners of above towns. Port Sanilac VFW Post 8872 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars will be selling Buddy Poppies to raise funds for hospitalized veterans and their families and to perpetuate the memory of our departed veterans. Call Jeffery at (810) 622-8893.

Sandusky – May 12 & 26

Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St. Everyone is welcome. On May 12, which will be Armed Forces Night, the Natural Tones will be playing. \$4 for members and \$4.50 for non-members. Bring finger foods and friends. Catered dinner May 26 at 6:00 p.m. Sign-up is necessary and the cost is \$7. From 7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m., Denny and Curt will be entertaining you. For information or to sign-up for the catered dinner call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250.

Tuscola

Vassar – May 6

Library Concert Series, Bullard Sanford Memorial Library, 520 West Huron Ave., 2:00 p.m. Presented FREE with a reception to follow each performance to meet and greet with the featured musical acts. This performance is Fish 'N' Chips, the oldest contemporary a cappella group at Central Michigan University, blending old and new sweet tunes with a fun and light-hearted stage presence. Visit www.vassarlib.org.

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