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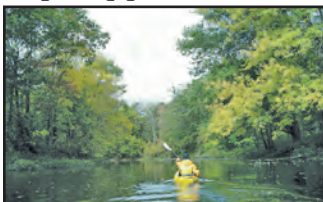


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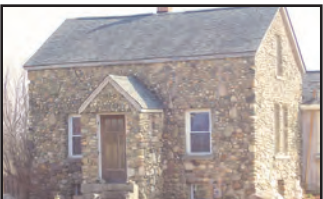
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Maritime Law

Guiding the Thumb Area Waterways

By Ralph McKinch

ThumbPrint News Editor

The history of the Blue Water area, including Lake Huron and the St. Clair River, has countless stories to relate associated with boats, ships and the ship building industry. There was Christopher Columbus Smith who, in 1930, named his company the Chris Craft Corporation. His company was to become the largest builder of motor boats in the world. There was Gar Wood who began his pleasure boat operation in Algonac and later moved to Marysville. Today, Gar Wood boats are eagerly sought out by antique boat collectors. Starting in 1925

and continuing to the present day, the Port Huron to Mackinaw Boat Races continues as one of the longest fresh-water races in the world with over two hundred boats entering each year. These are only a few of the events that color the history of the Blue Water Area. The list could continue almost indefinitely.

Freighters from all over the world traverse these waters, carrying goods to ports near and far. Many



The Atlantic Huron passing under the Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron

men and women have jobs related to the shipping industry.

Pleasure boating on these same bodies of water has reached an all-time high. Yachts, cabin cruisers, bass boats, pontoon boats, canoes,

See MARITIME LAW, Page 34

Spotlight on a Small Town: Melvin (a.k.a. Hog Town)

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

Melvin is a small village in Sanilac County situated within Speaker Township. The village population is less than 200. Although small in size, the people in the village have huge hearts. For the past five years at the Melvin Tavern, motorcyclists from all over Michigan have convened in August for the annual Hog Town Run. The activities include

a pig roast, live entertainment, raffles, burn outs, door prizes, bike games and so much more. The best thing about the popular event, however, is that all proceeds go to benefit the United Hospice Services of Marlette. In five years, over \$55,000 have been donated as a result of this event.

The sign just on the edge of town announces that this year's Hog Town Run will be held on August 14. The sign also says,



The Melvin Tavern hosts the Hog Town Run in August

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Summer vacation brings an onslaught of young people to the doors of local businesses. They are looking for temporary work before heading back to school or college in the fall. I have seen many come through the doors of the various businesses owned by myself and my husband and I have done my share of hiring some of them during the last quarter of a century, and of letting some of them go before the summer was over. I think I have earned the right to make some observations. Hopefully, at the least, a few of the young people out there job seeking will read this editorial and at least ponder the message within. Even better, a few more will learn something from this person who has been in the position to decide if an individual would or would not be hired.

First of all, it is tough out there in the world right now – especially in Michigan. Jobs are scarce. If a job opening becomes available, there will be several, if not dozens of people interested in applying. In that bunch, along with the young people, there will be more mature persons who have spent many years in a rewarding career to suddenly find themselves laid off, either temporarily or permanently. They are often over qualified for the position for which they are applying, but they are desperate enough to be grateful to have the opportunity to apply for any job that exists.

These older employees realize that though they have years of experience, it may not be in the field for which they're applying. They don't expect to be hired into a new position at the same rate as they were being paid in their former positions. They realize that they will need to prove their worth on the new job and know that, with hard work, a positive attitude, enthusiasm and willingness to be a contributing member of the team, most employers will reward them in the proper time with a salary increase.

In contrast, many young people walk into our businesses totally unprepared for an interview. They do not bring with them the basic necessary information to fill out an application, such as names, addresses and phone numbers of personal and professional references. Many don't even have a pen. Many will expect unrealistic starting wages. They believe that classes they took in a career of their choice equates with experience on the job. It doesn't.

When asked what job they are applying for, some answer, "Any." But, "any" isn't what they really mean if they make it to the interview process. When the particulars of the job are discussed, they often react as if they were choosing food from a buffet. "I will do that, but I really don't want to do that," they will say, as if there is a choice being offered!

In contrast the more mature person usually responds, "I will do anything that is needed."

One of my favorite questions to a prospective employee who is being interviewed is, "Tell me why I should hire you over the other applicants." Many mature persons will give a list of traits and experiences that they feel will be an asset to the position for which they are applying. It has been the answer of more than one young person when asked the same question to answer, "Because I need a job."

You need a job? And I, as the employer, am going to spend time and money training you for a position that is only temporary because you need a job and some spending money until you will be returning to school or college in the fall. Plus, I am going to compare you to the more mature person who is going to put himself or herself into all aspects of the job requirements, not just the ones that seem like the least work or that seem like the most palatable. Who do you think is going to win?

Yes, it is a game. You need to know the rules and you need to come prepared to win. If you are going to be the one hired, there has to be something about you that says to me, "Take a chance on this one. This

See FROM THE EDITOR, Page 10



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Lions and Tigers and Bears! Oh My!

By Ralph McKinch

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Brown City, in the southwest corner of Sanilac County, is home to Summer Wind Farms Sanctuary, a non-profit, USDA Licensed sanctuary for exotic animals, birds and reptiles. Summer Wind Farms sits on 140 acres at 6490 Mowerson Road and is home to over 200 animals. The purpose of this facility is to provide for animals who may otherwise have nowhere else to live the opportunity to live out their lives in a safe, well cared for environment.

This is not a zoo. Visitors won't see cement pathways, vendors selling ice cream and hot dogs, places to buy souvenirs or even buildings with restroom facilities and drinking

fountains. The focus here is on the animals and their care. The public can tour the grounds by reservation only. Groups of five people or more can be accommodated. School groups, boy scouts and girl scouts, church groups, and family groups are some of those that visit. Most who come return year after year.



Chuck Vanneste and Sassy wait to guide visitors through Summer Wind Farms



Pandora, the tiger, greets Chuck with a friendly sniff.

What makes Summer Winds unique is that visitors have the chance to see these animals up close and learn about them in a much more personal way than a zoo might offer. There are peacocks and bunnies, monkeys and raccoons, tortoises and lemurs. But the most popular are the lions and tigers and bears.

Chuck Vanneste bought the property in 1975. At that time he worked in a tool shop doing machine repair. It wasn't until around 1990 that he started the sanctuary, along with his partner, Rita Dell. His first animal was a cougar that he obtained from a friend. The friend enjoyed wrestling with the cougar when it was a cub, but as the

cougar grew, it became too difficult to handle. His friend was going to give the cougar to a hunt club, as he felt he had no other place to take the animal. Instead, Chuck took on the cougar and found out that he had a knack for handling big cats. From then on, he seemed to acquire animals in many different ways.

When Belle Isle wanted to have the deer removed that roamed the island, Chuck brought 139 of them to Summer Winds.

Some of the exotic animals at Summer Wind Farms have come from places that raised the exotic animals for profit. Some were purchased by people as pets but found that they could no longer care for them. Some were abused – a lion arrived from a drug house in Detroit that was in really rough shape. Some animals have been used in



A rescued lion enjoys a cat nap in the warm summer sun.



Visitors enjoy the big cats at Summer Wind Farms.

movies or magic acts. It doesn't matter to Chuck where they have come from. He has a respect and compassion for all of them. He has built a special bond with many of them, even to the point of being able to pet them and get them to respond to his commands. However, he still knows that they are wild animals and will always be.

The animals are generally not allowed to breed. The purpose of this facility is not to sell animals, but to provide homes for animals that would probably have ended up being put to sleep if they had not come to Summer Winds. The one exception is the lemurs. They are endangered animals so they are allowed to breed in hopes of increasing the population.

Summer Winds is run entirely by volunteers. A small admission is charged to help with the food and supplies that the animals need. Many times when Chuck is asked if he is the owner, he will reply, "It owns me." He is there 24 hours a day, making sure his animals are well taken care of.

That takes a lot of work. Besides building structures, repairing things that need fixing and mowing the grounds, the animals have to be fed – and that is a huge job. "We go through about 2½ to 3 cows a week which we purchase from the stockyards in Marlette. We do our own processing, so nothing goes to waste. In addition, we go through about 200 pounds of grain per week," says Chuck. He forgets to add the numerous bags of marshmallows that he feeds to the lions and tigers and bears as treats.

Summer Winds is always looking for people to volunteer some time in helping to care for these exotic animals. Another way that interested persons can help is by donating needed items that can be found on their website, www.swfsanctuary.org, or by sponsoring an animal. The phone number to contact Summer Winds for any questions or to schedule a tour is (810) 378-4991. 🌿



Two bears wait for a marshmallow treat.

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Melanie Duquesnel

As Summer Temperatures Heat Up, Don't Get Burned by Air Conditioning Scams

By Melanie Duquesnel

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

As summer temperatures heat up, your local Better Business Bureau is advising consumers not to get burned by air conditioning inspection and repair scams. While most air conditioning service and installation companies are reputable, as the humidity increases there are always a few that emerge each season with the goal of taking consumers money for unnecessary repair work or equipment sales. BBB encourages consumers not to give in to high-pressure sales tactics and to always do their homework before committing to spend any money.

"Air conditioners can be one of the more complicated aspects of maintaining your home," said Melanie Duquesnel, President & CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan. "Scam artists often use consumers' unfamiliarity with their air conditioners to take advantage of them. Always check out a company with your local Better Business Bureau before accepting any offers and never leave anyone servicing your air conditioning system unattended while at your home."

Advertisements for "free" air conditioner cleanings or inspections tend to pop up this time of year. BBB recommends that consumers be cautious of these opportunities. Complaints received by the BBB show a trend in these circumstances

regarding recommendations for more costly repairs than are actually required, high-pressure sales pitches to replace existing units with brand new models, or significantly marking up the price for replacement parts. In other situations, dishonest repair people will remove parts or allow coolant to escape causing the air conditioner to not work properly so that the consumer believes a costly repair or the purchase of a new unit is needed.

"If someone is advertising an offer to clean or service your air conditioner for free they are most likely planning on trying to sell you something else while they are in your home," notes Lee Weinstein, General Manager for H A Sun Heating & Cooling Inc., a BBB Accredited Business since 1987. "There is a difference between sending a technician out to provide a free estimate or quote as part of the sales process, which many reputable businesses do, and trying to trick a consumer by allegedly offering a free service with the overall intent of gaining access to their home in order to defraud them or make a high pressure sales pitch. Anytime someone is faced with a pricy repair or new air conditioner purchase, we recommend getting at least three quotes before you make a final decision."

BBB recommends taking the following steps to ensure you are getting the proper service for your air conditioner problems:

Troubleshoot: Before calling for

service, check a few basic things out yourself first. Is your thermostat operating properly? Has the electrical breaker powering the unit tripped? Does your system have a winter power shut off switch that needs to be flipped? Are the air in-take screens or filters on your outside unit dirty or blocked and need to be cleaned? Sometimes there are minor things you can do yourself to alleviate a problem and avoid paying for a service call or repair.

Air conditioners are complex machinery. Don't take them apart or try to repair them on your own as you could end up doing more damage than good which could result in a more expensive repair. Leave servicing your air conditioner to a licensed professional.

Warranty Issues: Is your air conditioner still under manufacturers' warranty? Sometimes using unauthorized service companies or replacement parts can void your warranty. Be sure to check your owners' manual for any special conditions to avoid paying for any future repairs that might otherwise be paid for under the warranty.

Start With Trust: Check out service contractors with the Better Business Bureau at www.bbb.org or by calling (248) 223-9400. Make sure to use a BBB Accredited Business or at the very least, one that has a good rating with BBB.

Written Estimates: Don't be satisfied with verbal promises. Demand a written estimate that notes what is wrong with your air conditioner, what the entire cost to repair or replace the unit will be, and the printed and signed name of the repair person. If they are recommending purchasing a new system, also require the estimate to include its make, model and serial number.

Obtain Multiple Quotes: Obtain more than one written quote before you allow work to be completed on your air conditioner or purchase a new one. Quotes should include a full description of the services and materials to be used

so you can adequately compare them; this includes the air conditioner's size and units of energy (BTU) as well as the calculated cooling capacity of your home. Also compare warranties as not all warranties are the same. They should also be included in your evaluation process.

Be Vigilant: Don't leave the repair person working on your unit unattended to avoid giving the repair person the potential opportunity to tamper with it. Watch what is being done and don't be afraid to ask questions. Being an active and educated consumer cuts down on fraudulent activity.

Make sure the business has a mechanical contractor's license with the State of Michigan. You can check to see if someone is licensed online at www7.dleg.state.mi.us/bcclicense or by calling (517) 241-9288. Check that the company is insured against claims covering worker's compensation, property damage and personal liability in case an accident occurs on your property. Verify the contractor's insurance coverage after obtaining the name of the carrier and agency.

Annual Inspections: Paying for an annual inspection with a qualified repair shop to check the compressor, moving parts, coolant levels, filter and furnace blower can identify and resolve problems before they become expensive. Having work done before the peak summer busy season can be less costly than when air conditioning service technicians are in high demand.

Editor's Note: Melanie Duquesnel is the President and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan, 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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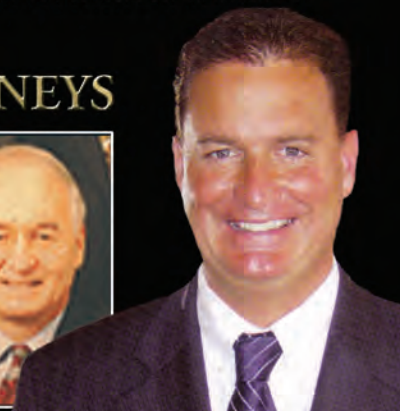
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Fair Haven Business Does Its Part to Recycle

By Ralph McKinch

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Jacob Boyd of Chesterfield, along with his father, Gene, are each known locally as a Power Tool Doctor. Coincidentally, that is also the name of their business. They specialize in the distribution and rebuilding of power tool batteries. Starting the business in 2009, they temporarily chose to house the business at the Lakeview Motel at 10161 Dixie Highway in Fair Haven, which is also owned and managed by Gene and his wife. Jacob and Gene are currently looking for a store front in which to move the business, as it has grown tremendously in just the short time that they have been open.

At 25, Jacob is quite an entrepreneur. Graduating in 2003 from Faith Christian School in Clinton Township, he went to work for his father, who at that time owned a landscaping business. When the landscaping business closed, Jacob and Gene began working for a developer reconditioning industrial buildings after the occupants

moved out. On the side, Jacob started also working with another member of his church, who handled the sales and service of batteries in Roseville.

The Roseville company mainly focused on selling and reconditioning industrial forklift batteries. They also dabbled in rebuilding power tool batteries, but felt it was more a nuisance than it was worth to them. Jacob asked to take over the power tool part of the business, in fact wanting to start up a business of his own. It was agreed upon and the idea for the Power Tool Doctor was born.

Today, Jacob and his father have their own website, www.powertooldoctor.com, which brings in business from all over the country. It is a niche market, but for Jacob and Gene it seems to be providing a much needed service. An 18-volt battery can cost around \$90 new, yet Power Tool Doctor can recondition an old battery in one day for only \$47. The company deals with nickel cadmium batteries only. Through their affiliate business, Great Lakes Battery, they also can recondition batteries from as small as a coin cell battery for watches to car, wheelchair, forklift, marine and golf cart batteries. Best of all, Power Tool Doctor is a drop off location for batteries, which can then be recycled, instead of ending up along the roadside or in landfills. *ThumbPrint News* gives a Thumbs Up to the Power Tool Doctor for their recycling efforts! 🍴



Gene and Jacob Boyd are the Power Tool Doctors.



Jacob reconditions a power tool battery.

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They Said Goodbye to Old Marysville High

By Laura Irwin

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

On June 5, 2010, hundreds of former students, teachers and staff, along with other interested community members, gathered to wish the current Marysville High goodbye and to share memories of the school. Marilyn O'Connor attended school there 73 years ago and, now in her 90s, came to be honored as the oldest graduate present. A 1954 graduate, Tom Jowitt, remembered Marilyn babysitting him when he was a young boy.

Ron Murphy, also a 1954 graduate, traveled all the way from Virginia Beach, Virginia, where he now lives with Bonnie, his wife of 20 years. Bonnie told stories about how Ron and his cohorts pulled some real antics back in their days at the school. She compared them to the characters in the movie *American Graffiti*. Ron gave his input (with a slight puffing of the male chest) about his buddy, Tom Starks, also a 1954 graduate, who faked a fire drill so students could use the fire escape slide. (This slide was similar to the modern day spiral tunnel slides found on kids' playgrounds and water parks and seems to have been a favorite of many students throughout the years.)

Hazel (Busha) Pattison, a 1947 graduate, attended with her sister, Annis Busha, a 1956 graduate, who now resides in Burtchville



Annis Busha (1947), Hazel (Busha) Pattison (1956) and Nelson Busha (1950)

and her brother, Nelson Busha, a 1950 graduate, who now lives in Port Huron Township. She also reminisced about the fire escape slide, but also shared memories of attending J-Hops (junior proms) and proms, walking to the post office/general store during lunch hour to get a soda and some chips and of working at Tomlin's Drug Store after school. She fondly remembered Mr. McGillvary, who taught the students the tango and other dances during lunch hour.

Annis, Hazel's sister, remembered swimming in the pool, which opened in 1955, but disliking the T-shirt material tank style swimsuits they had to wear. "The darn things had to be held up with string because they stretched out as soon as they got wet," she said.

Hazel and Annis's brother, Nelson, was the football team manager all four years he attended Marysville. He didn't play football because he boxed with the Golden Gloves out of Port Huron, and of which he was in the championships all four years.

Dick Kennedy, a 1949 graduate, traveled from Alpena to attend the festivities. He recalled that the school had grown considerably since he last attended. His memories included his favorite teacher, Mrs. Sherritt, who taught history, and his senior trip to White Fish Point.

Linda (Darby) Robinson, a 1965 graduate, who attended with her husband, Harry, also from the same class, wanted to nominate Mrs. Bellow as her favorite teacher. Mrs. Bellow taught English and Linda felt she had learned a great deal from her. However, Mrs. Bellow's niece, Carol Bellow, who graduated in 1967 and also was in attendance, recalled that she didn't want her aunt for a teacher as she demanded too much from the students. The Bellow family had 38 graduates from Marysville High School in the past 100 years. Linda and Larry had just attended their 45th class reunion the night before the closing celebrations and had a wonderful time.

Peggy (Marcero) Socha, a 1950 graduate came from Connecticut



The June 5, 2010 closing celebration brought in over 5100 people.

to attend with her brother, Clare, who still lives in Marysville and who claimed that it just seemed like yesterday that they were all attending Marysville High. Marilyn (Socha) Kowalchuk, a 1963 graduate, came all the way from Delaware.

A group of 1950 graduates, Isabelle (Darby) Martiny, Jean (Darby) Bigger, Vera (Darby) Smith, Barbara (Walker) Raysin, June Ward, Lois Krafft and her brother, Vaughn, could barely keep from laughing as they remembered the donkey basketball games, where the players tried to stay on their donkeys

while dribbling and shooting baskets. They call themselves the "Salt Block Gang" as they grew up across the way from the Morton Salt Plant. They planned on riding the trolley later to see some of the old sights around town.

More recent graduates also came to enjoy the day. Pat Larson, a 1971 graduate, attended with her son Don, a 1999 graduate, and her daughter, Shannon, who graduated in 2003. Pat talked about enjoying the hamburger gravy that was served at lunch and about Mr. Wheeler, a government teacher, who enjoyed teaching and relayed



Some of the "Salt Block Gang" take a ride on the trolley.



Art Delvero, in the red plaid shirt, is surrounded by some of his former students.

that in his lessons.

Brian Gottschalk, now of Vermont, graduated in 1980 and just happened to be on a business trip to Detroit. He decided to take a side trip to his old Alma Mater, where he played in the band at football games. He chose Mr. McDonald, an English teacher with a sense of humor, as his favorite. Mr. McDonald made the lessons fun and interesting at the same time.

Deciding on who the favorite teacher was seemed to be one of the major topics of conversation. Art Delvero, who taught World History from 1951 through 1955, certainly seemed to be one of the most popular. Comments were heard by former students ranging from, "He was the greatest teacher ever!" to "If there was a National Teacher of the Year Award, Mr. Delvero should have received it!" His students said that he had so much enthusiasm and humor that world history came alive for them. He also seemed to make the studying of history relevant to the present time.

The teacher who was receiving all of this praise, Art Delvero, was in attendance for the closing ceremonies. He talked about teaching during a time when television was still a novelty and most people received their local and world news through radio and newspapers. He asserts that Marysville kids were the nicest, most pleasant, polite, contented, good kids he'd ever taught. "Back then," said Art, "If anyone got in trouble with the police, they would be taken home to the parents

because the police knew that the parents would deal more harshly with the errant youths than the law would."

It was a hodge podge of people who came to say good-bye to Marysville High School, but they all had things in common – they were sharing their memories, they were reconnecting with friends of the past and they were laughing, hugging, waving and taking part in this historic moment. They all knew that it would be the last time they could gather together in this building that had shared in a unique time in each person's life and that had sent so many graduates out to the four corners of the earth to become productive members of society. But, for today, everyone was reliving the wonderful times that they had during their high school days at Marysville High.

Goodbye Old Marysville High! 🍀



Don Larson (1999), Pat Larson (1971), and Shannon Larson (2003)

Ask the Audiologist

By Lisa Bont
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Should I see an audiologist or an "audioprosthologist" for my hearing healthcare?

An Audiologist is a highly educated and certified medical practitioner. An Audiologist must have a Masters degree or a Doctor of Audiology degree. They are required to complete an internship, pass the Certificate of Clinical Competence (a difficult national board exam from the American Speech Hearing Language Association), obtain and maintain state licenses and mandatory continuing education hours. Only an Audiologist is qualified to diagnose, treat, habilitate and rehabilitate someone who has a hearing loss.

An "audioprosthologist" is just a title that some hearing aid dispensers, sellers and specialists have given themselves. This has led to much confusion for consumers. It needs to be made clear that to

become a seller of hearing aids one must only obtain a high school diploma or GED. They are required to take correspondence classes on hearing loss and hearing aid fitting by the International Hearing Society, pass a state exam and obtain continuing education hours. However, they have a limited scope of practice, whereas the audiologist is uniquely qualified and trained to identify a wide variety of pathology and medical conditions of the hearing and balance systems and refer these cases for appropriate medical and surgical treatment.

Audiologists are usually licensed as sellers of hearing aids, but not every seller of hearing aids is an audiologist, just as not every white coated professional is an audiologist or doctor. Check your hearing professional's accreditations and look for a M.A., M.S. or AuD after their names to be assured you are seeking professional hearing health care from an audiologist. 🍀



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Audiologist Lisa Bont







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Letter From the Editor

Continued from Page 2

one just might bring that breath of fresh air, creativity and energy to the company that we so desperately need.” Come dressed like you took some extra time to care about your appearance. Remember to extend your hand for a handshake when you introduce yourself. Remember to thank the employer for taking time to speak with you or to review your application. It is up to you. Figure out how you can give yourself the competitive edge.

By the way, just about the most self-destructive way of applying for a job is by bringing along a friend who also wants to apply for the same job – when there is only one opening! Just what were you thinking?

Yes, it is tough out there, but there are jobs for the right kind of person. You may be that person. Take my advice for what it is worth and if you really believe it, I’ll be glad to look over your application and give up some of my time to schedule an interview with you. Otherwise, move aside and let the next person in line come forward.

DIANE KODET
Editor, *ThumbPrint News*

80 Year-Old Gets Married

The local news station was interviewing an 80-year-old lady because she had just gotten married for the fourth time. The interviewer asked her questions about her life, about what it felt like to be marrying again at 80, and then about her new husband’s occupation. “He’s a funeral director,” she answered.

“Interesting,” the newsman thought. He then asked her if she wouldn’t mind telling him a little about her first three husbands and what they did for a living. She paused for a few moments, needing time to reflect on all those years. After a short time, a smile came to her face and she answered proudly, explaining that she’d first married a banker when she was in her early 20’s, then a circus ringmaster when in her 40’s, later on a preacher when in her 60’s, and now in her 80’s, a funeral director.

The interviewer looked at her, quite astonished, and asked why she had married four men with such diverse careers.

She smiled and explained, “I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go.” ☺

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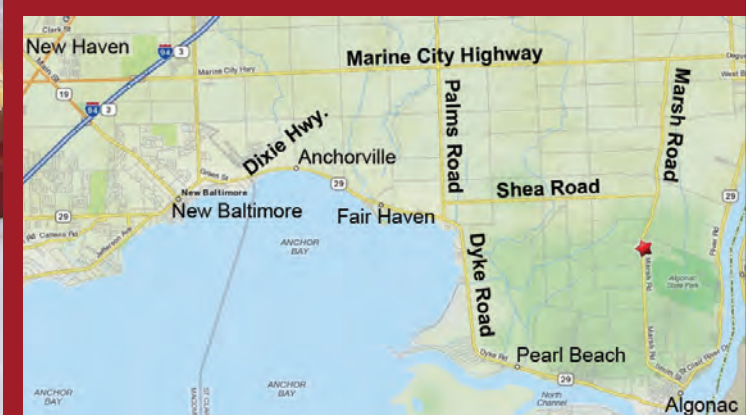
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Day Tripping in the Thumb

The Shiawassee River Heritage Water Trail

By **Ralph McKinch**

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

On a hot summer day in July it is common to see several families or groups of friends launching their canoes or kayaks from WaterWorks Park at 690 S. Broad Street in Holly in the northwest corner of Oakland County. Here was also the site of the Holly Milling Company, which operated from 1845 until 1910.

In the early 1820s, Ira C. Alger established the first settlement in Holly. Alger and other early settlers were attracted to this region because of the Shiawassee River. In 1843 at this spot, Alger dammed up the river and constructed a sawmill and later a grinding mill.

By 1875, the ten men who were employed at the mill produced 150 barrels of flour a day. As the village of Holly grew with the development of the railroads, "Holly Velvet" flour was shipped out to cities nationwide from this mill. By 1910, many more men were employed at the mill – enough to run two shifts. Production had increased to 300 to 400 barrels of flour a day. The flour was known for its superb quality and was being shipped to places as far away as Russia. Then, on December 17, 1910, the mill caught fire and burned. The losses were estimated at over \$50,000 and the mill was never rebuilt.

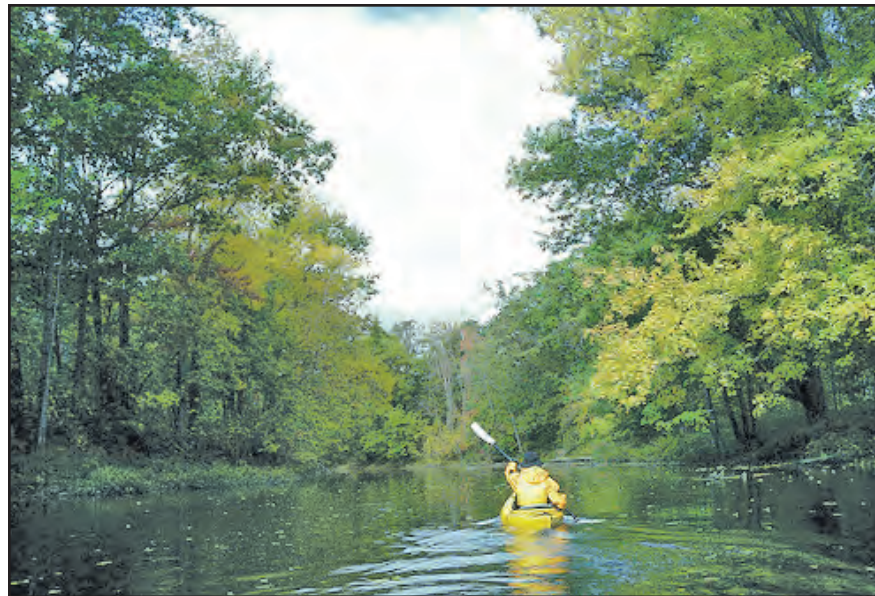
WaterWorks Park is also the

beginning of the Shiawassee River Heritage Water Trail, which was created to help protect the valuable wetlands along the river from becoming polluted and also to provide visitors a recreational opportunity to enjoy nature at its best.

The Shiawassee River is one of four major rivers in Michigan that join together to make up the Saginaw River, which, in turn empties into Saginaw Bay. The watershed of the Shiawassee River covers over 1,100 square miles. The outlet of the Shiawassee River is 110 river miles from Holly. From Holly the Shiawassee River meanders with many twists and turns for about seven river miles to Strom Park on East Street in Fenton. (This portion of the river is part of the Shiawassee River Heritage Water Trail. It is planned that someday the trail may be developed all the way to Saginaw Bay.)

The trail offers a close up view of an unspoiled natural landscape. An occasional beaver dam will be seen. Great blue herons, kingfishers, sandhill cranes, muskrats and turtles are a few of the birds and critters that have been spotted.

The paddling adventure takes about two and a half to three hours from WaterWorks Park in Holly to Strom Park in Fenton. (Most paddlers will arrange to have someone pick them up in Fenton,



Kayaking along the Shiawassee River Heritage Water Trail

rather than making the return trip to Holly.) The water on this part of the river is slow moving and shallow. Mile markers, interpretive signage, launch sites and trailhead parking have been added by the volunteer organization, Headwaters Trails Inc. The organization also sponsors yearly river clean-ups to remove fallen trees and branches that would make this portion of the river inaccessible to canoes and kayaks.

At both ends of the river trail, the quaint and historic towns of Holly and Fenton offer unique dining and shopping opportunities. From anywhere in the Thumb area, it is an easy day trip to Holly and to

WaterWorks Park for canoe and kayak enthusiasts to enjoy all that the Shiawassee River Heritage Water Trail has to offer. And, as a sign placed near the launch says, "Leave no trace. Take only good memories." It is vital to protect these waterways for future generations. 🌿

Editor's note: Throughout the summer and fall, various events and activities are planned along the Shiawassee River Heritage Trail, which are posted on the website www.headwaterstrailsinc.org. For more information, the Volunteers Of Headwaters Trails, Inc. can be reached at (248) 634-3513.



WaterWorks Park in Holly



A pristine view of nature along the Shiawassee River in Holly

Camping Crafts for Kids

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Whether you and your family are going camping or you are just enjoying some time together in your own backyard, here are two fabulous camping crafts the kids will really enjoy! (Both should be done with adult supervision.)

How to Make Dryer Lint Fire Starters



Dryer lint can be used to make excellent fire starters.

Items needed:

- A quart or more of dryer lint that has been collected from your dryer's lint trap.
- A cardboard egg carton
- Paraffin wax (available at most grocery stores in the canning section) or old candles
- Scissors
- An old pan for melting wax
- A gallon size plastic Zip-lock bag

Directions:

Break up the dryer lint into small pieces and stuff it into the individual sections of the egg carton. On very low heat, melt the paraffin wax or old candles. Pour the melted wax over the dryer lint in the egg carton.



A solar powered hot dog roaster is easy to make.

Let the lint and wax harden and dry. Using scissors cut apart the individual sections of the egg carton. Store the fire starters in a Zip-lock bag until ready to use. To start a fire, set the fire starter under small pieces of kindling, light it and enjoy. (Note: sawdust from untreated wood also works well instead of the dryer lint.)

Solar Powered Hot Dog Roaster

Items needed:

- 1 cylindrical oatmeal container with a lid
- Sharp scissors
- Aluminum foil
- Hole puncher
- Long wooden skewer (for shish-ka-bobs)

Directions:

Remove the lid from the container and cut in half. Use the sharp scissors and cut the container in half lengthwise. Punch a hole in the lid and in the bottom of the container about ½ way from the cut end. Replace the half lid on the container. Cover the whole container with aluminum foil. Make sure you leave the holes open. Place a hotdog on the wooden dowel and place the ends of the dowel through the holes. Place out in the yard in the sunlight and let the hotdog roast until cooked all the way through. Eat and enjoy! 🍔

Advertisorial

Great Lakes Dock and Decks Owners Build Their Business Around What They Love Doing

By Shari Nowicki

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Walt and Kris Dombrowski, along with their son, Adam, are all water sports enthusiasts. Kayaking is among their favorites, which works out perfectly, as Walt and Kris are the owners of Great Lakes Docks and Decks located at 7427 Dyke Road in Algonac. They specialize in expert customized installation, service and repair for all marine construction and small engine needs. In addition, since 1995, they are kayak dealers.

Kris says the first time that people try kayaking, the results can be amusing. Some find it hard to paddle the kayak in a straight line. Others ask to try out their newly purchased kayak in the canal next to the store. Unexpected problems arise and several times the customers have ended up in the water.

Walt and Kris pride themselves in going the extra mile to accomplish what their customers need. Because of this personalized attention, many customers return to Great Lakes Docks and Decks year after year. Many of them have also become friends with whom they socialize. When a customer comes into the store, there are two others who like to socialize – Jack and Jackie, a pair of large “Lab mutts” who are very friendly, but think that they are small dogs.



Walt and Kris also sponsor special events, including a three-day fishing tournament called the Anchor Bay Charity Kayak Fishing Tournament.

Another charity event that Walt participates in is the “Heroes on the Water” kayak charity fishing tournament on Lake Michigan. The participants are disabled veterans who compete, sometimes for the first time. Walt is a Vietnam veteran.

Kris also gives back to charity. One of the closest to her heart is the Susan G. Kolman three day walk for breast cancer. She lost her own sister to breast cancer in 2003 and often participates in the walk. When she walked in Tampa, Florida, one of their company's suppliers, a davit maker, sent four of their representatives to support her and also sponsored her. They made a huge sign and put it on a flatbed trailer showing their support for her. Kris will be participating once again in the upcoming Washington, D.C. walk as a volunteer bicycle route safety person.

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Fourth of July Reminiscences

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist



David Gillis riding in the 1955 Fourth of July Parade

I was born and raised in the “Blue Water Area,” a small section of Michigan’s geographical thumb where old fashioned traditional values and principles were seemingly the norm. Accordingly, for me there always seems to have been a special kind of nostalgia about the Fourth of July.

As I recall, it was a day I anticipated. Certainly not as much as Christmas or my birthday, but absolutely one I looked forward to. My anxiousness was assisted by the holiday displays in the storefronts downtown and the red, white and blue decorations that lined the streets. I remember, too, the colorful posters promoting the coming events of that special

day and providing the promise of a magical fireworks display.

The Fourth of July always brought with it a great parade down the main street of town. Everyone who seemed to be someone was in that parade and everyone else lined its path.

One of my greatest memories was when I became one of those who could actually be in the annual procession as a member of the Little League. One year, some teammates and I were even able to ride in a boat pulled by a convertible in which a dignitary rode. A few years later, I proudly marched in my Boy Scout uniform. Oh, what experiences to remember.

As dusk began to create shadows on that special day, what seemed like a million people would converge on the riverside park attempting to find a good viewing site. Soon we would be amazed by the thunderous splendor of an array of bright colors in the sky that never did last long enough.

I confess that, at the time, I didn’t give too much thought to the meaning of that day. It was simply a day I looked forward to, enjoyed very much, and allowed to slip away until the next year.

Enough of nostalgia, however. As I matured I became more aware of the true meaning of specific holidays, especially the one we celebrate on the fourth day of July. It’s the birthday of what I truly believe is the greatest nation on earth. It, too, is the day that fully encompasses patriotism.

Patriotism began long before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, but it became more meaningful as our nation was conceived in a small meeting hall in Philadelphia. It was there after many hours of debate that 56 determined men, frustrated by the tyranny of a foreign power, made the ir retrievable decision to become an independent nation.

The decision made was not an easy one. The small band of those who changed the course of all of our lives faced probable charges of treason and possibly even the gallows, but they bravely moved forward.

They pushed aside the thoughts of imprisonment or death that might result because of their actions. In their impassioned act to find freedom, they stepped forward to place their signatures on the now famous document that has become our proclamation of freedom, rights and liberty.

The rest, as they say, is history. This unique group of courageous patriots pledged their lives, wealth and individual honor for the future of the nation they believed should exist. Some forfeited their lives in the war that followed. Most lost their fortunes, many donating it to the cause. But, let’s be reminded that all, absolutely every one of them, preserved their sacred honor.

As I have grown older I have come to recognize this special day as so much more than the birth of our nation. It truly was the one of most idealistic revolutions ever experienced by mankind.

As we approach this Fourth of July, let’s all be reminded that our Declaration of Independence provided the greatest awareness of who and what we are. It announced to the entire world that we, a nation comprised of people with many roots, of many colors, and of many beliefs, are all born with certain God-given rights. It tells us that our government was created and is controlled by “we the people” with no greater power than we are willing to give it.

So, as the parade passes on the fourth day of July, stand tall, be proud and say thank you to those who gave us all the wonderful opportunity to do so. Be grateful and enjoy your independence. 🇺🇸

Austin Smith, Revolutionary War Patriot

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

Austin Smith, a soldier and sergeant in the American Revolutionary War, is honored on the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Riverview Cemetery in Baldwinsville, New York, along with many other Revolutionary War soldiers. Austin was born in 1753. Austin was fortunate. He fought in the War and served for 220 days and was even wounded at the battle of Monmouth, but he fortunately was not one of its casualties. He died in 1846 at the age of 93.

On the 11th day of November, 1820, Austin, at the age of 67, was destitute enough to appear before the State of New York in Ontario County to apply for a pension for his service in the Revolutionary War, hoping to provide something for his wife and remaining children.

As part of Austin's application, he was required to list all of his earthly possessions and their values. These were what he listed on the document he signed on that day in 1820: (These are listed as they were on the original document, with no editing done.)

One porridge pot 0.75, 1 teakettle \$2. 1 spider 0.75	3.50
1 pr. Sad irons \$1., 1 broken kettle \$0.50, shovel and tongs 1.25	2.75
6 teaspoons \$2.50, 6 tea cups and saucers \$0.30	2.81
2 pewter platters 0.87, 5 dr plates 0.31, 1 table \$1	2.18
6 knives and forks 0.37, 6 table spoons 0.25	62
3 small plates 0.25, 2 old chests \$1.75	2.00
1 stand 0.75, 2 pails 0.50, 1 churn 0.75, 1 tub 0.18	2.18
1 pr scales \$1.25, 1 pr stilyards 0.75, 1 axe, 0.50	2.50
2 small tin kettles 0.50, 6 chairs \$1.08	1.58
1 hoe 0.60, 1 old spade .62, 1 griddle 0.25	1.47
1 little wheel \$1. 1 clock reel \$0.50	1.50
1 little kettle and 1 peg	75
	<u>\$22.85</u>

So few possessions left for a soldier who had played an important part in the independence of our country!

The application becomes even more heartbreaking when one reads the testimonial Austin Smith attached to the application: (again presented in its unedited version)

And I do further swear and declare that I am by occupation a farmer, but that owing to old age and rheumatism, I am unable to labor much, and that my family consists of my wife, aged forty four years, who is not able to labor much on account of a pain in her breast, my son, Zachias, age twenty years, a cripple, my son Ard Reynolds, age 14 years, my daughter, Rebecca, age 10 years, of a weakly constitution and Nancy, aged seven years.



"Austin Smith" engraved on Soldiers and Sailors Monument, Riverside Cemetery, Tappan Street, Baldwinsville, NY (photograph by Linda Glaza-Herrington, 2009)

Austin Smith was granted his request and earned an annual pension of \$105.33 per year.

As Independence Day approaches, I think about soldiers such as Austin Smith. To anyone, his story and sacrifices would be memorable. To me, it means something even more. You see, Austin Smith was my fourth great grandfather.

For the past ten years I have been consumed with an overwhelming desire to explore my past and have spent countless hours in genealogical research. I am fortunate that some of my ancestors were just as passionate as myself and left wonderful records for their future generations. The information on Austin Smith was given to me by my grandmother, Sybil Audrey (Cadwell) Glaza, who died at the ripe old age of 98 in 1990. I am fortunate to have longevity run in my family. My father and mother still live with me at the ages

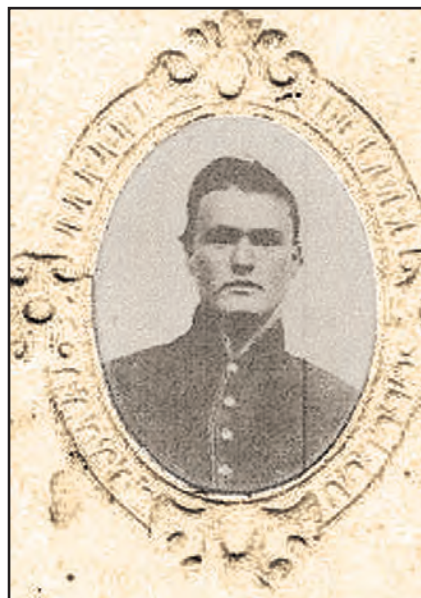
of 92 and 89 respectively. They have been invaluable sources for family information on generations that came before me. I am hoping one day soon to make application to the Daughters of the American Revolution for my direct ties to Austin Smith.

But now, back to Austin Smith. The story doesn't end there. His grandson, Austin T. Smith, born in 1840, served as a corporal in Company K of the Fourth Michigan Infantry in the Civil War. He died in 1863 because of a fever contracted during his service. Austin T. Smith was my second great grand uncle.

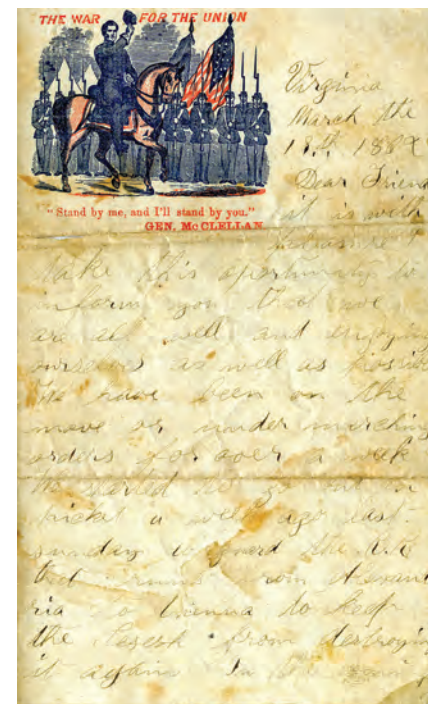
Austin T. Smith, during the Civil War, was in the same company and shared a tent with Deloss M. Haviland, who was born in 1841. Deloss was also my second great grand uncle. Deloss lost his life in the Battle at Gainsfield, Virginia, during the Civil War.

Austin T. Smith and Deloss M.

Haviland left a priceless legacy in terms of 55 letters that they wrote back home to their family and relatives during the Civil War. My uncle, who is now 82 years old, has most of these letters in his possession. For the past year, my cousin has been translating the letters and, along with my help and a couple of other cousins, we are in the process of preserving this wonderful piece of family history in the form of a book that can be passed down to our future generations. (In a future edition of *ThumbPrint News* I hope to share a few of these letters, which give a heart wrenching picture of the realities of a soldier serving in the Civil War.)



Deloss M. Haviland lost his life in the Civil War.



Civil War letter written by one of the author's ancestors

So, as the Fourth of July or Independence Day nears, I feel a profound sense of gratitude to my ancestors who fought for my freedom. I wish I could personally thank each one of them. But, since that is impossible, the best I can do is to keep their memories alive forever for not only their ancestors, but for all the rest of the people in our country. Austin, Austin T. and Deloss didn't know me. They didn't know my children. They didn't know you. But they believed so strongly in the freedom that our great country could offer, that they fought and sacrificed to make sure that their future generations and your future generations could continue to enjoy those ideals that some of us just take for granted. Thank you, ancestors. 🍀

Editor's Note: In Austin Smith's list of possessions when he applied for his Revolutionary War pension, there are a few items of which our readers may not be familiar. Their definitions are given here:

- Spider – a skimmer, in the form of a wide shallow wire-mesh basket with a long handle, used for removing hot food from a liquid or skimming foam off when making broths. The name is derived from the wire pattern, which looks like a spider's web.
- Sad iron – a very heavy metal iron that was heated over an open fire to iron the family's clothes and linens. It usually was pointed at both ends and had a handle.
- Stilyard – a simple balance for weighing foodstuffs etc; the thing to be weighed hangs from the short side of a beam; the long side has graduated notches for a standard weight.
- Clock reel – a device for measuring yarn and turning it into a skein.



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July 9 - Sax Appeal
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July 16 - Golden Harvest
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Other events, presented by the Sandusky Area Chamber of Commerce, include:

July 4 - Community Church Services
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July 15 & 16 - Sidewalk Sales
throughout the city

August 14 - Sandusky Cruise Night & Car Show

For complete information on Sandusky businesses, events and activities, visit our new Welcome Center at 26 W. Speaker Street (Sandusky City Hall). We are open Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Visit our website at www.miSandusky.us.

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Pet Tips for Warm Weather

By Dr. DiBenedetto
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Here are some tips on having a safe, happy and healthy summer with your pet!

- With the warm weather comes picnics, camping and graduation parties. All may involve having your pet with you. You should make sure your pets do not ingest alcohol, which can be deadly to them. Even small amounts of alcohol can have major side effects on pets.
- This is the time of year when we start taking our pets for long walks and to dog parks so they can start shedding those extra pounds after being cooped up for the winter. Exercise needs to be gradually reintroduced to avoid any orthopedic injuries, such as torn ligaments or muscles.
- With heavy summer rains, there may be puddles of standing water outside. These puddles can contain many bacteria and small organisms that can sometimes cause vomiting and diarrhea. You should have a stool sample checked yearly for any intestinal parasites as well as having a stool sample checked whenever there is diarrhea present.
- All vaccinations should be up to date so when your pets are exposed

to other animals they are protected. Your dog's vaccine risk assessment as well as your cat's vaccine risk assessment should be evaluated by your veterinarian yearly to assure your pet is fully protected.

- **ALL DOGS AND CATS NEED TO BE VACCINATED AGAINST RABIES!**
- All dogs should be tested yearly for heartworm disease and be given monthly heartworm prevention year round. Cats do not need to be tested but should also be on monthly heartworm prevention year round. Both indoor and outdoor cats can be exposed to heartworms. Heartworm disease can be fatal to both dogs and cats. Cats are more resistant to the heartworms and may only have one to three worms in the heart, but their lungs are more sensitive to the effects of the heartworms and cats often die suddenly from blood clots formed by the presence of the adult worms. Dogs can also die from blood clots in the lungs caused by heartworm disease. The treatment for heartworm disease in dogs is a form of arsenic. Heartworm disease is much easier to prevent than it is to treat.
- Make sure your pet is either always wearing a collar with

an identification tag or is microchipped and registered with a registry that has a 24 hour recovery system. When you are outside with your pets they should always be on a leash.

- Provide plenty of water, shade and adequate shelter to protect your pets from the sun and heat while they are enjoying the outdoors.
- Keep an eye out for heat stroke. Heat stroke is a medical emergency. If you suspect your pet has heat stroke, you must act quickly and calmly. Call a veterinarian immediately. At the same time, begin to lower the animal's body temperature by applying towels soaked in cool (not cold) water to the hairless areas of the body. Signs of heatstroke include panting, staring, anxious expression, refusal to obey commands, warm dry skin, high fever, rapid heartbeat, vomiting and/or collapse.
- Few dogs appreciate the spectacle of Fourth of July fireworks. The loud noises may be upsetting or even uncomfortable to your dog's sensitive ears. If you are going out to see fireworks, leave your dog at home. If fireworks can be heard from your house and they appear to bother your dog, take your dog to a quiet room and sit with him

until he calms down.

- It is unknown why some pets become afraid of noises such as thunder. In the case of thunderstorms, pets may also be fearful of storm-associated events such as a change in barometric pressure, lightning, electrostatic disturbances, and even smells associated with the storms. Different animals may display different signs of noise phobias. These signs can include hiding (most common sign in cats), urinating, defecating, chewing, panting, pacing, trying to escape (digging, jumping through windows, going through walls or running away), drooling, seeking the owner, expressing anal glands, not eating, not listening to commands, trembling or shaking, dilated pupils, vocalizing (barking or meowing). There is no guarantee that a noise phobia can be totally resolved, but in many instances, the fear can be managed effectively. If your dog has a history of negative reactions to loud noises, talk to your veterinarian ahead of time for suggestions or possible medications to help calm your pet's fears. 🐾

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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Memoirs from The Restless Retiree

The Day the Skunks Came Home!

By Gabriel Jones, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

One day, years ago, when I came home from work, I noticed that my teenage daughter had a large cardboard box into which she was carefully putting dirt. I didn't think much of it until I noticed that she went into the back yard and was filling two other boxes with dirt also.

I then mentioned it to my wife and she said, "Ask your daughter about it."

When I questioned my daughter, she explained what she was doing. It seems that a friend of hers was

asking what to do with five orphan baby skunks that he had found in his backyard. They were so young that their eyes weren't opened. An inquiry to a local animal shelter was that they were not allowed to take in skunks, so my daughter decided to bring them home. She thought she would temporarily care for them until they could survive in the woods.

"WHAT!" I said. "You can't bring those skunks here. They'll let out their protective spray and stink up the place."

"No," my daughter cried, "they're too small for that. I just want them

to get stronger so they have a chance to survive in the woods."

Her tearful answer persuaded me to say reluctantly, "OK, we'll keep them for a little while. But they must stay outside, away from the house. If they give out a spray, we'll have to put them back into the woods regardless of how small they are."

Time went on (which turned into a few weeks). The skunks were first fed with milk from an eye dropper. Later, as they grew, their diet changed to worms, grubs, vegetables, and hamburger. All this time, not one spray by any of the

five skunks. We were lucky!

The day came when we all decided that they could survive in the woods. We chose a safe spot and placed the skunks into a box for shelter with enough food for a few days.

A few days later, we returned to the exact place where we had left them. The box was there and the skunks and food were gone. Our hope was that they were old enough now to survive the elements of the woods.

On the ride home, my daughter couldn't help but smile. 🐾

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The Bountiful Garden

Recipes Gathered By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

In July, gardeners are beginning to reap the rewards of all of their previous hard work. Tomatoes and zucchini are always two of the most prolific producers in the garden. Here are a few great recipes for using up some of those surplus veggies.

Zucchini Pineapple Loaf



Ingredients

- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup grated zucchini
- 1/2 cup crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Directions

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease one 9x5x3 inch loaf pan. Beat eggs, oil and sugar in a large bowl. Stir in zucchini, pineapple and vanilla. In another bowl, measure and combine flour, soda, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg and nuts. Pour all at once into batter. Stir to moisten. Pour into greased loaf pan. Bake in 350° oven for 1 hour until bread tests done. Cool for 10 minutes. Turn loaf out of pan to cool on rack. Wrap. Cut in thin slices and spread with butter.

Zucchini Santa Fe

Ingredients

- 3 cups sliced zucchini (or summer squash)
- 1/2 cup chopped onions
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt (optional)
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Directions

Sauté zucchini and onions in oil for 3 to 5 minutes in a non-stick skillet until crisp tender. Add chilies,

tomato, salt, pepper and garlic powder. Cook an additional 3-4 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Pour into a serving bowl. Sprinkle cheddar cheese on top and serve.

Double Tomato Bruschetta

Ingredients

- 6 roma tomatoes, chopped
- 1/2 cup sun-dried tomatoes, packed in oil
- 3 cloves minced garlic
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup fresh basil, stems removed
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 French baguette
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese

Directions

Preheat the oven on broiler setting. In a large bowl, combine the roma tomatoes, sun-dried tomatoes, garlic, olive oil, vinegar, basil, salt and pepper. Allow the mixture to sit for 10 minutes. Cut the baguette into 3/4" slices. On a baking sheet, arrange the baguette slices in a single layer. Broil for 1 to 2 minutes, until slightly brown.

Divide the tomato mixture evenly over the baguette slices. Top the slices with mozzarella cheese. Broil for 5 minutes, or until the cheese is melted.

Tomato Mozzarella Penne

Ingredients

- 1 pound penne pasta
- 1 pint (about 25-30) grape or cherry tomatoes, cut in half
- 1/3 cup water
- 8 ounce mozzarella cheese
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 cup sliced basil
- 1/4 cup diced green pepper (optional)

Directions

Cook penne pasta. Rinse in cool water, drain and set aside.

Heat olive oil in a skillet. Add garlic and cook for a minute. Add tomato halves and cook for about 1 minute. Add salt and pepper and water and bring to a boil.

Place pasta in a large serving bowl. Add mixture from the skillet, diced mozzarella, and slices of basil. Stir all together. Serve warm or cold. Refrigerate any leftovers. 🍴

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Hog Town: Small Town Spotlight

Continued from Page 1

“Welcome to Melvin – Hog Town”, which is a tribute to the town’s nickname. However, the pig on a Harley would lead unknowing visitors to think that the town got its nickname from some association with motorcycling. Although, the Melvin Tavern is a popular hangout for riders, even at other times than during the annual Hog Town Run, there is actually a different reason why it earned its unusual title.

The Melvin Tavern has been an established place of business in this village since 1902. The current owner, Larry Drouillard has been there for 25 years. He has all kinds of information and memorabilia on the history of Melvin. However, it was a different saloon that became the first building in Melvin back in 1868.

Although this area was earlier the hunting grounds of the Native Americans, the first white settlers

did not come here until around 1852. Peter McCarroll and his brother-in-law, John R. Davis were among the first to settle there. John’s daughter, Sarah Davis, became the first white child to be born in Speaker Township.

The entire township at that time was covered with heavy white pine timber and logging was what attracted these early settlers to the area. From 1857 until 1867 this was the principal occupation of the residents. Logging even played in their recreational choices. Speaker Township was known for its “logging bees” where almost every citizen turned out with their own axes and teams. After six to eight back-breaking hours of clearing timber, the owner of the land that was being cleared would reward everyone with a huge feast and a dance would often follow. The last recorded bee was held in September of 1884.



An unusual buck with a hog’s snout hangs on the wall of the Melvin Tavern.

Another early settler, Reuben Gilbert, operated a store in what is now Melvin. In 1860, as the community was rapidly growing, he suggested naming the village “Gilbertville” after none other than himself. However, another early pioneer, William Carter, opposed the suggestion vehemently. He tossed into the ring the suggestion of calling the village “Hoggs Corner” or “Hog Town” because he felt the streets were more crowded with hogs who frequently ventured down the streets of town than with residents. He even went a step further to insure that his suggestion would stick in the minds of the other town members. One dark night, he made a full-size statue of a hog and hung it on the front of Gilbert’s place of business. From then until 1875, the village was known as “Hog Town.”

In 1875 a post office was established in Melvin and Charles Dewey was appointed the post master. In order to register the settlement with the postal

headquarters in Washington D.C., the name of Hog Town was submitted. However, the residents were informed by the postal service that the unusual name did not conform to government standards and another name would have to be chosen immediately. With little time for pondering and discussion, Charles Dewey himself decided that the town would be named “Melvin” in honor of his own wife, Melvina McGregory Dewey. He must have been popular enough that the residents let that become the new name of their village with little opposition.

Charles Dewey went on to be one of the best known men in that area. Through his efforts, two churches were founded in Melvin – the Methodist Church in 1887 and the Baptist Church in 1898. He also helped to organize the first school district there.

Melvin became a village by the authority of the State of Michigan in March of 1907. One of the earliest ordinances that were enacted dealt



Melvin was once called Hog Town in its early years.

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with a speed limit that was set on horses, mules and other animals being driven down the town's streets. Drivers could not exceed 10 miles per hour, or they could be fined up to \$25 or imprisoned for up to 30 days – or both! Interestingly, a 1910 ordinance that was established for automobiles set an even lower limit of only 8 miles per hour for vehicles.

Melvin became a regular stop on the Port Huron Northwestern Railroad (which later became the Pere Marquette.) Through 1925, business continued to grow in the village as it was a main shipping point for cattle and for hay. Hay and cattle that were purchased from all over the Thumb were shipped out of Melvin to as far away as Buffalo

or Chicago. It was common in the summer to see cattle being driven down the main street to the stock yards that had been built near the railroad tracks. After 1925, as better roads were built and automobiles and trucks made traveling to larger cities more convenient, the importance of the railroad diminished. With the decline of railroad usage, Melvin's thriving businesses also started to decline.

Today, Melvin retains that small town atmosphere. Its residents have played up the name "Hogs Town," and have even given the nickname a new meaning in association with it being a gathering place for motorcycling enthusiasts. The gathering place is usually the Melvin Tavern on

1274 Main Street. It has a laid back atmosphere that caters to the biker crowd. Larry Drouillard, the owner, says that he offers two dinner choices, "Take it or leave it." The menu pretty much is limited to hot dogs "cooked anyway you want," as Larry says. The walls are decorated with a variety of unusual adornments, including a deer head that sports a hog's snout – a tribute to Melvin's unusual nickname of "Hog Town."

If you are a motorcyclist or even if you are not, Melvin would be a great day trip from just about anywhere in the Thumb Area. And, if you just happen to visit on August 14, you can join the kind-hearted residents and visitors during the Hog Town Run who

donate the proceeds from all of the day's activities to United Hospice Services, a worthwhile organization staffed by over 170 volunteers who strive to provide quality care and comfort for individuals in the last stages of their lives. *ThumbPrint News* gives a big "Thumbs Up" to everyone who participates in the Hog Town Run and to the Melvin Tavern for helping to make it happen! 🍀

Editor's note: A big thank you to James R. Taylor, a former resident of Melvin, who now lives in Pennsylvania, for providing me with a copy of the booklet he wrote, Portrait of Melvin – 1852-1971. Some of the facts for this article were taken from his work.

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Stoned in the Thumb

By Allen R. McKinch

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

In many of the agricultural counties in the Thumb area of Michigan the first crop that is harvested each year is stone. Much of the soil composition in this area includes rocks and boulders from those that would fit in the palm of your hand to monsters weighing upwards of a couple hundred pounds. As the ground freezes and thaws each winter and spring, more rocks are brought to the surface. These are gathered by diligent farmers and placed in piles at the edges of their farm fields. If left in the field, damages could result to their plowing, seeding and harvesting machinery.

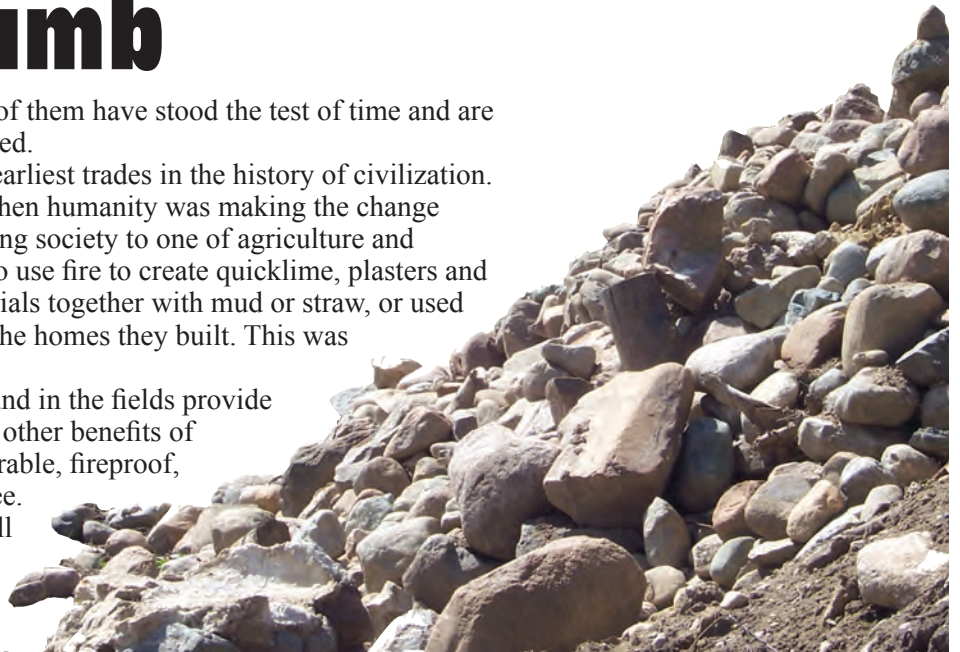
Since the time when the early settlers first established homesteads in the Thumb, this inexpensive building material has been used to build fences, walls, fireplaces,

houses and out buildings. Many of them have stood the test of time and are still standing, if not still being used.

Stonemasonry was one of the earliest trades in the history of civilization. From 10,000 BC to 5,000 BC, when humanity was making the change from being a hunting and gathering society to one of agriculture and settlement, people learned how to use fire to create quicklime, plasters and mortars. They mixed these materials together with mud or straw, or used them to hold stones in place for the homes they built. This was the beginning of stonemasonry.

Besides the fact that stones found in the fields provide free building materials, there are other benefits of building with stones. Stone is durable, fireproof, rodent free, bug proof and rot-free. Log or wood-frame buildings will often rot or decay well before a century has passed, whereas well-built stone structures can be found still standing after many centuries have gone by. Stones coming out of the fields exhibit their own spectrum of beautiful colors. Painting and repainting is a chore that is eliminated.

Probably one of the most intriguing things about the stone



Stones freshly cleared from a Sanilac County farm field in early spring.

structures still standing in the Thumb Area is that they are so intensely personal. A product from the land was changed from being a nuisance material in the farm fields to being a work of

art at the hands of the person who labored to create that wall, home, fireplace or outbuilding. Enjoy this photo essay of stone structures that are found right in your own backyards! 🌱



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Advertorial

The "Right to Bear Arms" Inspired the Beginning of Chesterfield Business

By Shari Nowicki

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Detroit Arms, LLC's owners are a husband and wife team, Doreen and Jim Hankins. They started their business on September 11, 2007, exactly six years to the day after the 9-11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York and on the Pentagon. The significance of that date is not lost on Doreen and Jim.

Jim became interested in the "right to bear arms," a phrase first used in the text of the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, after the Luby's Cafeteria incident in 1992 in Killeen, Texas, where 24 people were murdered by George Hennard, of nearby Belton. Jim, at the time, was working for Borg Warner and was traveling for the company. He was profoundly affected by this incident.

Doreen was a stay-at-home mother, busy raising four children. She was at first intimidated by

the idea of owning or shooting a gun, but Jim enjoyed going to the shooting range and eventually got his four children involved. Doreen decided to accompany the rest of the family to the range and found that she also enjoyed the sport, and became very proficient at it.

Many of the gun stores suggested that she shoot using a .38 revolver, but she chose instead a .45, which is larger. In searching for a gun to purchase, they visited many gun shops and both Doreen and Jim felt that they could do better at helping potential customers with their gun choices and with the training than some of the gun stores were doing.

Keeping in mind the affect the incidents at Luby's and the terrorist attacks of 9-11 had on both of them, they decided to open Detroit Arms, LLC, with Jim still working elsewhere and Doreen running the day to day operation of the store. The business was so successful that they moved into a

bigger facility in August, 2009.

Jim is an NRA certified instructor, as are two other instructors on staff at Detroit Arms. Certified CCW classes are offered, with loaner guns, advanced pistol training with client's own guns, private training and free gun cleaning classes. Many people will come in to the facility to discuss gun laws, shooting, viewpoints and the history of guns.

According to Doreen, approximately 50% of the attendees of the classes are women. Often, like Doreen was earlier in life, they are intimidated by guns. Understanding their fears, she assists them in non-lethal training and safe handling of the guns. She helps women to feel empowered and teaches them to be aware of their surroundings. Once this is accomplished, she finds that women enjoy shooting at the gun range and, in her opinion, often end up being better shooters than many of the men who shoot there.

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The Marwood, located at 6062 River Road in East China, has been a local hang out for as long as folks from St. Clair down to Algonac can remember. Some say it goes back to the days of Prohibition. Both a bar and a restaurant, it is situated right on the beautiful St. Clair River. Some days, anywhere from 10 to 15 freighters from all over the world will pass in front of the establishment.

Folks come to the Marwood in many ways – some drive, some arrive on motorcycles and some arrive by boat. Right across from the Marwood is a small park with some of the best views of the river and of the freighters. The Marwood has six boat slips for customers to use. There is also ample parking next to the restaurant for large gatherings and special events.

Gary and Jennifer DeWolf are the current owners of the Marwood. Gary grew up in China Township, but moved away to work in restaurants and bars elsewhere, including six years at Winners in Clinton Township and 6 years at Skinny's on 18½ mile and Garfield. Now that he and his wife, Jennifer, have three children, they decided to move back to Gary's roots and have their business and raise their family in a pleasant small town atmosphere.

When Gary and Jennifer took over the Marwood, they kept many of the former employees, including their daytime bartender, Laura Bedford, who has been there for about 15

years. As Gary says, "If it's not broke, don't fix it – just add to it."

Adding to the business is exactly what Gary and Jennifer have done. In addition to the dinner and bar crowds, they cater to parties and special events – either in the restaurant or on location. There is karaoke Wednesday through Saturday, a band once a month, planned casino trips and theme parties and more. The comments that are heard from customers always include the words "friendly," "great variety" and "super prices."

I am ashamed to say that as a local resident, I had not been in the Marwood for probably 20 years or so. Somehow, I was under the assumption that it was a basic "burger and beer" joint. I couldn't have been more wrong.

Last Friday night I was treated to one of the best meals I have had in a long time. We ordered an appetizer of mushroom caps filled with shrimp and crab stuffing. Outstanding! My partner ordered the prime rib, which was tender and juicy and cooked to perfection. Prime rib is one of the restaurant's special offerings on Fridays and Saturdays. (In fact, several customers commented that during last year's Taste of the Town in Marine City in which the Marwood participated, it was the prime rib that they offered that made them start coming to the restaurant on a weekly basis and also made the Marwood stand a cut above the other participants in the



Customers of the Marwood can watch freighters sail down the St. Clair River.

event.) I had blackened rib-eye steak with blue cheese. It was still sizzling as it was brought to the table by the waitress and the wonderful smell earned several comments from customers at tables nearby. It didn't disappoint either! A side dish of baked potato salad and homemade macaroni and cheese that melted in my mouth were my selections as accompaniments. Again, I made great choices.

The menu is hand-written and changes on a daily basis. Other interesting offerings on the night we were there included deep fried beer battered pickle spears as an appetizer, triple berry pecan salad with raspberry vinaigrette, garden vegetable gazpacho as a soup and Traverse City cherry chicken or lemon peppered

yellow fin tuna as entrees.

As I travel the Thumb Area writing restaurant reviews I am often pleased with the discoveries I make. Many places offer outstanding food, service and selection. However, it is not often that I can say that a restaurant far exceeds any expectations that I have. The Marwood did exactly that. I would recommend this restaurant to ANYONE without the least bit of hesitation. It is truly awesome! 🍴

Editor's note: If you are a restaurant owner in any of the counties that the ThumbPrint News covers and would like us to review your restaurant for possible inclusion in a future edition, please call Diane at (810) 794-2300 or send an email to thumbprintnews@comcast.net.



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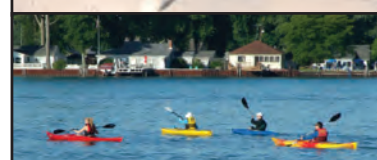
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2010 ALGONAC JULY 1-5 - WWW

Thursday, July 1

- 5:00 p.m. Tournament Opens, Fishing Contest Begins
- 5:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. BINGO and Vegas Room at St. Catherines
- 6:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Beer Tent at St. Catherines
- 6:00 p.m. Algonac Lioness Kids Parade (starts at Michigan & M-29)
- 6:30 p.m. Announce Prizes for Kids Parade - Main Stage
- 7:00 p.m. Queen contestants give speeches - Main Stage
- 11:00 p.m. Midway closes

Friday, July 2

- Noon Midway Opens
- 3:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. BINGO and Vegas Room at St. Catherines
- 3:00 p.m.-Midnight Beer Tent at St. Catherines
- 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Bike Show on the Riverfront
- 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Kids Karaoke Contest - Main Stage
- 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Adults Karaoke Contest 1st Round - Main Stage
- 8:00 p.m. Bike Night at St. Catherines
- 8:00 p.m.-Midnight Band Performs
- 10:30 p.m. Daily Fishing Prizes announced - Fish HQ
- 11:00 p.m. Midway Closes

Clay Township Park Events

- 3:00 p.m. Horseshow Tournament Registration
- 4:00 p.m. Volleyball Tournament Registration
- 5:00 p.m. Volleyball & Horseshoe Tournaments

Saturday, July 3

- 7:00 a.m. Kids Fishing Contest Registration
- 7:00 a.m. Bike Tour Begins - Clay Township Park
- 8:00 a.m.-noon Kids Fishing Contest - Riverfront - *Dirty Moe's*
- Noon Midway Opens
- 1:00 p.m. Pie Eating Contest - Main Stage - Great Prizes!
- 3:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. BINGO and Vegas Room at St. Catherines
- 3:00 p.m.-Midnight Beer Tent at St. Catherines
- 4:00 p.m. Queen contestants give speeches - Main Stage
- 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Voting for Queen - *Seaway Community Bank*
- 7:00 p.m. Crowning of the Queen - Main Stage
- 8:00 p.m. Hot Dog Eating Contest - Main Stage - *Johnny Lega*

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 10:00 p.m. Fireworks - Riverfront
 11:00 p.m. Daily Fishing Prizes - Fish HQ
 Midnight Midway Closes
Clay Township Park Events
 7:00 a.m. Bike Tour begins
 9:00 a.m. Volleyball/Horseshoe Tournaments Registration
 10:00 a.m. Volleyball & Horseshoe Tournaments
 3:00 p.m. Horseshoe Tournament



Sunday, July 4
 7:15-8:20 a.m. Race Day Registration & Packet Pickup at Algonac High School
 8:30 a.m. 10K Run - Start at Algonac High School, finish at Clay Township Park
 8:32 a.m. 5K Run & Walk, Start at Algonac High School, finish at Clay Township Park
 10:00 a.m. Kids Minnow 1/4 Run - Start and finish at Clay Township Park
 Noon Midway Opens
 2:00 p.m. Street Parade - Citizens First Foundation
 3:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. BINGO and Vegas Room at St. Catherines
 3:00 p.m.-Midnight Beer Tent at St. Catherines
 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Adult Karaoke Contest Finals
 6:00 p.m.-midnight Battle of the Bands - Main Stage
 8:00 p.m.-midnight Band performs at Beer Tent
 10:00 p.m. Fireworks (rain day)
 10:30 p.m. Daily Fishing Prizes - Fish HQ
 11:00 p.m. Midway Closes
Clay Township Park Events
 9:00 a.m. Volleyball Tournament Finals Sign-In
 10:00 a.m. Volleyball Tournament Finals

Monday, July 5
 8:00 a.m. Kayak Poker Paddle - DNR Site - *The Kayak Store*
 Noon Midway Opens
 Noon-6:00 p.m. BINGO, Vegas Room and Beer Tent at St. Catherines
 Noon-2:00 p.m. Watermelon Eating Contest - Main Stage - Age Groups [4-7] [8-12] [12-17]
 4:00 p.m. Hot Dog Eating Contest - Age 12-17
 5:45 p.m. Main Stage - Awards - Daily Fishing Prize, Whopper Grand Prize, Boat Raffle Prize
 6:00 p.m. Tournament Ends



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A Wild Plant to Know

Jerusalem Artichokes

By **Ralph McKinch**

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Jerusalem artichokes (*Helianthus tuberosus*) are the tubers of a variety of perennial flower in the aster family. The flowers look like miniature yellow sunflowers. There are over 200 cultivated varieties available, but the most common variety that is native to our country can grow to be up to an impressive 15 feet in height. It is native to most of the United States. Often found growing near abandoned farms, it has always been cultivated much more extensively in Europe than in the United States. It should not be confused with globe artichokes (*cynara scolymus*) which are not native to the United States and cannot be grown in northern climates. The tastes of the two are also not similar.

The name of this vegetable is a bit misleading, as it is neither an artichoke nor does it come from Jerusalem. The part that is used for food is the underground tuber, which is gnarled, tan on the outside and



The edible tubers of Jerusalem artichokes can be prepared in many different ways.

white on the inside, and looks a lot like a ginger root. It has a potato-like texture and it is often recommended as a potato substitute for diabetics. The reason for this is that, unlike most starchy vegetables, the carbohydrate in Jerusalem artichokes is inulin rather than starch. This inulin is converted in the digestive tract to fructose, rather than glucose, which can be tolerated by diabetics.

The starchy tuber is best harvested after a hard frost in the fall. The cold brings out a subtle sweetness in the tubers. The outside is scrubbed in water to remove the dirt and then the tuber is peeled before usage. The cold brings out a subtle sweetness in the tubers. They can be mashed after steaming and eaten like potatoes, chopped raw and used as a substitute for water chestnuts or can be cut up and used in soups and stews. They can also be pickled.

Sir Walter Raleigh found Native Americans cultivating Jerusalem artichokes in 1585 in what is now Virginia. Samuel de Champlain took them to Europe in the early 1600s, where they became known as the Canadian or French potato.

For many years there was a mistaken belief that this vegetable was linked to leprosy, because the shape of the tubers reminded people of the way the fingers of a person with leprosy are often deformed. It was also known, along with rutabagas, as a poor man's vegetable during World War II because it was easily available.

Jerusalem artichokes are often found in gourmet produce markets under the name "Sunchokes".

This native vegetable is used in many commercial products as a fructose source and is also used to make alcohol.

Research is also being conducted in using this vegetable as a producer of ethanol fuel, using inulin-adapted strains of yeast for fermentation. Jerusalem artichokes have also been used as feed for farm animals.

In Germany, the roots are used to produce a liquor called "Topinambur" or "Topi" for short.

Jerusalem artichokes are easy to grow, but do have a couple of drawbacks. This hardy perennial plant can potentially be a weed, as even a small piece of tuber that is left in the ground will grow into a new plant the next season. The other drawback is that, in some people, eating the vegetable will cause excessive flatulence.

In spite of the few drawbacks, Jerusalem artichokes are a valuable native plant worth knowing, and one to consider growing, given the right amount of space so it doesn't take over other areas of the garden or landscape.



A Jerusalem artichoke plant

Editor's Note: Foxfire Farm Botanical Gardens on Marsh Road in Algonac, Michigan has an area devoted to growing Jerusalem artichokes. The Gardens are open to the public until the end of October seven days a week. The hours are 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Monday through Saturday and from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$5.00 per person and can be purchased at Foxfire Farm Country Store at 8061 Marsh Road in Algonac. Their phone number is (810) 794-5108. During the month of October only, paying visitors to the Gardens can request and will be given a tuber of Jerusalem artichokes if they would like to start a patch of their own. 🌱

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Advertorial

Thee New Green Street Tavern is Family Friendly

By Shari Nowicki

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Since January of 2007, Frank and Bev Pitonyak have been the owners of Thee New Green Street Tavern in New Baltimore. The restaurant specializes in Irish, European and American food. How Frank came to the restaurant business and to Thee New Green Street Tavern is an interesting story.

Frank was a Chrysler Corporation manager for many years. A friend, who also was in management, often patronized a local bar nearby after work. After several years, as Frank says, "We figured we had paid for our bar stools." Frank, along with

his wife and his friend, decided to go into the bar business together. Frank retired from Chrysler and bought the Cedar Inn in Romeo. It wasn't long before they also bought Big Daddy's Shack Saloon in Sterling Heights.

When the next opportunity came along, Frank's partner had moved on to another venture. Frank and his wife bought the Horseshoe Lodge on 23 Mile and North Avenue. Eventually this was sold out to CVS.

In 2007, Frank and Bev became the owners of Thee New Green Street Tavern, along with his son, Bill, and Bill's wife, Cheryl.

The restaurant itself has been an establishment of New Baltimore

for many years. Under the current owners, a total renovation was done to the restaurant, including the lighting, seating areas, the bar, the outside dining area and the kitchen.

Many of Frank's previous employees from the Horseshoe Lodge moved with him to Thee New Green Street Tavern. Frank is a stickler on safe food handling and he currently employs two chefs who are certified by the Department of Health as "Serve Safe." According to Frank, the state requires one such certification per restaurant, but he has exceeded that requirement as he believes that there can be no short cuts in this area.

Frank also believes in high quality for the foods he serves and in consistency of product. All of the management of the restaurant is

required to sample menu items on a regular basis to make sure these are happening. Frank likes to say, "There is a right way, a wrong way and our way – which is the right way."

Thee New Green Street Tavern has been reviewed by past customers and by Channel 7 News as being "an inexpensive place to dine." Frank says, "We are rock bottom inexpensive. I regularly check out other restaurants to stay on top of the costs for our customers."

A final important consideration to Frank and Bev is making their restaurant family friendly. Besides the great prices, families enjoy eating at the outdoor patio area and challenging each other to a game of horseshoes afterwards at the outdoor pit.

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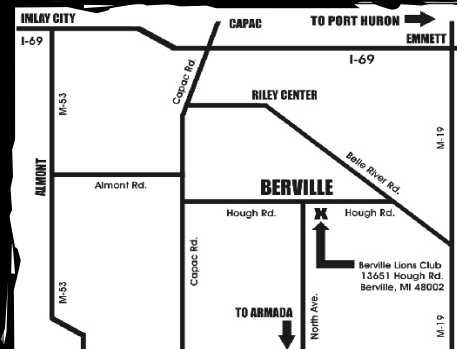
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- Gates Open at 8:00am
- Kids Activities
- Softball Tournament All Day
- Flea Market 8:00am - 12:00pm
- Figure 8 Race 5:00pm - 8:00pm
- Truck Tug-O-War 8:30pm - 9:30pm
- Davey Rocket Band 8:30 - 12:30am
- Beer Tent Open 12:00pm - 12:30am

Sunday...

- Gates Open at 9:00am
- Kids Activities
- Softball Tournament Finals
- Horseshoe Tournament 11:00am - ?
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- Mud Bog - Hill N Hole 12pm - 5pm

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ThumbPrint News Book Review: Images of America: Detroit Area Test Tracks

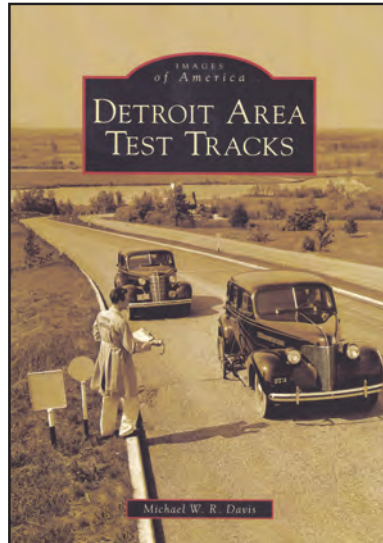
By Louise Allen
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

ISBN 978-0-7385-6022-9
Written by Michael W. R. Davis

In the early days of automobile manufacturing, automakers tested new models of cars on public roads, which often proved to be unsafe. It was not until 1924 after the General Motors Corporation had to buy back 100 Chevrolets and to recall 400 more that they began building the industry's first scientific proving ground.

In *Detroit Area Test Tracks*, the author takes the reader behind the scenes of these early test tracks. Test tracks in Dearborn, Romeo, Milford and Chelsea are highlighted, among others. In addition, this book gives an insider's look at laboratory testing of automobile parts as well.

The book is filled with hundreds of archival quality photos that are a wealth of information to the history buff or to the classic car enthusiast.






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Maritime Law: Rules of the "Road"

Continued from Page 1

rowboats and even inner tubes create summer-time pleasure for residents and visitors to the area and serve as means to transport people up and down the lakes and rivers.

Every year, summer time also brings news of boating accidents and drowning and injuries related to pleasure boating or careers in the commercial shipping industries. Often when there is personal injury or death involved in these incidences, there are legal questions that the injured or the survivors may need answered in reference to their rights.

D. Bruce Beaton of Great Lakes Law Firm says that here is where the confusion sometimes begins. A law office unfamiliar with Maritime Law may be contacted. "Maritime law should be considered anytime an injury is received on a vessel that is being operated on waters open to interstate commerce," states Bruce. "A vessel is basically anything that floats, from a ship, to a pleasure boat, to a barge, raft, canoe or inner tube."

Bruce specializes in Maritime Law. He has successfully handled cases dealing with as small of a vessel as a jet ski and also has worked on high profile cases under The Jones Act. The Jones Act is a federal law which permits injured seamen to seek compensation for injuries resulting from the negligence of their employers or co-workers during the course of their employment on a vessel.

Great Lakes Law Firm has offices in Detroit, Flint, Pontiac and Marine City. Bruce has worked on Maritime Law cases for all of the Great Lakes, on both coasts, in the Gulf of Mexico and in the Indian Ocean.

When an injury results that comes under the guidelines of Maritime Law, a law firm that specializes in

this area may have more knowledge to help a client than one who does not. Bruce says that often clients will not have a case under Michigan Law, but will under Federal Common Law, a fact that is not widely known. "Anytime there is an accident related to boating, it is vital to consult Federal Common Law guidelines," states Bruce.

How Bruce came to head a law firm specializing in Maritime Law is a fascinating story in itself.

Donald Bruce Beaton was born 56 years ago in Windsor, Ontario. His ancestors came from Scotland and settled on Cape

Breton Island in Nova Scotia. (Nova Scotia means New Scotland.) The people there were mostly sailors, lumberjacks and miners. "It was

called mining the 'deeps,'" says Bruce. "They were mining a couple of miles under the ocean." These were hard working men and women.

Bruce's father was also a common laborer. When work became scarce, he went to Toronto to "ride the rails" with other out of work men. He traveled from one missile base to another, getting whatever work he could.

Around 1964, Bruce's father decided to move his family to an area where he could have more permanent work. "My father wanted a small town outside of a large town where there would be lots of work. At that time, it was either Florida or Detroit. So, Dad got on I-94 and traveled through Detroit until it started to be less settled. At 26 Mile Road, he made a right and drove to the end where the Detroit Edison plant was. He saw kids playing outside and liked the area and decided that was where he wanted to raise his kids," relates Bruce.

Bruce went on to attend high school in the area. After high school, his girlfriend at the time went on to Eastern



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Michigan University and he followed her there. He was given a full scholarship because of his football abilities. Football was his only concern and his studies suffered. Eventually he broke up with his girlfriend.

Bruce considered going pro, but began seeing his friends who had made that decision now returning and wanting to get an education. That is when Bruce decided that he was going to change. He too wanted an education. He signed up again for many of the classes he had taken and this time he aced them. He specialized in business management and business education.

Bruce admired the work ethic of his family and became a strong proponent of the union workers. He decided that he would go to law school and specialize in helping the working class person.

Through a series of planning, fortunate circumstances, and a huge dose of luck, he was able to secure admission to law school in Scotland. His ancestors were Highland Scots and Bruce has always considered himself "a Scotsman, born in Canada, with citizenship in the United States."

Bruce and a cousin of his traveled to Scotland a month before the start of his classes. They were able to see many of the famous places in the country while, as Bruce says, going through three rent-a-cars. "I was surprised that some of the rent-a-car places didn't have posters up of my cousin and myself stating 'Don't rent to these guys,'" chuckles Bruce.

By the time the month was up and Bruce took his cousin back to the airport to head home, Bruce didn't have two pence left to his name. He managed to secure a job bouncing at

a pub down on the ship docks. With his huge suitcase, the snaps broken and a rope holding it together, he slept in downtown parks until he saved up enough money to rent a small flat.

During the year Bruce spent at law school in Scotland, he played on the rugby and basketball teams.

Upon returning to the United States, Bruce applied and was accepted to the Detroit College of Law. Bruce still identified himself more with the common, working class, then with the students who were studying law, many of whom came from wealthy professional-class families. He decided to live in Windsor, Ontario and commute daily to classes. Bruce says he spent day and night studying – and worrying about how he was going to pay his bills for college.

That is when he heard on the radio about the Toughman Contest that was going to be held in Detroit. He called up the sponsors to let them know that he wanted to enter. At first he was told that the contestants had already been selected. However, Bruce was insistent. He told the sponsor, "I am in law a school, I bleed easily and I keep getting up." Apparently, that was just the combination they were looking for, as Bruce made it in. Although he didn't take the championship, he did well enough to get himself some money to put toward his debts. Bruce went on to graduate at the top of his class.

Bruce now lives in East China and is a successful lawyer who deals with construction accidents, auto accidents and specializes in maritime injuries. Bruce states that there are only around six lawyers in the State of Michigan who specialize in Maritime Law and that he is the only one in the Thumb area. He still maintains that down to earth, easy-to-talk to personality. He came from the working class, he believes in the working class as a foundation of our society. And, he has made it his profession to represent them to the best of his ability. 🍀

Editor's Note: The website for Great Lakes Law Firm is www.dbbeatonlaw.com which includes all office locations and contact information. An excellent website for boaters that explains "rules of the road" for boats and other vessels is www.boatsafe.com.



Bruce Beaton of East China, holding a two-fisted Scottish sword, specializes in Maritime Law.

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Holly Contesti of Rochester Hills was recently photographed on a warm summer day getting gas in Algonac for her boat before launching at Fair Haven. Her husband, Tom, had to work, so she said, "Whatever," and decided to head out anyway, taking her brother along instead. *Whatever* also happens to be the name of her boat. Holly says that she bought the boat last summer partly because of its name and also because of the great price. Apparently, others like the name also, as she says it brings a lot of comments.

Choosing a name for a boat is often one of those carefully made decisions by new boat owners. A few other names that we thought were particularly fun or clever choices are: *Aloan at Last*; *Atsa Ma Boat*; *Barely A Wake*; *Blood, Sweat & Beers*; *Grounds for Divorce*; *Harvey Dockbanger*; *Scuba Due*; *Seas The Moment*. If you are a boat owner and have a great name for your boat, send a photo to thumbprintnews@comcast.net and you might just find it in a future edition!

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Advertorial

Chesterfield Chicken Shack is a Family Run Business

By Shari Nowicki

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Ryan Nilson is an ambitious young entrepreneur. Not only has he worked as general contractor on two homes that were built, one being his own, but he is also one of the owners of Chicken Shack, located at 31880 23 Mile Road in Chesterfield. Many other members of his family have been involved with the family run business since its opening.

The idea for opening Chicken Shack began with Ryan's uncle, Gary. Gary was taking his four children out boating and had stopped at a different

chicken franchise to pick up some take-out chicken for lunch aboard the boat. This restaurant was out of what Gary wanted and he had had the same experience with this chain in the past. In frustration, he decided to stop at a Chicken Shack and was impressed with how the business was run and with how good the chicken tasted.

David and Cheryl Nilson (Ryan's parents) went into a partnership with David's brother, Gary, and their sister, Nancy, purchased the land on 23 Mile Road and built a Chicken Shack restaurant. Ryan's parents also owned and managed four 7-11 stores.

Eventually, Ryan's parents bought out the other partners, with the plan in place that Ryan would eventually run the business with his father after Ryan finished college.

However, sometimes a bump comes in the road of life, and that is what happened with the family plans. Ryan had been coming home from college on weekends to help in the business when his father, David, suffered a stroke that caused him to lose mobility on the left side of his body. Ryan decided to graduate early from college so that he could take over the business at Chicken Shack full-time. Ryan's

aunt, Nancy, filled in until Ryan could graduate. When Ryan took over, his degree in Business and Marketing helped to prepare him for this new position.

Today, Ryan runs the family business, along with his younger brother, Eric. David still stops in to give his fatherly advice on occasion. Ryan enjoys running the business and being able to socialize with the regular customers who come in to Chicken Shack. He also thinks Chesterfield is a great community in which to reside, along with his wife, Casey, and to raise their two sons, Landon and Cruise.



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The Great St. Clair County Hidden Secret

There is a great hidden secret on the American side of the St. Clair River. There are folks living among us who seem to lead normal everyday lives. They could be auto mechanics, doctors, nurses, lawyers, and ministers . . . just normal folks. They dress in normal work-a-day clothes. They go to work each day and return to their loving families each night, just like normal folks. No one would suspect that hidden deep in their inner-most being was a love affair with a centuries old instrument; an instrument so old and pervasive that almost every European and Middle Eastern culture has their own brand of that instrument. In Germany they are called Duddlesachs. In France they are called Musettes. In Ireland they are known as Uilleannns. With all the different names and configurations they all have one thing in common . . . the players must blow into an air-tight bag leading to a recorder-like instrument that makes the music. They are all forms of an instrument commonly called a “bagpipe.”



The Great Highland Bagpipe

Whenever the word “bagpipe” is mentioned, this is the first picture that comes to mind. It is properly called The Great Highland Bagpipe. It is usually associated with Scotland since it was the Scots that took the instrument to its full potential.

Because of its close association with Scotland and its long history as a military musical instrument, the general population wrongly assumes that:

1. You have to be Scottish to play it.
2. You have to be a man.

Neither assumption is true. We have men and women who have reached the top of the piping scene and many of them are not Scottish. There are Germans, French, Irish, Nigerians, almost any nationality you can think of play the Great Highland Bagpipe.

Even more amazing (and the true St. Clair County secret), we have two award winning pipers living in the St. Clair County Area.

Dave Clark and Gary Krueger have been playing for a total of 60 plus years. Dave began playing at age 11 and Gary took up the pipes at age 55. Both have won numerous medals for solo piping in their respective grade levels. Both have played (and Gary still plays) with championship Pipe Bands.

Gary and Dave took up the task of sharing the beauty of this instrument by teaching others to play. They began the first class in the fall of 2003. Macomb County Community College had been home base until the end of 2009. It was at that time that the college decided to eliminate the Continuing Education offerings which included the bagpipe class. Fortunately, they have a prospective home in the Marine City Area at the Washington Life Center on Mary Street (the former Washington Elementary School).

“We will be accepting registrations for new students and experienced students who want a “tune-up,” said Gary. “We ask that



David Clark (left) and Gary Krueger appearing at Macomb Community College Multi-Cultural Event

anyone interested in learning to play the bagpipe call me at (810) 420-0226 or Dave at (810)794-3723.” He said that no one is expected to purchase a set of bagpipes. In fact, it is recommended that the purchase of the first set of pipes be done in consultation with the instructor. Instead, students are to purchase a practice chanter. The practice chanter is the instrument that all pipers use through out their playing careers to learn and perfect the piping tunes; marches, jigs, strathspeys and reels. These practice instruments can be purchased from

any bagpipe distributor whose names will be provided for the students’ choice upon registration. The average cost is under \$100.00 in most cases.

The cost of lessons is broken down into two different categories:

- Private lessons are \$25.00 for a 90 minute lesson (one-on-one)
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FOR SALE! 1928 FORD MODEL A DUMP TRUCK. All original, runs and drives. \$3,500. (810) 614-8034.

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www.mionsiteauctionsllc.com.

ONAWAY TOURS July 13-15: **Sioux St. Marie, Kewadin Casino** 3-day getaway. \$135pp, receive \$110 casino money, dining dollars, 2-full breakfast buffets and more. **Day trip to Soaring Eagle and Saganing Eagle** July 27. Receive \$45 in incentives. \$29pp. **Little River Casino getaway,** October 20-21. One night. Receive \$78 in incentives. \$95pp. (810) 300-7709.

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PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT!

Tick-borne diseases are on the rise in the United States – Lyme Disease in particular. If you live in Michigan, you likely know someone who has had Lyme Disease or another tick-borne disease.

Health officials believe that in more than 70% of reported cases, the disease was contracted from deer ticks found on residential properties. Chipmunks, squirrels, mice and rats are more likely to harbor ticks and keep them close to your home increasing your chance of infection.

Our Tick System, designed by Bayer Environmental Science, has been shown to reduce the occurrence of ticks in your yard by nearly 80% in the first year alone! This is all done without harming wildlife.

For tick management, call ABC Home & Commercial Services at (810) 794-5678.

ThumbPrint News Classified Ads

General

TAXSLAYERS Professional Income Tax Services. Call today for an appointment. (810) 794-5678.

RIDING LESSONS AND HORSE TRAINING. Michigan State University trained. Please call Dawn at (734) 790-0511.

Help Wanted

EXPERIENCED FLORIST for high-volume floral shop open seven days a week. Need to be able to make funeral arrangements, corsages, every day arrangements and holiday pieces. Only highly motivated individuals need apply. Room to grow into a management position. Foxfire Farm Floral Shop, 8061 Marsh Rd., Clay Twp. (810) 794-5108. Salary based on experience and will be discussed during interview process.

EXPERIENCED SALESPERSON wanted for selling ads and classifieds for *ThumbPrint News*. Position requires both days on the road and days in the office. Need reliable transportation as person that is hired will be using own vehicle when on the road. 8061½ Marsh Rd., Clay Township. (810) 794-2300.

WANTED: NEWSPAPER BOYS OR GIRLS, twelve years and older with parent's consent for the cities of Richmond, Capac and St. Clair doing walking routes for monthly publications. For more information call (810) 794-2300.

ThumbPrint News is looking for a **GRAPHIC DESIGNER.** Must have some experience in In-Design, Quark or Pagemaker. Salary based on experience and will be discussed during interview process. Must fill out application in person at *ThumbPrint News*, 8061 Marsh Rd., Clay Twp. (810) 794-2300.

Purchase a Brick in Richmond's Memorial Brick Park and pathway

Are you looking for that special gift to give to your husband, wife, mother or father? Or, are you looking for a way to remember that special someone or special event? Purchase a brick from the Richmond Area Historical & Genealogical Society. In order to fulfill the Society's goals to preserve the buildings and honor the settlers, a walkway was installed adjacent to the historic buildings where donors can purchase a brick and have it engraved. Bricks come in two sizes: small is 4x8 inches with three lines for \$30.00, large is 8x8 inches with 6 lines for \$100.00. The Memorial Brick Park and pathway is located at the corner of Park and Stone Streets inside the south side of Bailey Memorial Park, Richmond. Call George Fealko at (586) 727-1028 for more information or to order a brick.

Smart Answers

SMART ANSWER #1 – A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store but she couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked a stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?" The stock boy replied, "No ma'am, they're dead."

SMART ANSWER #2 – The cop got out of his car and the kid who was stopped for speeding rolled down his window. "I've been waiting for you all day," the cop said. The kid replied, "Yeah, well I got here as fast as I could." When the cop finally stopped laughing, he sent the kid on his way without a ticket.

SMART ANSWER #3 – A truck driver was driving along on the freeway. A sign comes up that reads, "Low Bridge Ahead." Before he knows it, the bridge is right ahead of him and he gets stuck under the bridge. Cars are backed up for miles. Finally a police car comes up. The cop gets out of his car and walks to the truck driver, puts his hands on his hips and says, "Got stuck, huh?" The truck driver says, "No, I was delivering this bridge and ran out of gas."

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A Dog is Truly a Man's Best Friend

If you don't believe it, just try this experiment. Put your dog and your wife in the trunk of the car for one hour. When you open the trunk, who is really happy to see you?

Editor's Note: The jokes on this page and on page 10 were contributed by Lucille Schaffer of Ira. Thanks, Lucille!



St. Clair River Toastmasters Club

St. Clair River Toastmasters Club now has a permanent location at the MacDonald Public Library in New Baltimore! Our club provides a supportive and positive learning environment in which a member has the opportunity to develop oral communication and leadership skills. Interested? Please be our guest. For details, please contact Jim Tyre at (586) 781-0680 or Diane Bowden at (810) 278-0913.



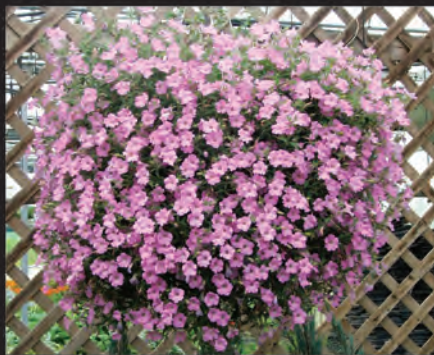
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Thumb Area Activities & Events for July 2010

If you have an event in August that you would like listed in the August issue of *ThumbPrint News*, please email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by July 12, 2010. There is no charge for the listing.

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 County

Burton – July 10

Fifth Annual Car, Truck & Bike Show, G-3325 S. Dort Highway, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Show will be held rain or shine. 40 trophies will be awarded. Registration is \$20 from 9 a.m. until noon. Awards will be presented at 2 p.m. There will be food, refreshments, a bake sale, music and a 50/50 raffle. All proceeds donated to the Humane Society of Genesee County. (810) 744-0511.

Flint – July 21-25

1860s Village Celebration, Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad, 6140 Bray Road, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Our 1860 ancestors' lifestyle will be the focus of this experience. On Saturday and Sunday the 1860s come alive as Villagers demonstrate everyday activities such as cooking over a campfire, gardening and letter writing at "camps" around the Village. Welcome soldiers at the train depot as they arrive home from the Civil War. Take etiquette lessons at a tea party and enjoy fashions from the time of *Gone with the Wind*. There is an admission charge. Call (810) 736-7100.

Huron County

Harbor Beach – July 7-11

Maritime Festival throughout the town. Activities include jet ski racing, bingo, games and tournaments, entertainment, fireworks, a car show and more. Contact Ron Wruble at (989) 479-9554 or go to www.harborbeach.com.

Pigeon – July 21-25

Annual Farmer's Festival throughout the village. This is a family festival with activities for all ages celebrating Huron County's agricultural harvest. Contact the Pigeon Chamber of Commerce at (989) 453-7400.

Lapeer County

Lapeer – July 12

Scheer Genius Water Magic, Elba Branch Library, 5508 Davison Road, 3-4 p.m. Families will have a great time with the fun of a magic show, but with water! It disappears, multiplies and even magically changes color. (810) 653-7200.

Lapeer – July 15

It's Raining Rhythm & Rhyme, Marguerite deAngeli Branch Library, 921 West Nepessing St., 2-3 p.m. Join Kevin Kammeraad in a fun program for all ages. This is an interactive family show featuring poetry, puppetry, music and more. (810) 664-6971.

Macomb County

Memphis – July 11

Holy Family Fun Festival, Holy Family Catholic Church, 79780 Main St., 9 a.m.-7 p.m. There will be a barbecue beef dinner, pancake breakfast, raffles, children's games, family activities and more. Admission is free. There is a charge of \$8.50 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6-10 for dinner. Breakfast is by donation. There will also be a beer and a snack tent. (810) 392-2056.

New Baltimore – July 11, 18 & 25

Free Yoga in the Park, William and Mary Burke Park (waterfront park) on Front Street at Washington, 1:30 p.m. This event is sponsored by New Baltimore Ride the Wave and Santosha Yoga of Chesterfield. Bring a mat or large towel or blanket and water. Dress comfortably. All levels are welcome.

New Baltimore – July 18

Meet Me at the Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Opening day for the New Baltimore Farmer's Market. Local produce, hand-made foods, artisans and live entertainment. Washington Street between Recreation Center and Police Station. Continues every Sunday through Oct. 24. Go to www.ridethewavenb.com.

Oakland County

Davisburg – July 13-18

Oakland County Fair, Springfield Oaks County Park, 12451 Andersonville Road. Old-fashioned county fair with activities for all interests and all ages. Midway, games, animals, classic car show, antique tractor parade and rodeo, a senior day, a special needs day and much, much more. For information go to www.oakfair.org.

Keego Harbor – July 4

Oakland County Boat Club Fireworks over Sylvan Lake. Takes place at dusk. For information go to www.sylvanlake.org.

St. Clair County

Algonac – July 1 - July 5

Algonac Lions Club Pickerel Tournament, downtown area. There will be a fishing contest with daily prizes, a bike tour, a 5K and 10K run, a children's run, Poker Paddle, Vegas tent, entertainment, horseshoe and volleyball tournaments, and a midway. Fireworks at 10 p.m. Saturday and a parade on Sunday. Admission is free, however certain events have individual costs. Refreshment tents and vendors and a beer tent. Profits go to benefit Lions Club charities. Call (810) 794-5511 or go to www.algonaclions.org.

St. Clair – July 1, 8, 22 & 29

Bridge Instruction, St. Clair Community Center, 308 S. Fourth Street, 6-8:30 p.m. Open to experienced players as well as to those wishing to start. Register through

City Hall or call Certified Instructor Tom Broyles at (810) 326-0121.

St. Clair – July 2, 3, 9, 16 & 30

Summer Concert Series, Palmer Park in St. Clair, 7-9 p.m. Parking available on the street and in Riverside Plaza parking lots. There is no charge. For details of which bands will be playing on each date, go to www.cityofstclair.com or call (810) 329-7121.

Clay Township – July 4

Riverfront Classic Car Show, Algonac State Park along M-29, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Parking is available at the State Park. There is a \$6 Park admission fee for those without a state park permit. More than 200 classic cars are expected to participate. There will also be crafters. Registration for classic cars is \$15 which includes the park fee. There will be food and drink available for purchase. The event benefits Kids in Distress and St. Clair and Sanilac County groups. Call (810) 765-3473.

Lakeport – July 4

St. Edward On-the-Lake Festival, St. Edward On-the-Lake parish hall, 6962 Lakeshore Road. There will be children's games, entertainment, a raffle, kick ball and a euchre tournament. Admission to the euchre tournament is \$3, the rest is free. There is an ice cream social from 12:30 p.m. until 2 p.m. Profits go to benefit a new roof for the school. Call Elaine Schmidt at (810) 385-3008.

St. Clair – July 4

Independence Day, Palmer Park along the St. Clair River. Fireworks at dusk. There is no charge for the event. Food and drink vendors will be available. Call (810) 329-7121.

St. Clair – July 6, 13, 20 & 27

St. Clair Bridge Club, St. Clair Community Center, 308 S. Fourth Street, noon-4 p.m. Open to all ages and abilities, contract bridge format, no partner needed, no registration, no cost for first visit, \$1 afterwards. For more information, call Tom Broyles at (810) 326-0121.

Marysville – July 7, 14, 21 & 28

Summer Concerts in the Park, Marysville Park at River Road and Huron Boulevard, 7-9 p.m. No charge for the concerts. For details on which bands will be playing on each date go to www.cityofmarysvillemi.com and click on "departments" and then "recreation".

Marine City – July 8-11

Arts and Music Festival, throughout the city and downtown area. There will be entertainment, a fine art exhibit, and "It's a Stitch" quilt show. Food and drink is available for purchase. Go to www.marinecitymusicfestival.com for details and times for all events.

Harsens Island – July 10

Strawberry Festival, St. Paul's Protestant Church, 208 Orchid St., 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is free. However there are costs for food and other items, including lunch, strawberry pie, shortcake and

beverages. There will also be a silent auction, a rummage sale, a raffle, crafters and strawberry desserts.

St. Clair – July 10, 17, 24 & 31

St. Clair Chess Club, Burger King, 200 Clinton Ave., 10 a.m.-noon. Open to all ages and abilities, instruction available, no registration, no cost. Call Tom Broyles at (810) 326-0121.

East China – July 11

The River Strings of St. Clair County, The Red Brick Schoolhouse and Museum, 696 Meisner Rd., 2-4 p.m. A variety of music will be presented using the mountain dulcimer, guitar, mandolin and brass. Come tap your toes and sing along! The 1872 schoolhouse is also a charming place for your special gatherings and weddings. Call (810) 765-8879 or visit www.eastchinatownship.org/brick.html.

Port Huron – July 14

Rotary International Day Parade, downtown area, 6:30 p.m. The parade theme is "Kids Rock." There will be food and drink available from vendors and from local restaurants.

Port Huron – July 15-17

Blue Water Fest, downtown area. Features 50 bands on four stages. There will also be a midway, a juried art fair, a parade of lights Saturday night and a movie tent. Food and drink will be available from vendors, beer tents and downtown restaurants. For more information and times for events go to www.thebluewaterfest.com.

Marine City – July 16

Country & Rockabilly Legends and Silent Auction Fundraiser, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 6 p.m. Impersonators Rock Harley as Johnny Cash, and Alvin Anders as Hank Williams, will perform. Tickets are \$15 and cover the show, dancing, refreshments and silent auction. Seats are limited – advance ticket sales only. Call (810) 765-3523 for more information or to purchase tickets.

Marysville – July 16 and July 17

Summer Arts and Crafts Show, Village Green Plaza on Gratiot Blvd., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be crafters and jewelry and art vendors. Admission is free for buyers. Vendors pay a \$22 registration fee. Kettle corn and popcorn are available and free coffee. Profits go to Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home in Port Huron. Call Suzanne Kuhn at (810) 364-5422.

Ira Township – July 16-18

Immaculate Conception Family Fun Festival and Perch Run, 7051 Church Rd., 5 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday, noon-1 a.m. Saturday and 1-10:30 p.m. Sunday. There will be daily fishing contests, entertainment, a Vegas room and children's activities. On Saturday, there will be a children's parade at noon. On Sunday there will be a pancake breakfast from 8:30-11:30 a.m., and a 4-mile Perch Run and 1-mile Fun Walk at 8:00 a.m. Admission is free; there

is a charge for some events. Perch dinners will be available for purchase. For more information, call (586) 725-1762.

Berville – July 16-18

Berville Lions Summer Festival, Lions Field on Hough Road east of North Avenue. The cost is \$8 for adults and free for children 15 and under. Major activities on Friday include an autocross, a bump and run race and a burnout competition. On Saturday there will be a flea market, a figure-8 race, a truck pull and a band. On Sunday there will be a horseshoe tournament, a chicken dinner and a mud bog competition. Children's games, concessions and a beer tent are available all days. Profits go to the Club's charitable projects. Call Dean Hoskey at (810) 531-5525.

Yale – July 23-25

Bologna Festival, Main Street near Mechanic Street, family fun for all ages. For a list of events and times, visit www.yalechamber.com.

Algonac – July 24

Garden Party and Log Home Tour, 8945 Marsh Rd., 5-7:00 p.m. Enjoy a relaxing evening strolling through Foxfire Farm's Botanical Gardens. Over 3,000 varieties of labeled herbs, flowers, trees and shrubs are divided into 17 different theme gardens. Pathways meander around the gardens and restored farm buildings. There are plenty of areas to sit, relax and enjoy the company of family and friends. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments along with a tour of the 9,500 square foot log home are included as well. The cost for the entire evening is \$25 per person, with advance registration and payment due by July 19. No tickets will be sold on the day of the Garden Party. Event will be held rain or shine – bring umbrellas in case of inclement weather! Tickets are non-refundable, but are transferrable.

Port Huron – July 28

Knowlton Ice Museum Field Trip, 317 Grand River, 6 p.m. The monthly meeting of the St. Clair Family History Group will be sponsoring this field trip. The cost is \$4 per adult and \$2 for children ages 6 to 10. Call (810) 989-0399.

Marine City – July 31

Hawaiian Luau Fundraiser, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 12:00 Noon. Learn how to hula and enjoy some fun, fabulous food and fellowship. There will be prizes for best Hawaiian costumes. Tickets are \$5. Call (810) 765-3523.

Sanilac County

Lexington - July 2, 3, 9, 16, 23 & 30

Music in the Park, Patrick Tierney Memorial Harbor Park, 7:30 p.m. Parking is available in Harbor Park parking lot and also there is a free shuttle service from church lots throughout the village. Vendors are available for food and drink. There is no charge for these concerts. Go to www.lexarts.com for details on which bands will be playing on each date.

Sandusky - July 2, 9 & 16

Lawn Chair Music Series, Sanilac County Courthouse gazebo, 60 W. Sanilac Road, 7

p.m. There is no charge for these concerts; bring your own food and drink. Parking is available on the street. For details of which bands are scheduled on each date, call Rick Cook at (810) 837-0132.

Port Sanilac - July 3, 10, 17 & 31

Music at the Harbor, Port Sanilac Harbor Park, 7 p.m. 10 p.m., except July 3, which is 3 and 7 p.m. There is no charge for these concerts. Food and drink is available from Lions Club vendors, with proceeds benefitting Lions Club charities and projects. For details on which bands will be playing on which dates go to www.portsanilac.net or call (248) 889-9189.

Port Sanilac - July 3

Independence Day, Port Sanilac Harbor Park. There will be a parade at 1 p.m. with an ice cream social following. Entertainment will begin at 7 p.m. with fireworks at dusk. The cost is free. Picnic food is available at St. John Lutheran Church. Call (810) 622-9963.

Lexington - July 3 & 4

Independence Day, downtown area. On Saturday, there will be a parade at 11 a.m. with fireworks at 10 p.m. Entertainment will take place in Patrick Tierney Memorial Harbor Park before and after the fireworks. On Sunday, from 7 a.m.-noon there will be a Firemen's Pancake Breakfast. Call (810) 359-7774 for more information or go to www.lexingtonmichigan.org.

Port Sanilac – July 11

Victorian Summer Brunch and Concert, Sanilac County Historic Village and Museum, 258 S. Ridge St., 1 p.m. Brunch will be served, followed by a concert. The cost is \$50 for Sanilac County Historical Society members, \$55 for nonmembers. Reservations are requested by calling (810) 622-9946. For more information go to www.sanilaccountymuseum.org.

Port Sanilac – July 23-25

Bark Shanty Days, most events take place in Harbor Park. Times are 5-11 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. Free parking in the village. Nightly musical entertainment, Barn Theatre performances, a classic car show, a 5K walk/run, sports tournaments, children's activities, carnival rides and contests, including the Bark Shanty Race. There will also be food and drink vendors and a beer tent. Call (810) 622-0668 or go to www.barkshantyfestival.com.

Tuscola County

Caro – July 25 – 31

Tuscola County Fair, 188 Park Drive. 129th year of the Tuscola County Fair offers fun for everyone in the family. In addition to carnival rides, activities include a demolition derby, merchants' buildings, entertainment, motorcycle racing, farm animals and more. For a schedule of events go to www.tuscolacountyfair.org.

Caro – July 29

Monthly Senior Movie, Caro Area District Library, 840 W. Frank St., 1 p.m. This month's movie is *Pink Panther*. For more information, call (989) 673-4329.

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July 7 - **Greektown Casino** - \$25 (daytrip, get \$15 back)
July 13 - **FireKeepers Casino** - \$30 (daytrip, get \$25 pkg back!)
July 15 - **Soaring Eagle Casino** - \$30 (daytrip, get \$25 pkg!)
July 18-19-20 - **Chip-In Island Resort Casino** - \$150
July 22 - **Greektown Casino** - \$25 (daytrip, get \$15 back)
July 25-26 - **Little River & Turtle Creek** - \$106 per person
July 27 - **Motor City Casino** - \$25 (daytrip, get \$25 pkg back)
July 29 - **Caesars Windsor** - \$20 (daytrip, get \$15 or a Buffet)

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What Happened On This Day in History?

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor



1. On this day in 1200, sunglasses were invented in China.



2. On this day in 1843, an alligator fell from the sky during a Charleston, South Carolina thunderstorm.

3. On this day in 1861, the Pony Express arrived in San Francisco with overland letters from New York.



4. On this day in 1796, the first Independence Day celebration was held.



5. On this day in 1643, the first recorded tornado in the United States (Essex County, Massachusetts) happened.

6. On this day in 1908, Robert Peary's expedition sailed from New York City for the North Pole.



7. On this day in 1550, chocolate was first introduced.

8. On this day in 1900, the first night baseball league game was played (Zanesville at Grand Rapids).



9. On this day in 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read to George Washington's troops in New York.

10. On this day in 1892, the first concrete-paved street was built in Bellefontaine, Ohio.

11. On this day in 1789, the United States Marine Corps was created by an act of Congress.



12. On this day in 1785, the first manned flight by a gas balloon was completed in the Netherlands.

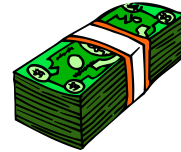
13. On this day in 1934, Babe Ruth hit home run number 700 (against Detroit).

14. On this day in 1853, the first U.S. World's Fair opened in Crystal Palace, New York.

15. On this day in 1939, Clara Adams of New York City was the first woman to complete a round the world flight.

16. On this day in 1439, kissing was banned in England (to stop germs from spreading).

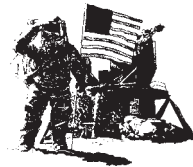
17. On this day in 1861, Congress authorized paper money.



18. On this day in 1940, the first successful helicopter flight took place in Stratford, Connecticut.

19. On this day in 1848, the first United States women's rights convention took place in Seneca Falls, New York.

20. On this day in 1969, the first men landed on the moon, Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, in Apollo 11.



21. On this day in 1928, Halina Knopacka of Poland became the first woman to receive a gold medal in the Olympics.

22. On this day in 1942, gasoline rationing using coupons began.

23. On this day in 1829, William Austin Burt patented the "typographer" (typewriter).



24. On this day in 1870, the first trans-United States rail service began.

25. On this day in 1946, the first bikini was shown at a Paris fashion show.

26. On this day in 1775, the first Postmaster General, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, took office.



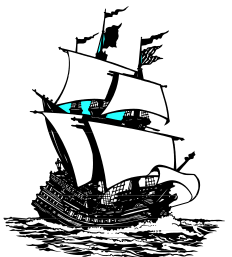
27. On this day in 1888, Philip Pratt unveiled the first electric automobile.

28. On this day in 1900, hamburger was created by Louis Lassing in Connecticut.

29. On this day in 1899, the first motorcycle race took place in Manhattan Beach, New York.

30. On this day in 1956, the United States motto "In God We Trust" was authorized.

31. On this day in 1620, the Pilgrim Fathers departed from England to America.



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- July 1st RIVER DISTRICT HOSPITAL, St. Clair
- July 8th MURPHY INN, St. Clair
- July 15th THE LITTLE BAR, Marine City
- July 22nd SUE'S COFFEE HOUSE, St. Clair

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- July 9th **KIDS ONLY GARAGE SALE**
Riverview Plaza
- July 15th **SHIP BUILDING &
MARINE ROOM GRAND OPENING**
St. Clair Historical Museum
- July 16th - 18th *Vintage Weekend*
Friday RIVER CLASSIC CAR SHOW
Saturday ANTIQUE & CLASSIC BOATS
TIN CAN TOURIST (Vintage RV's)
FIRE MUSTER
ANTIQUÉ SHOW
Sunday ANTIQUÉ SHOW
- July 23rd - 25th **OFFSHORE BOAT RACES**



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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. All correct answers received by the 15th of the month will be entered into a drawing for a \$25.00 gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store at 8061 Marsh Road in Clay Township (you can apply it toward the delivery of a floral arrangement, also). The winner will



be announced in the August edition as well as information about the object or place. The photo to the left is of last month's object. The winner is Nicole Grice of Lexington who correctly identified the photo as being taken in front of the Pioneer Sugar Factory in Croswell.

This month we are asking the question, "Where is it?" Identify where you can find the statue in the photo below. Send an email to thumbprintnews@comcast.net if you think you know the answer. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number in case you are the winner of the random drawing for a gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store. Good luck!



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Saturday, July 17 & Sunday July 18

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- All shooters are entered in a drawing for a bow!



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It's Never Too Late to Love Archery!

By Fred Jones

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Some people will pick up a bow and think that it is so easy; well it's not. The biggest discourager is a bow that is not set up to fit you personally. If it is not set specifically to you, then it will not shoot right. You will constantly not hit the target and that can make you not want to try anymore. So it is very important

to get the bow fit to you instead of fitting you to the bow.

Most of the newer bows have draw lengths that are very adjustable. For example they can come in one inch increments to even 1/2 inch increments. Sometimes a 1/2 inch draw change can make the biggest difference in making a good shot. With the bow fit to you it will be easier to shoot and it will make it

easier to use the correct muscles that the shot depends on for a bull's eye.

If getting the right fit will make you a better archer and give you a hobby that you love to do, then I think it is worth it even if you have to go out of your way and spend a little extra time to get it right. At Full Quiver & More we will go out of our way to spend that extra time with you to help you fall in love with

archery. You will not leave unhappy – that is our guarantee.

A tip to Remember: If you've been out in the rain or snow with your bow and it gets wet, be sure to let it completely dry before waxing your strings. If you wax a wet string the wax will seal in the moisture and that is not good for the string.

Join us for Bowfest July 16-18 at Full Quiver & More! 🏹

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Our Environmental Commitment

At Ink & More, recycling is real. In fact, it is at the very center of what we do and who we are.

Ink & More (formerly Rapid Refill) is founded on the idea that we could turn used, empty inkjet and laser toner cartridges into useable products for our customers, all while saving them money. This was a great idea then and an even better idea today. While our business has certainly grown to many new products, services and stores spanning across the country, our belief in recycling is still put to work every day.

Each Ink & More store collects used, empty inkjet and laser toner cartridges, saving them from reaching landfills. Many cartridges that aren't returned to companies like Ink & More for recycling end up incinerated or placed in landfills around the world — destroying a large amount of fully reuseable products and negatively impacting our environment.

Recycling is more than a slogan; as part of our mission to promote environmental responsibility Ink & More stores use recycled materials wherever possible. Our product retail slat wall is made from recycled wood products, the countertops are made from crushed sunflower seed shells, and we use recycled paper whenever possible.

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A septic tank is a holding tank that is designed to accept the waste produced by a household (800-1500 gallons average per tank depending on the tank size). The liquid is the most important part of a tank function. The liquid is energized with billions of rich anaerobic (good) bacteria that live, breed and feed on the solids that come into the tank from your home.

If a tank is pumped completely out, you are removing all the good liquid, and in less than a week, the tank will be filled again from standard household use (shower, toilet, laundry, dishes, etc.). The state of Michigan estimates that a person will use 60 gallons per person per day. If a four person household uses 240 gallons a day multiplied by seven days, that equals 1,640 gallons. A tank will, on average, fill back up in less than one week. Only a small amount of liquid goes to the field each day. The rest remains constantly in the tank and holds the good anaerobic bacteria that continually eat the solid waste.

If there is a problem with your system, it may be one of five things for 95% of most gravity-fed systems:

- 1) Blockage from the home to the inlet
- 2) Build up of solid material because anaerobic

- bacteria may have been killed off from household chemicals (cleansers, bleach, etc.) that may require more frequent removal
- 3) Blockage or broken baffle from the outlet to the field
 - 4) A plugged filter
 - 5) The field

The field can become oversaturated due to heavy rains or poor drainage, which can cause the tank to fill back up as we are pumping it. This liquid needs to be removed for proper tank function, which will incur an additional charge. A normal working system needs only the scum and solids removed (that the anaerobic bacteria cannot consume), but the option is up to the consumer. If pumped completely, start-up bacteria should be used to help jump-start the system again. This can take a long time. A healthy system needs the billions of bacteria to consume the solids entering the tank. This keeps the tank function working properly.

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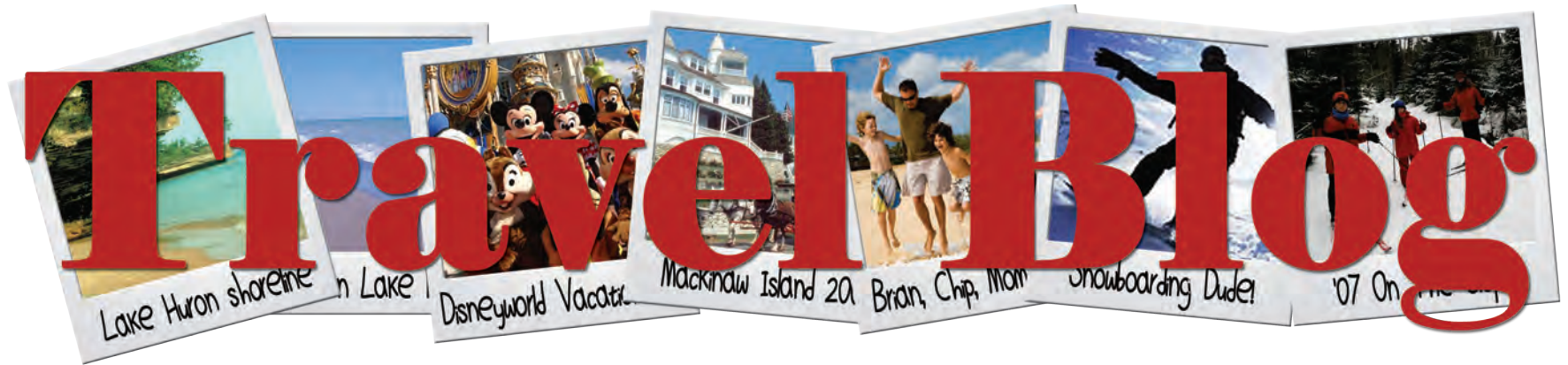
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In the Thumb



Kinde

Kinde, a small town in Huron County seven miles south of Port Austin and 15 miles east of Caseville, is the perfect place for a family to take a mini-vacation. Kinde offers enough activities for everyone in the family to enjoy. A 25' rock climbing wall and Wiley Coyote's Waterjet Slide are two of the more popular activities on a warm summer day. Both are open seven days a week from noon until 7:00 p.m., weather permitting, during the summer months. A creative miniature golf course attracts future Tiger Woods of all ages. Mid-day, take a break and enjoy an old-fashioned ice cream cone or soda at the Country Parlor. Light sandwiches and pizza are also available. Nothing would be complete without a great meal at the Pasta House, located at 337 Main Street in Kinde. Authentic culinary Italian dishes such as Linguine with Red Clam Sauce, Tutto Mare (which is a spaghetti prepared with shrimp, clams, scallops and fresh tomatoes) or Cannelloni made with beef, veal or chicken are only a sampling of the mouthwatering pasta dishes that are available. The atmosphere is fun and the perfect ending to a vacation day right in your own backyard.

Outside the Thumb



Spider Lake

Spider Lake is located about twenty minutes southeast of Traverse City. The lake is 450 acres teeming with some of the best bass, bluegill, perch, pike and crappie around. All water sports activities are allowed, but a speed limit is strictly enforced from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 a.m. Scenic anytime of the year, it is a great place to relax. Dotting the shores surrounding the lake are many summer homes and cottages, many of which are available for rental. We rented one of the small log cabins at Harold's Resort. Slightly dated and charming, they have only the basic necessities, but are warm, clean and comfortable. A fish cleaning area and grills are provided for enjoying the catch of the day. A gas fireplace provides warmth and ambience on a chilly night. There is a steep stairway of sand and logs down to the beach area. Here, as part of the rental package, a boat and motor or a pontoon boat can be included. In the evening, a community fire pit on the beach is enjoyed by residents of the cabins. Cabins are sometimes rented out to groups of scrapbookers and the owner, being a scrapbooker herself, has provided a scrapbook for past guests

to record their thoughts and memories while staying at the cabins. If you want a little more activity, it is just a short drive to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, with its stunning expanse of beach, water and sand dunes.



Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Outside the State



Dominica

Dominica is located in the Caribbean and is a popular port for cruise ships. When on a Caribbean cruise with several ports within the same week, many islands start to appear the same. The white sand beaches, water sports, restaurants catering to the cruise ship crowd all are enjoyable, but there is something refreshingly different about Dominica. It is almost like I would imagine the Caribbean Islands to be 30 years ago before they started to become such a tourist destination. A trip to Mero Beach, one of the best beaches in Dominica, will cost a person \$20.00 round trip. It is about a 20 minute ride each way but is one of the most scenic you will ever encounter. The driver of the cab will arrange for a time to come back and pick you up – and he doesn't expect to be paid until the end. The sand is unique in that it is formed from volcanic stone and is black. In the sunlight, it almost looks like a thousand diamonds are shining within it. The small restaurant there is pretty much run by one local woman and she serves up some of the best barbecue chicken anywhere. Beach chairs and umbrellas can be rented for a small fee and a tiny bar, not much bigger than 6 foot by 6 foot, serves up some of the tastiest tropical drinks around. The beach backs right up to a street where the local people live and it is an interesting insight in to what life was like on the other islands before all of the tourists arrived.

Editor's note: ThumbPrint News invites our readers to submit short articles (approximately 250 words) with one picture of a favorite place you have visited in your travels. Email them to thumbprintnews@comcast.net and you may see them in a future issue of ThumbPrint News!

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Crossword

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Hint: The answers all can be found growing in a garden.

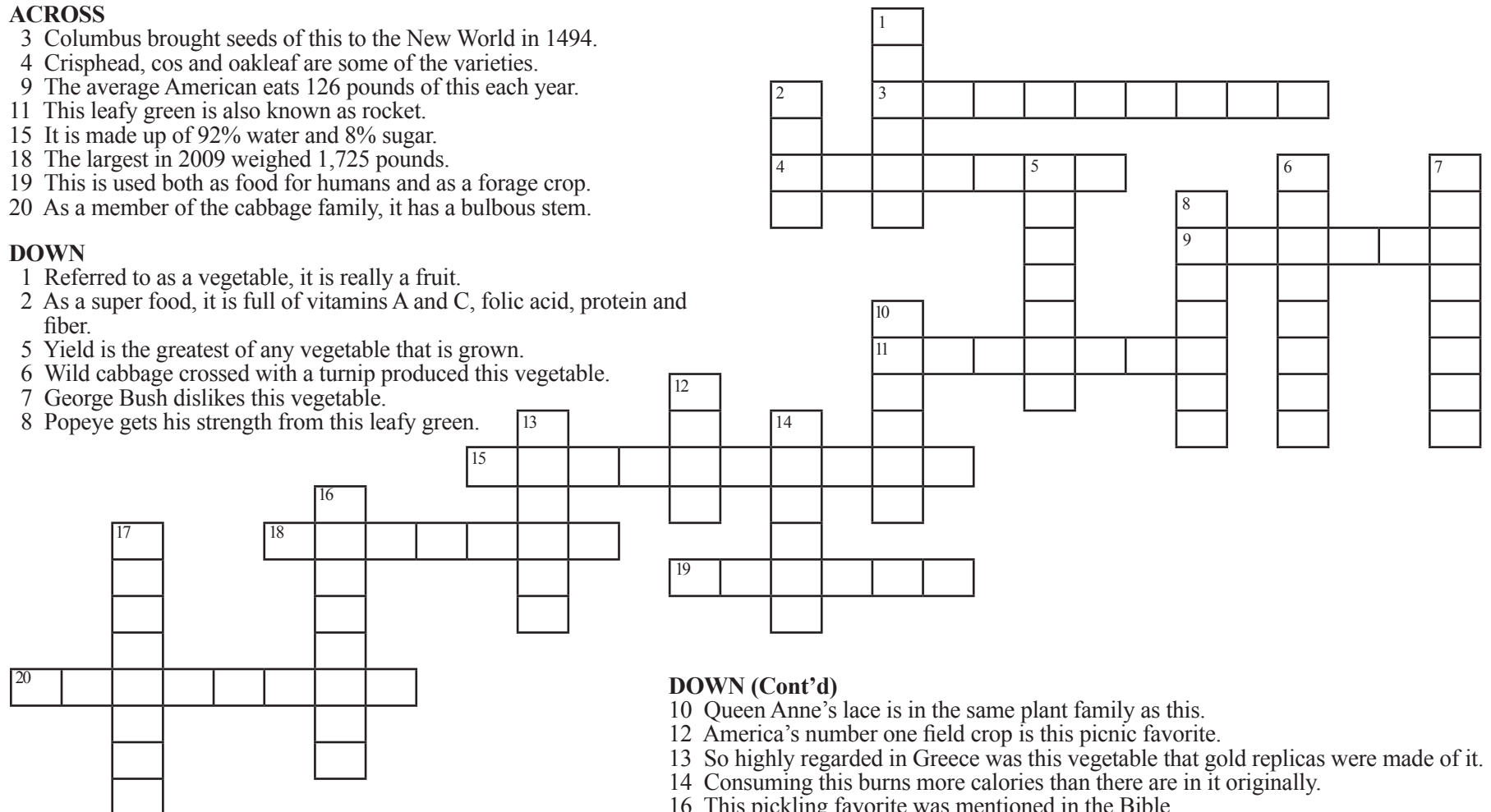
Answers on Page 52

ACROSS

- 3 Columbus brought seeds of this to the New World in 1494.
- 4 Crisphead, cos and oakleaf are some of the varieties.
- 9 The average American eats 126 pounds of this each year.
- 11 This leafy green is also known as rocket.
- 15 It is made up of 92% water and 8% sugar.
- 18 The largest in 2009 weighed 1,725 pounds.
- 19 This is used both as food for humans and as a forage crop.
- 20 As a member of the cabbage family, it has a bulbous stem.

DOWN

- 1 Referred to as a vegetable, it is really a fruit.
- 2 As a super food, it is full of vitamins A and C, folic acid, protein and fiber.
- 5 Yield is the greatest of any vegetable that is grown.
- 6 Wild cabbage crossed with a turnip produced this vegetable.
- 7 George Bush dislikes this vegetable.
- 8 Popeye gets his strength from this leafy green.



DOWN (Cont'd)

- 10 Queen Anne's lace is in the same plant family as this.
- 12 America's number one field crop is this picnic favorite.
- 13 So highly regarded in Greece was this vegetable that gold replicas were made of it.
- 14 Consuming this burns more calories than there are in it originally.
- 16 This pickling favorite was mentioned in the Bible.
- 17 This prolific vegetable has more potassium than a banana.



PORT HURON MUSEUM SUMMER 2010 EVENTS

United States Coast Guard Salute – July 2-August 29. Art exhibit by US Coastguardsmen, with special focus on our own USCG Cutter *BRAMBLE*. Art, photographs and artifacts will be on exhibit. Grand opening reception and dedication of new *BRAMBLE* model by local artisan Herman Chapman on Thursday, July 8 from 5-7 pm at the Carnegie Center. Free.

Surplus Sale – August 13-15. While shopping/antiquing along the Yard Sale Trail, be sure to stop by the Carnegie Center for our Surplus Sale. You are sure to find a treasure from the storage areas of the Port Huron Museums. Large range of items. Your treasure is here!

For a new experience:
BRAMBLE OVERNIGHTS – ongoing. For groups of 20 or more, spend the night on the USCG Cutter *BRAMBLE* just like the crew did! Great for youth and scout groups, reunions, birthday parties and community service groups. Prices start at \$20 per person. By reservation only! See our website or call 810-982-0891 for information.

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Carnegie Center, 1115 Sixth Street 11 am-5 pm daily
HURON Lightship 11 am-5 pm daily
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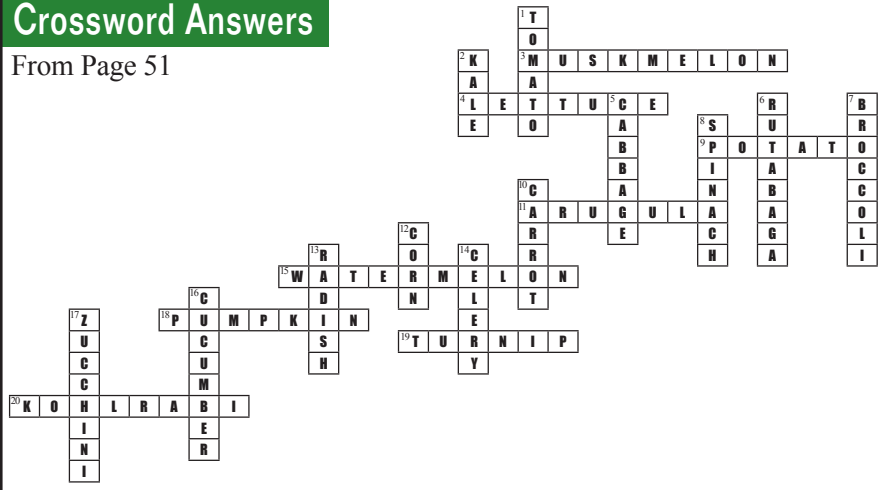
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Crossword Answers

From Page 51




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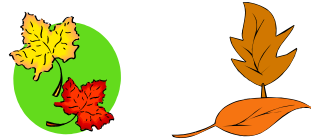


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JULY 24 – 5:00-7:00 p.m. GARDEN PARTY. Enjoy over 3000 varieties of labeled herbs, flowers, trees and shrubs that are divided into seventeen different theme gardens. Pathways meander around the gardens and restored farm buildings. There are plenty of areas to sit and relax and enjoy the company of family and friends. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments along with a tour of the 9,500 square foot log home are included as well. The cost for the entire evening is \$25.00 per person, with advance registration and payment due by July 19. See our ad on Page 23 for more information.

AUGUST 14 – 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY. Stop and enjoy an ice cream sundae on us, games for the whole family to enjoy, and music and entertainment. Event will take place inside the greenhouse, rain or shine! Sit back, relax and let us show you our appreciation for being a customer of Foxtire Farm and/or ABC Home & Commercial Services. There is no charge for this event – it is OUR GIFT TO YOU! However, we do ask that you RSVP no later than August 11 so that we will be sure to have enough ice cream for everyone to enjoy.

SEPTEMBER 25 AND 26 – 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. FALL FESTIVAL! On both days at Foxtire Farm's Country Store. Games, prizes, crafts, rides, pumpkin painting, food, straw maze, a bouncy house, kiddiepillar ride AND MORE! A small ticket price is charged for most activities. Reasonably priced activities encourage families to have a great time together – at a price they can afford!



OCTOBER 22, 23, & 24 – 7:00-9:00 P.M. THIRD ANNUAL NIGHT FILLED WITH PUMPKIN LIGHT. Over 400 decorated and painted pumpkins will be lit inside a warm greenhouse for the viewing pleasure of everyone in the family! Cost per adult is \$5.00, children aged 2-12 are \$2.00. Two and under are free. All pumpkins and Halloween decorations will be clearance priced for last minute shoppers! All carved pumpkins will be available to purchase at \$5.00 each and can be bought on those nights but cannot be picked up until October 25.

Where Has Your ThumbPrint News Been?

ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb (over 325 businesses in eight counties are now drop locations for the newspaper), but ThumbPrint News has been seen on television, in Bonaire, in Mexico, in Salt Lake City and in California! This month Steve Osobka of Macomb, Michigan was caught reading ThumbPrint News at a family get-together. Hmmm, that's a great hat he is sporting, too – looks vaguely familiar!

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.

At the end of 2010, our staff will choose the grand prize winner to receive a wonderful prize from ThumbPrint News. If you are a business, we will do a feature story on your business for FREE in the January 2011 edition!



Steve Osobka was spotted reading and wearing ThumbPrint News.

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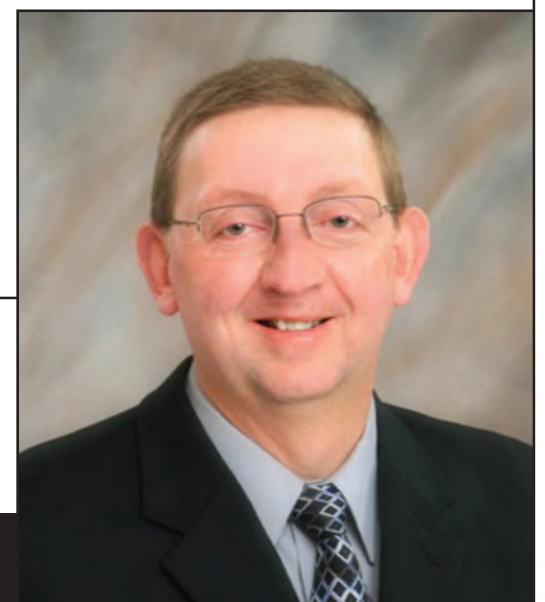
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The Aid and Attendance (A&A) Special Pension is a benefit that may be available for veterans and/or surviving spouses who are at least 65 years old to assist with the cost of long term care, including in-home caregivers. It is a non-service connected disability benefit, meaning the disability does not have to be service related. Please call for further information regarding the VA A&A pension for yourself or a loved one today!

The Aid and Attendance Improved Pension Benefit

Maximum Benefit for 2010

Beneficiary	Monthly Pension
Married Veteran	\$1,949
Veteran Alone	\$1,632
Surviving Spouse/Widow	\$1,055

**Simasko, Simasko
Simasko
P.C.**

Attorneys
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To find out if you or your family members qualify for this benefit and for more information, please call:

(586) 468-6793

www.simaskolaw.com