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SEE PAGE 10

ThumbPrint News

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NOTES FROM OUR READERS

BIG BOY RESTAURANT HISTORY

By Gerald Nyquist
ThumbPrint News Contributor



Big Boy, an American free-enterprise success story! While there are a few conflicting accounts regarding the history of what became a nationwide chain of restaurants, even extending internationally, the following summary is accurate with but a few uncertainties.

Bob Wian entered high school in Glendale, California, in 1929, and by graduation in 1933, had earned the dubious distinction, bestowed by his classmates, of being most *unlikely* to succeed. He found work as an overnight dishwasher making \$12 per week at a Los Angeles White Log Coffee Shop, a chain similar to White Castle. Wian did well and was promoted to fry cook, then store manager, and thus began learning the restaurant business via on-the-job experiences. He became determined to own a restaurant – perhaps driven to prove his old classmates wrong? Bob spent time continuing to learn by working at other restaurants and by patronizing others for menu ideas.

In 1936, Wian quit his job and sold his 1933 DeSoto automobile for \$300 to make the down payment on a ten-stool hamburger stand in Glendale called The Pantry. Upon cleaning up the place and borrowing \$50 from his father for supplies, the restaurant re-opened as Bob's Pantry. Some musicians became regular customers and soon tired of the limited menu offerings, asking Wian to make something different. He responded with a new burger – a bun sliced into thirds, with two patties of meat between the layers, topped off with sauce. The new burger was a hit, with demand sufficient that Wian felt the

need to name his invention. He chose Big Boy, the nickname he used for an amusing young lad who often “helped out” at the restaurant in exchange for a burger. The boy, Richard Woodruff, about six years of age, was jolly and healthy, with rolls of fat protruding where his shirt and droopy overalls should have met. He grew up to be 6’ 6” tall and weighed 300 pounds, sadly passing away at age 54.

Wian changed the name of his diner to Bob's Big Boy shortly after the new burger was named. There are conflicting accounts regarding the origin of the Big Boy logo which was based on Wian's six-year-old friend. One version is that a regular customer at the diner, a movie studio animator, sketched the now famous character on a napkin; however, it has also been reported that Bennie Washam, who earlier worked with Wian at the above-mentioned White Log coffee shop, was the designer. It was about 20 years later when the iconic Big Boy mascot statue, created by Manfred Bernhard, based on the earlier logo began appearing outside restaurants.

Wian opened a second restaurant in Burbank, California, in 1938, launching drive-in curb service at both locations. Following WWII, Robert C. Wian Enterprises was formed to run his expanding business. During the late 1940s, two operators in the Midwest were licensed to sell Big Boy hamburgers: Frisch's Big Boy in Cincinnati and Eat'n Park Big Boy in Pittsburgh, followed by Shoney's Big Boy in Charleston, West Virginia in 1951.

A complicated history of ownership, franchising and sub-franchising began during the 1950s. In 1956, the first edition of the comic book *Adventures of the Big Boy* was published.

See *BIG BOY* Page 15



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As always, I hope my column will give you something to mull about. But, for this one, I need to clear something up right away: activating my suggestion can cost as little as zero dollars to more than a few bucks. I don't want anyone to toss this newspaper after the first few sentences because the idea is outside their budget. It's not an original idea, but gratefully, it still has loads of options. The idea is to fill up your soul with live music... no earbuds, phones, Bluetooth speakers or devices of any kind... just being in the same space where the music is made.

Over the last few months, my husband, Robert, and I have attended a few concerts and noticed a trend. I was still floating for a good week after these concerts. It turns out that I didn't just attend the concerts, I felt them. Specifically, we went to see the unplugged solo performance by Pat Matheny. He played multiple types of guitars, and halfway through, it started to

feel like I was watching him give a master class guitar lesson. His last encore was playing "Lineman of the County" on his acoustic guitar. I don't know how I made it to the car because the spirit he generously put into that song made my knees melt.

Then, just recently, we had the good fortune to see the genius of Jon Batiste. Jon always seemed so personable when he was the band leader for *Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, so I thought for sure he'd be a chatty headliner. Nope, not even close. He performed rock, pop, country, soul, blues, classics, folk and a combination of who knows what. As the concert progressed, I realized that he wasn't talking spreading love and trying to relieve our aches for a bit.

At one point, he was playing an original lullaby, and by the end of the song, all 3,000 attendees were humming it acapella. The warmth was palatable. After more songs, our hands were dry from clapping,

and our legs started to get sore from standing up and down and dancing. But after a remarkable crescendo by Jon and his gifted band, he ended the evening with the song, "You Are My Sunshine". What? It's been decades since I've heard that song, yet Jon's energy manifested a sold-out crowd to a sing-along. I didn't know the second verse, but the man behind me did. I held out my hand to him as he sang, and he immediately held it. Once again, I floated another week.

What is it about the impact of live music that we don't get from music played on our phones, Pandora, TV or radio? Well, thanks to a few smart people...I have some answers and hopefully some motivation.

According to a study from Imperial College of London, stress levels take a nose dive during a live performance. After a concert, our heart rate, blood pressure and respiratory rate all take a much-needed break and slow down, causing our cortisol levels to go

See *FILL YOUR SOUL* Page 15

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THUMBPRINT NEWS CONTEST

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object, person or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, go to our website www.thumbprintnews.com and enter your answer. Of all persons submitting the correct answer by the 12th of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a wonderful surprise gift at the end of the year! On December 13, 2024 one winner will be drawn out of all the monthly winners and that lucky person will be notified via email, and we'll share the winner's name in our January 2025 issue.

For our March 2024 contest, we asked our readers to identify what is pictured below. Of all the correct entries, Wanda Srebinski of Sandusky, Michigan, was randomly chosen as the March winner. Wanda correctly identified this silo to be painted to resemble a New Era Potato Chip Canister in Portland, Michigan.



The first silo was built in the 1940s by Isadore Shrauben who was offered 99¢ per year to keep the logo on the silo but after the expressway went in, they stopped receiving the money. At one point, an attempt was made paint over the logo with grey paint but rain eventually

washed the grey off. Despite no additional compensation to endorse the brand, the logo was repainted by a family member of the Shraubens in 2005 and again in 2013.

New Era, founded in the 1920s by Nicolay-Dancey, Inc., became one of the largest potato chip manufacturers in Detroit with its main competitor being Better Made. New Era merged with Frito in 1958 becoming Frito-New Era and with H.W. Lay, Inc. in 1961 becoming Frito-Lay, Inc.

Many decades later, Better Made acquired the rights to the New Era brand and, in the not too distant past, has occasionally produced New Era chips under the Better Made logo.



Photo credit: Andy Brogowicz: Chene St.facebook



For our April 2024 contest, we ask all the gardeners out there if they recognize [specifically] what is pictured to the left. If you think you know, visit our website, www.thumbprintnews.com, to answer. Good Luck!

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MARKET MATTERS

Residential real estate activity is slowly ramping up as we enter our spring market with more homes coming on the market and active and pending sales increasing.

The Fannie Mae Home Purchase Sentiment Index® rose again in February for the third month in a row as 65% of consumers surveyed said it's a good time to sell a home, up from 60% the month before. The share of those who believe it's a good time to buy a home is still pessimistic but has improved slightly.

NAR's® Chief Economist Dr. Lawrence Yun reported that the February jobs report showed another solid 275,000 net new payroll jobs were added in February. Job additions build up the long-term real estate demand for housing. The short-term timing of purchases is dependent upon mortgage rates and inventory availability.

In 2023, home sales recorded the lowest activity in nearly 30 years. Dr. Yun noted that there are 158 million payroll jobs today compared to 117 million when home sales were similarly low. "It implies sizable potential real estate demand on the sidelines, ready to pounce once short-term conditions move favorably."

Residential mortgage interest rates remain in the 7% range for a 30-year fixed mortgage. The average 15-year fixed mortgage rate is 6.7%. The Federal Reserve Board continues to monitor inflation to be sure it is in check before making reductions in the federal funds rate.



MAINTAINING YOUR HOME

A home is the biggest investment most people ever make. Proper care and maintenance help protect your investment for years to come.

Based on its extensive experience, Coldwell Banker created a month-by-month list of some checks, cleaning to-dos and replacements that should be done each year. Here are suggestions for the second quarter.

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS – and the flowers will be better if you prep the garden! Lay mulch around shrubs and flower beds before the weeds take over.

Organize the Garage or Shed – stash the snow shovels and bust out the lawn mower and yard/garden tools.

Take a broom to all the cobwebs you can see, then power wash your patio, porch and deck, as well as your exterior, driveway and sidewalk.

MAY IS TIME FOR A BEDROOM REBOOT – thoroughly clean all bedding (bedspread, blankets, sheets, mattress protector). Rotate and flip your mattress as needed. Change bedding for summer months if desired.

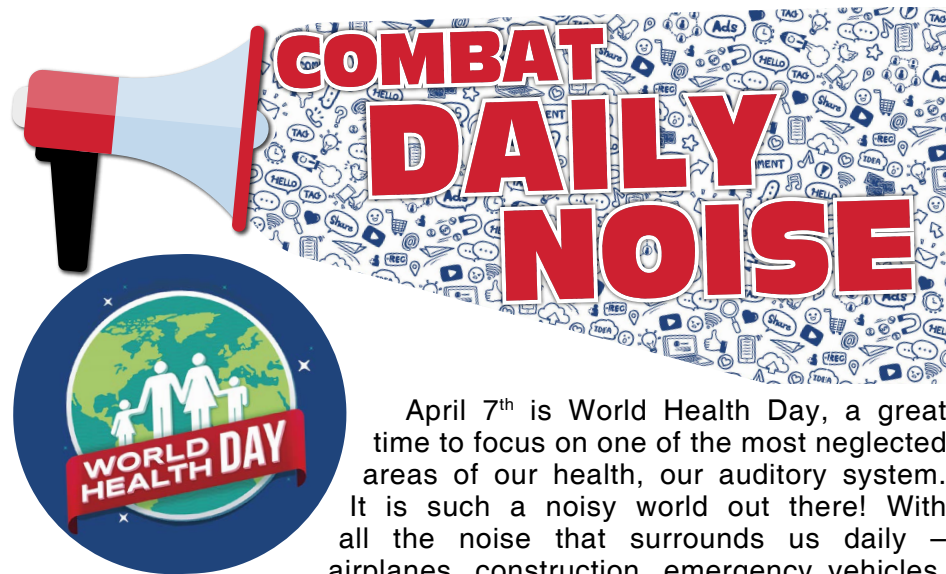
Spring Clean Your Closet – Take everything out, clean the closet space, and evaluate each item to determine where it goes next. Does it fit, have you worn it in the last year, will you wear it this year? Make four piles: keep and put back in your closet what you will use in the next four months; store seasonal items or those you are not ready to part with; donate items that do not fit or you do not/will not wear; discard or repurpose items in disrepair.

JUNE SUN WANTS TO SHINE IN – Wash the inside and outside of your windows (once the rainy season has stopped).

Inspect and wash window and door screens, and repair any with holes.

Make sure all doors and locks are working properly and in good condition. Clean tracks and lubricate hinges.

Clean drapes, dust blinds and shutters. 🇺🇸



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

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

THE OFFICE VISIT – STEP BY STEP

First Step: Lifestyle assessment. Understanding more about your lifestyle and hearing priorities helps a specialist provide individualized care. Are you outdoorsy? Do you frequent restaurants and public places? Do you enjoy television, music, movies and lectures? All of these kinds of things and more play into the development of hearing loss and the type of hearing aids right for you, if should you need them.

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

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

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

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

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



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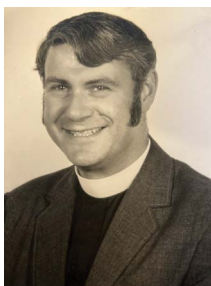
Embracing the Role of a Death Doula

A Daughter's Journey through Loss of her Father

By Dr. Jen Vogtmann, Occupational Therapist/End of Life Doula

As the daughter of an Episcopal minister, I grew up immersed in the delicate dance between life and death, shaped by the sacredness of end-of-life experiences. However, it was my dad's own journey towards the end that truly illuminated the **importance of compassionate support during such transitions.**

My dad, a widower and a resilient survivor of a lung transplant, eventually reached a point where his body could no longer withstand the relentless battle. As a family, we rallied together, juggling our work commitments and coordinating daily meals and assistance to ensure he was never left alone on his journey. **This became overwhelming at times.**



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options like assisted living for basic care and eventually turned to hospice care. However, the turning point came during an ER visit, where we were confronted with the reality of my dad's deteriorating condition. Facing

end-stage renal disease and the grim news that he could no longer tolerate dialysis, we were forced with **gut-wrenching decisions.**

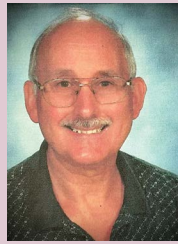
It was then, in the midst of uncertainty, that I talked to Dad about going to the Blue Water Hospice House. Promising him that he would never be alone, I made the necessary arrangements, only to be met with the heartbreaking news that they were at full capacity. As the night unfolded, we found ourselves navigating a sea of emotions and unforeseen obstacles. **The lack of communication from medical professionals left us feeling unprepared, going into unfamiliar territory as we struggled to provide comfort and dignity** to my dad in his final moments.

When my dad was finally admitted to a room and placed on comfort care, I did not know that he would be sedated permanently, **feeling robbed of the precious opportunity for one last conversation.** I sat beside him in a reclining chair, **ensuring he had a companion for the journey ahead.** As his condition continued to decline, I offered small acts of love and tenderness, such as reading verses to him alongside my brother, playing his beloved jazz music, arranging for a visit from his minister, and coordinating a last-minute grooming session. It was during this time that I suddenly recognized the **signs of active dying**, prompting me to reach out to the nursing staff to confirm my suspicions before urgently contacting my siblings. They rushed to his side, eager to be close to him in his final moments.

We gathered around my dad's hospital bed, holding his hands and showering him with love, offering gentle neck massages and playing soothing music as he embarked on his peaceful transition to the next realm. **Dad's transition was beautiful and serene, and each of us had the privilege of being there with him.** This experience provided our family with closure and comfort.

If I hadn't asked questions, this opportunity could have been easily missed! We thought we had weeks, not days. We found ourselves confronted with the daunting task of navigating without a clear plan or guidance.

Reflecting on my personal journey, I am acutely aware of the **profound**



FENDER BENDERS

Lead Columnist to Reminisce on Life

By **Bob Jones**, *ThumbPrint News Columnist*

Two fender benders in one month were almost too much to bear. Standing at the counter in the bump shop waiting for the adjuster to assess the damage, I cringed as I peered at my black beauty with its dimpled imperfections.

Maybe it was only a matter of time before the rigors of the road caught up with my four-wheeled friend.

Suddenly, my mind flashed back to my early childhood. Didn't my 2-year-old body bang on that cherry wood coffee table drawing an ever-so-slight vision of red?

I recalled, too, when my ever-restless frame tumbled from that giant willow tree in my backyard causing my 4-year-old noggin to swell.

Or how about the time my 5-year-old knee met the cement sidewalk and the proverbial scrape resulted?

As childhood mishaps turned into adolescent foibles, the results were no less disquieting. The head-first slide which resulted in a broken finger, the lawnmower incident, and the racquetball in the eye (which led to a slightly detached retina), all seemed like minor irritations upon looking back.

To have reached the pinnacle of personhood by grace or by golly, now seems like a natural evolutionary flow, somewhat akin to the meandering of an errant river overflowing its banks during a spring flood. When the cresting waters recede, a new older, more mature life form takes hold.

Likewise, my dented friend seemed more like a soul brother now, a period piece whose own meanderings have led it from that sweet innocence of youth through adolescence to a graceful being proud of its upbringing and its turbulent surge to maturity.

It was then I realized that the imperfections in all of us actually help to create new possibilities, a new and better me.

My friend would be patched up and made whole again, but underneath, a much more ardent steadfast soul would emerge to face a new day.

The open road calls again. 🌱



impact clear communication about your loved one's prognosis and desires has on a family. It gives us the opportunity to create a sacred space and a loving environment for our loved one's final moments. It helps not only the dying but the living too. **It can create peace in our hearts during the most difficult of times.**



I have also become acutely aware of the role a death doula could have played in our experience. Their expertise and compassion could have provided much-needed clarity with medical professionals, comfort and support every step of the way, offering guidance through difficult conversations and

spiritual solace in moments of despair. These difficult conversations could have been had well in advance. A doula could have supported Dad with a holistic death plan creating an outline for us to follow and reduced the burden of decision-making during those stressful moments offering us assurance that we were honoring my dad's wishes just as he desired.

After my father's passing, I embarked on a journey to undergo training, driven by a desire to transform our medical approach to death and the crucial conversations that surround it. In my roles as an end-of-life doula, advance care facilitator and home funeral facilitator, my goal is to empower others to preplan and engage in these vital conversations well in advance with their family members. By guiding individuals and families through the end-of-life journey with grace and dignity, I strive to ensure that no one has to endure it alone. **My desire is to help others navigate similar challenges and provide a guiding light** through life's most difficult transitions. 🌱

Editorial note: Find out more at inspiredbyjen.info or on Facebook @inspiredbyjen.

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Vocabulary Voyage

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

"He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has."
– Epictetus, Greek Stoic philosopher

conurbation con·ur·ba·tion | ,kă-(.)nər-'bā-shən

A noun meaning: 1 : an extended urban area, typically consisting of several towns merging with the suburbs of one or more cities. First known use: early 20th century from *con-* 'together' + Latin *urbs*, *urb-* 'city' + *-ation*. Ex: *Detroit is the major city at the heart of a large urban conurbation.*

folderol fol·de·rol | 'fäl-də-,räl

A noun meaning: 1 : a useless ornament or accessory : Trivial foolishness. 2 : Nonsense. First known use: early 18th century, used as a meaningless refrain in songs. Ex: *Politicians will often claim their rival's proposals are nothing but folderol.*

milieu mi·lieu | mēl-'yü

A noun relating to a person's social environment, surroundings, especially of a social or cultural nature. First known use: 1795-1805 from Old French, *mi* (from Latin *medius* "middle") + *lieu* (place).

Ex: *It is often hard to shake off the milieu of vacation upon returning home.*



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



**By Rita
MacDonald**
ThumbPrint News
Columnist

Running with Scissors

My oldest grandchild, Lyla, and I were at the dining room table yesterday working on some craft projects with felt and a sewing needle when Maci, my youngest grandbaby at only two years old, climbed up onto the chair and saw a picture of a pair of scissors on the directions. "Scissors!" she declared and promptly got back down from the chair, went into the kitchen drawer, and returned with a pair of scissors in her little hands. "No, no, honey! Those will give you a big OW!!!" I took them from her, and she then proceeded to absolutely sob an absolutely heart-breaking, hard-to-catch-her-breath sob. She was not happy with Gummy! She wanted those scissors, and I was the person who took them from her.

We did include her in the craft project, but we protected her from picking up the scissors again, and it didn't take long before she was climbing back up into my lap and giving me kisses and hugs.

A little while later, while my daughter-in-law Holly was making dinner, Maci managed to sneak a sharp knife from the kitchen counter and return to the table where the craft-making was still going on. Holly caught her, came over, and took the knife from her hand. Another, "No, no, honey," was followed by one more heart-breaking sob. But now her mother had taken away what Maci wanted, and she was the villain, not me.

If we gave in to every demand of our children (or in my case, grandchildren), they would have Halloween candy for breakfast, M&M's for a snack, fast food for lunch doused in ketchup and ranch dressing, and a half-gallon of ice cream for dinner, with a jar of sprinkles and hot fudge on top, resulting in a night of GI disturbances that I wish not to list in this article.

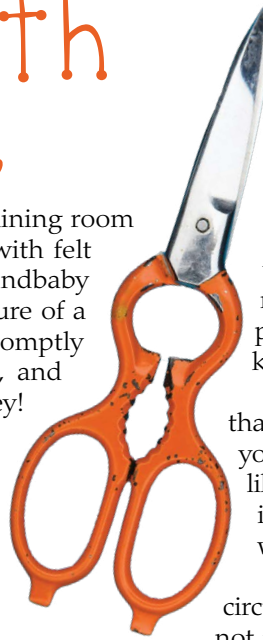
But – what a lesson! I mean – what if we let Maci have the scissors? She's obsessed with her hair, so best case scenario is she may have given herself a new pixie cut. And what about the knife? She could have gotten hurt badly enough to go to the hospital emergently. It could have ended badly if she fell off the chair holding a knife. I hate even thinking about the possibilities. And the consequences of feeding garbage to our littles... I don't need to tell ya. You all know, because nobody is careless enough to feed that slop to their children.

So, why is it that we think we can be like toddlers, and demand things from God, who by the way is a WAY better parent than we are?! Why do people claim they can "speak things into existence" demanding the outcomes they wish – healing from cancer, only good results from diagnostic medical tests and procedures, and nothing less than a perfectly healthy new baby, and the list goes on. And on. And on.

Job 2:10 says, "But he said to her, 'You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?' In all this, Job did not sin with his lips."

When I think back to even just a few of the prayers I've prayed, and the things I've begged God for, I am so grateful that He didn't answer them literally. I remember as clear as if it were yesterday, being in the middle of giving birth to my daughter knowing that she would die, staring at an object on the nightstand beside me, and begging Him to please let me die too. I also remember telling God that I wanted more than anything to marry my high school boyfriend, and, as my Dad used to say, "holy cats!" So glad He didn't answer THAT prayer!

God doesn't long for us to come to Him with a lengthy Christmas wish list of expectations or demands. He wants us to come to Him in the same way you would like for your child to come to you – bringing you their heartaches, their struggles, their successes, and even their longings, trusting you to walk through all of those things with them. And while it's true He wants to give us the desires of our hearts, He also knows the very hearts of our desires, what is best for us, and when it's best for us. And as much as we hate to hear it, we know it's true – sometimes, God says NO, just like we often must tell our children when they want ice cream for dinner, or to run around with scissors in their hands.



And as far as "speaking things into existence," is concerned – look, either God is sovereign, or I am, and I can PROMISE you – it ain't me OR you, because if I were sovereign and had that kind of power, I wouldn't struggle with my weight (and neither would you), I'd be a size 7 with washboard abs, have won the lottery more than a few times...and dare I say... I might have married that high school boyfriend, and that would not have had a good outcome!

God is going to answer our prayers according to His will and give us only what is best for us and what will glorify Him. That might not look like we want it to, but our ways are not like His ways, and so many things will never make sense this side of eternity, but we have to trust Him even when our prayers don't feel as if they are being answered like we'd like them to. He knows what's best for us, and we can trust Him.

And, He often allows us to go through storms and difficult circumstances that will hurt like heck, despite what we've asked for in our prayers, because do you know what He wants more than anything else for us? He wants us to look like His Son, and He can't make us look more like Jesus by feeding us bowls of ice cream while running around with sharp knives. But He also promises to walk right alongside us through those difficult times.

So please don't believe when you find yourself in less than desirable circumstances, that it is because you spoke them in the universe. 1) You're really not that powerful. 2) The universe cannot hear you. (Worship the Creator – not the creation, Romans 1:25)

God created the universe and knows what's best for me, and more often than not, what's best for me is that He not answer my prayers to the precise specifications I've requested. He would rather cause me to lean in a whole lot closer to Him while He does NOT take my advice, and for that, I'll be forever grateful.

Please, take a moment and thank God that neither of us are sovereign because, I promise – we'd have jacked up every single thing a long, long time ago.

Thank you, Lord, for not taking my advice, for telling me NO in the past, and for not letting me live on ice cream sundaes while running with scissors. 🍌

**THUMBPRINT NEWS
PET PHOTO
CHALLENGE**

We are featuring this handsome boy Marshmallow Kyle, sent in by his Grammy Lynnette, of Casco, MI

Over the holidays, I pulled up ThumbPrint News on my phone to share with my kids, and my grandpup decided to come see what the issue was all about.

Marshmallow, a malshipoo, lives in Clinton Twp. with his mom, dad and new puppy sister, Maple, a maltipoo. He spends his days napping and barking at all kinds of outdoor threats.

While he doesn't love long car rides, he does love to visit his Grammy's house with many snacks and the huge, threat-free backyard!

He agrees that when Maple's a little older and visits Grammy and Grampy's for the first time we should make sure to show her TPN so she can be in the paper too!




**Thank you, Lynnette, for sharing Marshmallow with us!
We look forward meeting Maple!**

**YOU CAN VIEW OUR ENTIRE MENAGERIE AT
www.bit.ly/TPNPETS (make sure you type the link in with all uppercase letters)**

JOIN THE FUN! How to submit: *Please submit good quality .jpeg photo(s) of your pet or another animal posing with our paper (physical or digital) to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net. Include a few sentences about your pet(s). When your photo(s) appear in the paper, we will be sure to send you a complimentary copy, so please include your full name and address with your submission. Submissions can also be mailed to: TPN Pet Challenge, 8061 Marsh Rd., Clay, MI 48001.

LYME DISEASE DANGERS

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

As spring emerges, we are all eager to get outside and enjoy what Michigan has to offer. Now is the time to prepare your canine friend for a season of outdoor fun. Simple steps now can protect your pet from ticks and tick-borne diseases, such as Lyme disease.

Lyme disease is an illness that can affect both animals and humans and is the most reported vector-borne illness in the United States, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The disease can be difficult to detect and can cause serious and chronic health problems for both people and pets. The bacterium that causes Lyme disease is carried and transmitted primarily by the tiny black-legged tick known as the deer tick. It can be diagnosed through a blood test that shows if an animal has been exposed to the bacterium. Some routine heartworm tests also screen for several tick-borne diseases. This can be a great addition to an annual heartworm test.



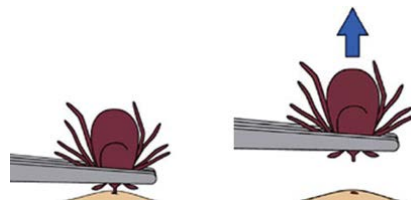
Blacklegged Tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)



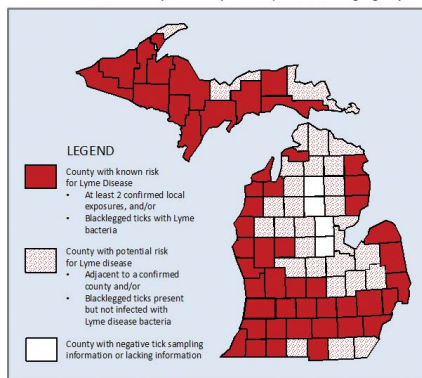
The best approach is to prevent tick bites when possible and vaccinate your pet against the disease when appropriate. Your veterinarian can help you choose what type of tick prevention is right for your family. They can also assess your pet's exposure to decide if the vaccine is right for your dog. If your veterinarian does recommend that your dog be vaccinated against Lyme disease, the typical protocol will involve an initial vaccination followed by a booster 2-4 weeks later with annual boosters after that.

PEOPLE WITH PETS SHOULD:

- Use reliable tick-preventive products. Ask your veterinarian what product is right for your pet. There are several formulations available including topicals and oral chews.
- Work with your veterinarian to decide whether to vaccinate your dog against Lyme disease. The decision will depend primarily on where you live and your pet's lifestyle.
- Ticks can be tricky to spot and usually, the bite is painless. Because ticks secrete an anesthetic-like substance, they can attach without us feeling the bite. This makes checking for ticks on both you and your pets especially important after being in tall grasses, marshes and wooded areas.
- If you do find a tick on yourself or your pet, remove it ASAP. Use clean tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick as this can cause the mouthparts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouthparts with tweezers. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water. Dispose of a live tick by putting it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape or flushing it down the toilet.



For more information about Lyme disease prevention, visit www.michigan.gov/lyme



Lyme disease in pets – symptoms and treatment:

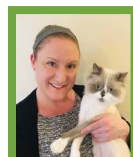
Pets infected with Lyme disease may not show any signs for months.

Typical symptoms include:

- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Lameness
- Joint swelling
- Decreased activity

Antibiotics usually provide effective treatment for Lyme disease. Your veterinarian will prescribe the proper medications and provide follow-up care after your pet has been diagnosed and treated.

Thousands of cases of Lyme disease have been reported in humans and animals across the United States and around the world. Take the proper precautions to keep all members of your family safe.



Editorial note: Dr. Gray serves the St. Clair County area with In The Pink Mobile Veterinary Services. She is based out of Goodells, Michigan. To reach out to Dr. Gray, please call (810) 985-3011 or visit her website at inthepinkpetcare.com.

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April is National Pest Management Month which highlights the importance of pest control to protect your health and the health of those around you, including pets and livestock.

Some household pests are simply annoying, while others pose serious health risks, such as transmitting diseases and bacteria that are often overlooked or misdiagnosed.

Termites, mosquitoes, flies, rodents, spiders, wasps, hornets, ants, bed bugs, fleas, stink bugs, Asian lady beetles, box elder bugs, ticks, mice, voles, moles, rats and even cockroaches all qualify as unwanted pests and can cause problems in any household.

The National Pest Management Association (NPMA) utilizes the month of April to remind consumers of the importance of working with licensed pest control professionals for small, medium and full-blown infestations.

Be prepared for peak pest season (April - October) with help from a local pest control company.

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Spring & Spiders

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

PESTERING PROBLEMS

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

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

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

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

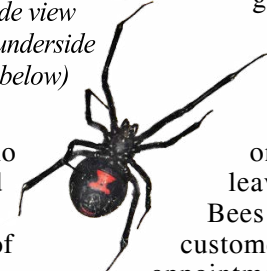
Secondly, you should know that these spiders are ones to be cautious of. A bite from either of them can cause serious medical conditions, which may require professional medical attention. Although the black widow is not likely to bite for no reason, they will bite when picked up or pinched between our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



Brown Recluse



Black Widow (topside view above, underside view below)



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

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

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

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Becoming a Little Kinder



By **David Gillis**, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

I have no doubt there are many senior TPN readers who remember Edgar Guest, a reporter and columnist for the *Detroit Free Press*. He was also quite an accomplished poetry author, having penned more than 11,000 poems during his lifetime. He was once Michigan's poet laureate and known as the People's Poet. One of his poems was included in his book, *Breakfast Table Chat* published in 1914. Country singer Glen Campbell later wrote music for one of his poems titled "A Creed". It begins with these lyrics:

Let me be a little kinder, let me be a little blinder. To the faults of those around me, let me praise a little more; Let me be, when I am weary, just a little bit more cheery. Let me serve a little better, those that I am striving for.

The second stanza continues:

Let me be a little braver, when temptation bids me waver. Let me strive a little harder to be all that I should be; Let me be a little meeker with the brother that is weaker. Let me think more of my neighbor and a little less of me.

The poem continues and sends a message we all need to listen to. It, in fact, is the message many of our pastors send from the pulpit in their churches each Sunday. I am not aware of Guest's religiosity, but the message sent is clear. It is a message of compassion we might all wish to possess but wonder how to attain it.

Compassion is not a characteristic with which a person is born, but is a learned personal attribute developed through relationship conditioning, concentration and effort, often through the guidance of parents, teachers, pastors and others who care. There are several other contributing attributes that strengthen personal compassion, and I will address just a few here. They include personality, humility, responsibility and loyalty.

A closer examination of each of these attributes may help us to determine how each relates to us.

The first mentioned is personality. Always making the other person feel important is perhaps one of the strongest guidelines related to compassionate personalities. We all look for appreciation from others and should be eager to give it. Personal traits such as sincerity, trust, enthusiasm and optimism all contribute to our personality. Certainly, in our society today, there are far too many negative people who do not hesitate to allow others to know exactly how they feel. A compassionate person does not nurture self-pity or spread gloom and pessimism for others to share. Instead, compassionate people are cheerful, optimistic and excited about what life has to offer, and they are willing to share it with others.

Humility is another attribute, one of the greatest of compassionate people. Too many people fall short of the compassion they could have simply because they have allowed an over-inflated ego to become an indestructible barrier. Compassionate people never find it necessary to ridicule others. They actually place a special effort on making sure the spotlight is on the other person. The person who demonstrates genuine humility becomes respected and admired, gaining a reputation conducive to true compassion. In doing so, that person has mastered the personality art of making the other person feel important and does not pose a threat to others.

Responsibility is the third attribute mentioned. A compassionate person seeks and accepts responsibility for his or her actions. More importantly, we must always realize that we are human, and as such, are capable of making mistakes. Compassionate people adjust to that possibility and never blame others or offer excuses for temporary

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mistakes. Instead, they accept full responsibility for their individual actions and through careful personal analysis make the necessary adjustments to ensure that errors in judgment are not repeated. A responsible person gains respect by being respectful.

The attribute of responsibility also includes being courteous with a controlled temper when others are not. Responsibility is a trait too often avoided by a large segment of our society and replaced with attempts to pass the buck. By always accepting responsibility, good or bad, we will find that we understand others much better and that they understand and respect us more.

Fourth on the list of attributes is loyalty. Several years ago, I read a survey that showed that many people who were categorized as failures in their life ambitions lacked cooperation, were loners, refused to offer or seek assistance and took only one direction: their own. The study concluded that this lack of cooperation stemmed from the lack of a very basic sense of loyalty. A truly compassionate person will put forth a special effort to develop a total sense of loyalty to others.

We all know, I am certain, people who are not loyal but may be considered successful in their lives. We need to realize, however, that theirs is only temporary success and never can be lasting. These people rarely get along with others and rarely have much good to say about others.

The four attributes discussed here will not provide a total answer to developing a compassionate persona. There are certainly more that need to be a part of our personality. However, once developed these four will assure a greater probability of discovering the answer. If we possess these attributes, we need to cultivate them. If we lack them, we must ambitiously seek them. In doing so, we will broaden our horizons as compassionate people. We might even find ourselves becoming a *little kinder and a little blinder to the faults of those around us.* 🌱

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	<p>1  On this day in 1992, NHL players begin the first strike in the 75-year history.</p>	<p>2 On this day in 1800, Beethoven's Symphony No. 1 is performed for the first time at the K.K. Hoftheater nächst der Burg in Vienna, Austria.</p>	<p>3 On this day in 1922, Joseph Stalin is appointed General Secretary of the Russian Communist Party by an ailing Vladimir Lenin.</p>	<p>4 On this day in 1965, American actor, Robert Downey Jr. is born in Manhattan.</p> 	<p>5 On this day in 1722, Dutch navigator Jacob Roggeveen is the first European to discover Rapa Nui and named it Easter Island since it was Easter Sunday.</p>	<p>6 On this day in 1906, the first animated film recorded on standard picture film, <i>Humorous Phases of Funny Faces</i>, is released.</p> 
<p>7 On this day in 1969, RFC 1 is published leading to this day being the symbolic birth date of the Internet.</p>	<p>8 On this day in 2021, Egyptian archaeologists announce the discovery of a lost 'golden city', the 3,000-years-old ancient city of Aten near Luxor.</p>	<p>9 On this day in 1768, John Hancock is the first to refuse British customs agents to go below deck of his ship since they had no writ of assistance (a general search warrant).</p>	<p>10 On this day in 1970, Paul McCartney officially announces the split of The Beatles.</p> 	<p>11 On this day in 1814, Napoleon Bonaparte abdicates unconditionally, and he is exiled to the island of Elba in the Mediterranean.</p>	<p>12 On this day in 2023, Ghana is the first country to approve a new vaccine for Malaria, the Mosquirix-RTS, S.</p>	<p>13 On this day in 1964, Colin Boshier of New Zealand shears a record 565 sheep in one work day.</p> 
<p>14 On this day in 1912, the ocean liner <i>RMS Titanic</i> hits an iceberg at 11:40 p.m.</p> 	<p>15 On this day in 1990, <i>In Living Color</i> premieres on FOX-TV.</p> 	<p>16 On this day in 2017, the world record for the gathering of Charlie Chaplin lookalikes is set in Switzerland on the man's 128th birthday with 662 participants.</p>	<p>17 On this day in 2012, <i>St. Cuthbert Gospel</i> from the 7th century – the oldest intact book in Europe – is purchased by the British Library from the Jesuits for £9 million.</p>	<p>18 On this day in 1506, the cornerstone of the current St. Peter's Basilica is laid in the Vatican by Pope Julius II.</p>	<p>19 On this day in 1897, the world's oldest annual marathon – the Boston Marathon – takes place for the first time.</p>	<p>20 On this day in 1902, Marie and Pierre Curie isolate the radioactive compound radium chloride.</p> 
<p>21 On this day in 1816, English novelist and poet, Charlotte Brontë, is born in Thornton, United Kingdom.</p> 	<p>22 On this day in 1876, Tchaikovsky completes the music for his ballet <i>Swan Lake</i>.</p> 	<p>23 On this day in 2016, Beyoncé releases her 6th record <i>Lemonade</i> as a visual album with a 1-hour film on HBO.</p> 	<p>24 On this day in 2023, India surpasses China as the world's most populous country according to UN estimates, with 1,425,775,850 people.</p>	<p>25 On this day in 1846, open conflict begins over the disputed border of Texas triggering the Mexican-American War.</p>	<p>26 On this day in 1956, the first modern container ship, the <i>Ideal X</i>, leaves Port Newark, New Jersey, for Houston, Texas.</p>	<p>27 On this day in 1667, blind and impoverished, English poet John Milton sells the copyright of <i>Paradise Lost</i> for £10.</p>
<p>28 On this day in 1937, the first commercial flight across the Pacific takes place, operated by Pan Am.</p> 	<p>29 On this day in 1933, Willie Nelson, is born in Abbott, Texas.</p> 	<p>30 On this day in 1939, FDR becomes the first U.S. President to appear on TV when NBC-RCA broadcasts the opening of the 1939 New York World's Fair.</p>	<h1 style="font-family: serif; color: white;">april</h1> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: white;">what happened on this day in history?</p>			

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

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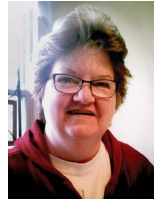
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Never Say Never to a TEDDY BEAR REPAIR

By Theresa Nielsen, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist



I just happened to be sitting in my sewing room one Saturday morning putting the finishing touches on a cloth doll I was making, when my phone rang. It was a friend of mine who was moving. She had some old quilts and things to give me, she knew I wouldn't say no. When she dropped the bag off a few days later, I sat down to look through it. There were two old quilts, some yarn, as well as odds and ends that I could use or share with friends. In the bottom of that very large bag was a teddy bear, I gave him a once over. It was clear he had been well-loved for many years. His seams and stitches in need of some attention.

A few years ago, a dear friend of mine, Kathy, asked if I could save her granddaughter's stuffed pig. He had been loved so much that his left ear was about to fall off. Of course, I could save that pig. Kathy was thrilled and her granddaughter was happy too. I knew this little stuffed bear would be similar – a project I could handle no problem. It's just that I've been so busy with requested and personal projects. I would never find the time to fix him up. But I couldn't just toss him out! Instead, I set him up on a shelf in my sewing room to stay as he was, never to be repaired.

Of course, when I'm downstairs in that room, that doubles as my laundry room, my work is never done. Every time I went to do a load of laundry or work on one of my projects, I passed by that bear, who I mentally started referring to as Teddy Bear. His smile was awkward, but still, I would smile back sadly wishing I had the time to mend him.

My sewing room is my happy place, it's also where I do a lot of quilt repairs for others. Sometimes it's just a new binding, or that well-loved quilt needs fabric replaced or worse. When I start repair work on a quilt, my mind often wanders to the maker of the quilt. Did she make the quilt by herself? Did she sew it by hand or machine? I put a lot of time into the repairs, matching the fabrics as best as I can. I can't save the chocolate chip cookies that stayed too long in the oven or my sister's dress that she burned when the iron got too hot. But I'll jump through hoops to save a quilt for that dear friend or family member and keep it out of the landfill.

So, there I was, off on another laundry run when I passed by Teddy Bear. I swear, his eyes seemed to follow me every time I was in there! For some reason, on this day, once the laundry was started, I decided to stop and pick Teddy Bear up for a closer inspection.

He had been made with old fabrics and embellished with crazy quilt stitches. I took him back to my table and sat down. I very much admired the details in the stitching, although much of it would have to be replaced. Maybe it wouldn't take too much of my time... Maybe I could save this little guy...

One of the projects I was in the middle of working on was a presentation on crazy quilting that had been asked of me by my quilt guild. For the past week or so I had been going through my crazy quilt supplies and there was a nice stack of threads, yarns and fabrics that I would be using. As it turned out, some of those threads, yarns and fabrics would match Teddy and here they were, already pulled out and waiting.

"You're going to look brand new again, Teddy," I told him getting up from my chair. But first I needed to attend to the laundry, feeding my family and working on some projects. Nevertheless, I would come back to Teddy, I promised him that before I left



him sitting on my sewing table. And I think he might have winked at me.

That evening, once I finished a quilt repair and made some notes for a writing project, I gathered threads, yarns and a long needle. I sat down in my most comfortable chair (unfortunately not located in my happy place) and decided on Teddy Bear's repair. But wait, photos. I need photos.

I turned Teddy front to back and every which way and took lots of photos, close-ups of his nose and his torn smile. I ended up working on him late into the night. I put in the new stitches, then carefully snipped out the old threads. I put him back in my sewing room for the night, I didn't want to take any chances that my dogs might try to claim him. The next morning, I was up early. With my fresh hot coffee, I set to work on his nose, once that was completed, I fixed his smile. He looked wonderful and happy too. The whole time I had been working on the repair, I wondered to myself who had made this bear. Was he from an old quilt? Or someone's clothes, maybe men's ties. I might never know. My friend who had given him to me didn't want him anymore.

After the last few areas of stitching were replaced, I took some new photos before putting Teddy back on the shelf. I had a big garden design quilt repair to finish and a writing project. These tasks couldn't wait any longer. Teddy Bear stayed in my thoughts though, he would look nice sitting in my big rocking chair with my favorite quilt and a few of my own bears. I had done so much work on him, I loved him as if he had always been my bear. I knew though, in my heart, he already had a home.

I gave it some thought and decided to share the photos of the repaired Teddy with my friend who had put him in the bottom of that big bag. She was so glad to hear from me and was hesitant when I inquired if she wanted him back.

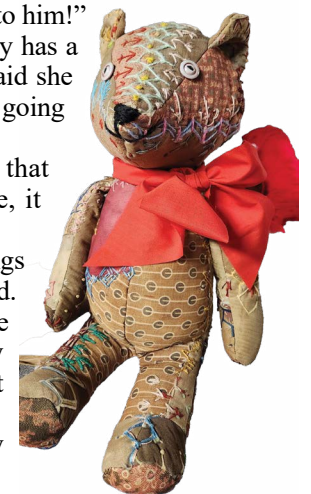
"Don't you want to keep him? You put so much work into him!"

I replied, "Yes, I would love to keep him, but he already has a home, that is if you would like to have him back." She said she would love that. We agreed to meet, and Teddy Bear was going with his old friend to their new home.

My friend was so pleased to have Teddy Bear back, that she took one look at him and cried. She held him close, it made me cry too.

The teddy bear repair just confirms for me that many things that are thought to be no longer useful can be repaired. A few days after Teddy went home, I also delivered the Grandmother's Flower Garden to the owner. She was very pleased too. Now I'm on to my next project, a crazy quilt well over a hundred years old.

If you ask me, I will tell you, never say never, especially to a bear. 🐻



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



By Pamela Lynn Hayes, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Daylight and time are now on our side! Spring is kind of “here”, but of course, it is Michigan; need I say more? With each season, comes a transitional feeling. Transitioning from dark early evenings and staying warm under a blanket for several months to opening the windows for a few hours a day, turning the heat off or down, and shedding some of the heavy jackets and sweaters we have all been wearing for a while now.

Each time I review the cameras at the cottage, I check to see if my daffodils are reaching for the sky yet. For most, there comes that slight feeling of “I’m not ready yet” when a 70-degree day sneaks in here and there – is anybody really ready to tackle spring’s projects outdoors and begin the tasks of cleaning up after the winter and opening their cottages? I am ready in spirit in February! But ready in body is another thing entirely. The thought of tackling all those tasks can be overwhelming. But I know that once they are completed, it will be time for the hot weather and long summer nights.

The official opening and water turn-on time for the cottage is this month. Because the pipes in my cottage were very old, I used to hold my breath when my husband would be outside getting the valves ready. I would be stationed inside the cottage waiting for him to yell through the window, “Okay, try the faucets now,” to make sure we had good pressure, no leaks, etc. But last fall I finally updated the simple water pipe system in the place, and we shouldn’t have any issues this year. Even still, it won’t be until the hot water tank is filled and turned on, and I can feel the hot water coming out of the faucets that I’ll truly be able to relax. The fridge gets stocked for the summer and the summer linens are pulled out and freshened up, we are then good to start the summer cottage season I so dearly missed all winter! All is good.

This year promises to be an intense one, I believe – election years always are. In my opinion, this one will be one for the history books. We Americans are a resilient bunch and we need to be ready for anything as we stand firm in our beliefs and in this great country. Unfortunately, I lost my flag pole bracket area last summer when I added new vinyl gutters onto the place, so flying Old Glory from the front porch is not an option anymore. I’ll have to find a new place to fly her.

While researching some odd titled days for the month of April, I thought it funny that April 30th is noted as “National Honesty Day”. Maybe our current leadership running the country can take heed of that day, just a thought.

Either way, I will get my body up to speed with my mind to be “ready” to transition to the spring weather and activities that come with the warmer weather. I’m so looking forward to spending time at my little place a lot this season. That is a mindset shift I am totally ready for. 🌱 **Welcome Spring 2024!**

Pamela can be reached at pammypoo123@icloud.com.

Native American Words of Wisdom
Brought to you by Foxfire Fixin's Restaurant

The Lumbee people are a blend of Sioux, Algonquin and Iroquois speaking tribes of mixed-racial ethnicity located primarily in southeastern North Carolina. They began asking for federal recognition as a tribe in 1888 and have yet to be granted full tribe status. There are currently 55,000 members of the Lumbee Tribe. The most famous Lumbee was Henry Berry Lowry. Known as the “Lumbee Robin Hood”, he led the Lowry [Lowrie] gang in North Carolina during and after the American Civil War. He was declared an outlaw in late 1868, eventually disappearing into the swamps, never to be seen again. Rhoda Strong Lowry was his “Maid Marion”, aka “The Queen of Scuffletown”, is said to have single-handedly freed three Lowry gang members from a local jail.

“Seek wisdom, not knowledge. Knowledge is of the past, wisdom is of the future.”
—Lumbee proverb

HENRY BERRY LOWRY
Indian. Champion of the poor. Declared outlaw, he eluded capture and disappeared in swamps, ca. 1872. House 3 mi. NW.



BBB REPORTS ON THE RISKIEST SCAMS OF 2023

Investment scams, including those involving cryptocurrency, are now the riskiest scam type for consumers in the United States and Canada, according to the Better Business Bureau® Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. More than 80 percent of people who were targeted by this scam type reported to BBB Scam TrackerSM that they lost money. It also had the second-highest median dollar loss at \$3,800.

“Investment and cryptocurrency scams had a significant impact in 2023, particularly for people 45 and older,” said Melissa Lanning Trumppower, executive director of the BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust, which produced the 2023 BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report. **“People should always beware of opportunities that sound too good to be true. No investment opportunity will come with zero risk.”**

Investment scams take many forms, including pressure to purchase, trade, or store digital assets (cryptocurrency) with fraudulent exchanges. Investment and cryptocurrency scams both appeared on the list of ten riskiest scams in 2023. This year, the two were combined because most cryptocurrency scams involved some sort of investment opportunity.

Employment scam reports remained the second riskiest scam type in 2023. Reports increased 54.2% from the year before. Employment scams had a median dollar loss of \$1,995, significantly higher than the overall median dollar loss of \$100 reported for all scam types.

Online purchase (shopping) scams dropped from the riskiest scam type for U.S. and Canadian consumers for the first time since 2019, landing at number three on the list. This year, 41.9% of scams submitted to BBB Scam Tracker were online purchase scams, and 82.6% reported losing money.

Seeing online purchase scams drop from the riskiest scam type, down the number three spot offers a glimmer of hope that our efforts to educate the public are working. Many people are familiar with our efforts to address consumers’ complaints, but we also are constantly out in the community conducting speaking engagements and sharing warnings to try to help people learn how to avoid being scammed in the first place.

KEY FINDINGS of the 2023 Scam Tracker Risk Report

- In general, scams perpetrated online continued to grow, making up 68.4% of all reports. More concerning, online scams were more likely to result in a reported monetary loss than scams perpetrated in person or via phone.
- Overall reported susceptibility (the percentage of reports with a monetary loss) rose 27.8% from 2022 to 2023. Overall reported median dollar loss fell 41.5%.
- For the second year in a row, people ages 18-24 reported the highest median dollar loss of all age groups (\$155).
- The percentage of people who reported engaging with a scammer via social media rose 63.8% from 2022 to 2023.
- Credit cards remained the most reported payment method with a monetary loss, followed by bank account debit and online payment

FILL YOUR SOUL, Continued from Page 2

down. Yup, it's hard to take in music being performed organically and simultaneously focus on the items on your current list of anxieties.

Further, Dr. Steven Eisenberg, an oncologist/hematologist/internal medicine specialist (wow!), says that when we are really into the live music our brain releases endorphins and neurotransmitters that can help block pain. For those who are heartbreakingly challenged with chronic pain or even those with a toothache, those few hours have to feel so welcomed.

And there is no need to hit the gym before hitting the show, says Dr. Eisenberg. He says walking to and from the concert venue, getting out of your seat a zillion times and flinging your arms around while dancing is right up there with 30 minutes on the treadmill. "And your diaphragm gets a workout when you cheer or sing," Eisenberg reports.

Finally, my favorite reason for watching live music is the sense of community that I get. And I can't be the only one who feels that way.

Eisenberg says, "You're with your tribe, and you did what had to be done to get there – whether lining up a babysitter, paying exorbitant ticket prices or fighting traffic. You feel better when you are connected to others." That is precisely how I felt with 3,000 people simultaneously humming a lullaby or that single stranger holding my hand for the second verse of a song. That tells me a communal feeling can come from a few thousand people or just one stranger. Connection is connection.

And, gratefully, we don't always have to pay those high-ticket prices. There is free music at churches, street fairs, music festivals, and some bars. Musicals at high schools or local community theaters can be very reasonable. You might even want to check out the Emerald Theater in Mt. Clemens, which often offers tickets at a low rate. In the end, it's a simple, age-old idea that will not only boost our health but also make us float.

You can reach Patricia at pckubic@gmail.com.



BIG BOY

Continued from Page 1

In 1967, Big Boy was sold to Marriott Corporation, the sale included Wian's 22 company-owned Bob's Big Boy stores, as well as the 580 franchised restaurants operating in 38 states nationwide. The new company was named Big Boy Restaurants of America, and for a short time, Bob Wian was president. Marriott rapidly expanded the chain, by the 1970s doing business even in Hawaii and Alaska.

Elias Brothers was the franchisee in Michigan, with headquarters in Warren. They purchased the entire corporation from Marriott in 1987, who by then had decided to leave the food service industry. Sadly, Elias Brothers went bankrupt in the year 2000, leading to Robert Liggett purchasing and renaming the enterprise Big Boy Restaurants International. Liggett sold the company to a group of investors in 2018, who renamed it to Big Boy Restaurant Group, headquartered in Southfield, Michigan, with food group and warehousing in Warren.

Wian's original ten-seat Bob's Pantry diner was replaced by a larger restaurant in 1956, that could accommodate 90 customers inside and 55 drive-in cars; however, it was demolished in 1989. The oldest surviving Big Boy restaurant was built in 1949, in Burbank, California, and in 1992, was listed as an official historic landmark by the California Office of Historic Preservation.

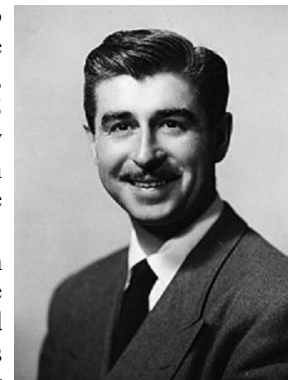
For a nostalgic Big Boy experience, visit Stahls Automotive Museum in Chesterfield Township, Michigan. You'll be able to enjoy a realistic, full-scale exhibit of an early 1960s-style restaurant, complete with a soda fountain, jukebox and menu. Back in



the day, a combo meal with a Big Boy burger, fries and salad only cost 85 cents; the most expensive item on the menu is a steak dinner for \$1.65. Sorry – look, but don't eat, the food is made of plastic!

The good news is that if you're now craving a Big Boy burger, there are approximately 65 locations still operating in the U.S. Of those locations, around 50 are in Michigan, and you can find *ThumbPrint News* at four of them. New franchises are still available, and at least one recently opened in the Detroit metropolitan area and another is rumored to be opening soon.

Editorial note: Dr. Nyquist is a docent at Stahls Museum and can usually be found near the Big Boy exhibit.



Bob Wian, Circa 1948

systems. Reports of bank account debit with a monetary loss increased 66.4%.

- Employment scams were the No. 1 riskiest for ages 18-44. Investment/cryptocurrency scams were the No. 1 riskiest for ages 45+.
- According to our survey research, people between the ages of 18 and 44 named anxiety/stress as the number one emotion they felt after being targeted by a scam, while people 45+ cited anger as the number one emotion.

The five most impersonated organizations reported to BBB Scam Tracker in 2023:

- o U.S. Postal Service
- o Amazon
- o Publishers Clearing House
- o Geek Squad
- o Norton

A list of the top 20 is provided in the report.

For more highlights from the 2023 BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report, visit BBBMarketplaceTrust.org/RiskReport.

If you believe you have fallen victim to a scam, report it at BBB.org/ScamTracker.



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

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We decided to travel to the landlocked Central European country of Austria this month for their most popular dessert: *Apfelstrudel*.

This country, that is about the size of South Carolina, shares borders with eight countries: Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Italy, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

Austria is home to nine federal states, called *Bundesländer*: Vienna (*Wien*), Lower Austria (*Niederösterreich*), Upper Austria (*Oberösterreich*), Styria (*Steiermark*), Tyrol (*Tirol*), Carinthia (*Kärnten*), Salzburg, Vorarlberg and Burgenland. Vienna holds the capital city, also Vienna; it is the biggest city and has about a quarter of Austria's population – about 1.7 million inhabitants.

QUICK & IMPRESSIVE FACTS:

- About 62% of the country is covered by the Austrian Alps leading to a rich ski and snowboard history. Austria produced the first ever ski instructor, Hannes Schneider, in the 1920s.
- The world's largest and longest ice cave system is found in the Ice Giants World, Eisriesenwelt, in the Hochkogel mountain near Salzburg. The cave system is 26 miles (42 km) long.



- Waltz is the oldest of the current ballroom dances. First waltzes were danced in the location of today's Germany and Austria.
- The Austrian flag is one of the oldest national flags in the world.
- The oldest existing restaurant in Europe, the St. Peter Stiftskulinarium, is located in Salzburg. It was founded in 803, and it is said that Mozart and Christopher Columbus both dined there.
- The world's oldest zoological garden, the Schönbrunn Zoo, is located on the grounds of the famous Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna.

It was founded in 1752 and is home to more than 700 animal species, some of them threatened.

- Austria is the country where postcards were first issued in 1869. The original can be seen in the treasury of the Museum of Communication in Berlin.

- The founder of the sports car company Porsche was Ferdinand Porsche, born in Maffersdorf, Bohemia, Austria-Hungary, now known as Liberec, Czech Republic.

- Red Bull, the energy drink, was invented by an Austrian named Dietrich Mateschitz.
- Austria has many famous (and infamous) people come from it, just a few are Mozart, Sigmund Freud, Adolf Hitler, Gustav Klimt, Franz Ferdinand, Johann Strauss, Marie Antoinette and Arnold Schwarzenegger.
- The oldest known strudel recipe is from 1697, a handwritten recipe is housed at the Wienbibliothek im Rathaus – the Vienna City Library.

Author's note: While this recipe wasn't overly difficult, it did take me about two hours from start to in the oven – not including cleanup. The hardest part was making sure the dough was thin enough without ripping it, and I was mostly successful (other than a few spots here and there.) I thought the breadcrumbs in it gave it an interesting texture and flavor. Everyone who tried it thought it was pretty good, but I don't think any of us would trade it for American apple pie!

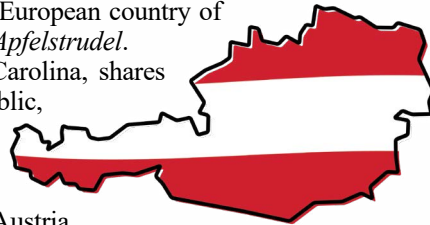


Photo by Daniel Zupanc

INGREDIENTS

Strudel Dough

- ½ c lukewarm water
- 1 Tbsp + ½ tsp neutral tasting vegetable oil
- ½ tsp vinegar (or lemon juice)
- ⅛ tsp fine salt
- 1¼ c scooped and leveled, minus 1 Tbsp bread flour (or all purpose flour)
- ½ teaspoon vegetable oil for brushing the dough
- flour for dusting

DIRECTIONS

To Make the Dough

1. Mix lukewarm water, oil, vinegar and salt in a big bowl. Acid like vinegar helps relax the gluten to make the dough easier to stretch.
2. Stir in about half the flour with a spoon until well combined, then gradually add the remaining flour until it comes together and you can work it with your hands.
3. Knead the dough until smooth for about 10 minutes, either in the bowl or on a working surface. The dough should be moist but not sticky. If it is too sticky to knead, add a little more flour (you shouldn't need more than 1 or 2 additional tablespoons). Slam the dough onto the worksurface a few times to enhance gluten development, yielding a very elastic dough.
4. Shape the dough into a smooth ball. Brush a clean bowl with oil, put the dough into the bowl and brush it with oil (you can do this with your fingers).
5. Cover the bowl with a lid or plastic wrap and let it sit for 30 minutes to 1 hour at room temperature.

To Make the Filling

1. Melt 3 Tbsp of butter in a pan over medium heat and add the breadcrumbs, Vanillezucker and salt. Stir to coat and then toast, stirring constantly, until they are golden. Remove from the heat and let cool.
2. Soak the raisins in rum (traditional) or apple juice for about 10 minutes to get them softened.
3. Peel the apples, quarter and core them. Chop every quarter into ⅛ to ¼ inch thick slices and toss them with lemon juice, sugar and cinnamon. Add the soaked raisins (but not the remaining rum or juice) and mix well.

Stretching and Filling the Dough

1. Roll out the dough with a rolling pin on a clean and lightly floured surface. Flour the surface and the dough every now and then while rolling.
2. When the dough gets about 13-15" in diameter, pick it up then use the back of your hands, particularly your knuckles, to stretch it (remove all sharp jewelry first). This way you can straighten the dough like a pizza.
3. When the dough gets bigger and thinner, and thus difficult to handle, put

Apple Filling

- 5 Tbsp unsalted butter (divided)
- ⅔ cups fine, dry bread crumbs
- 1 Tbsp *Vanillezucker* (German vanilla sugar)
- ⅛ tsp salt
- 5 Tbsp granulated sugar
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- 4 Tbsp raisins
- 3 Tbsp rum for soaking the raisins (or apple juice)
- 2 lbs sweet-tart apples
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- confectioner's sugar for dusting

it down on a lightly floured tablecloth, straighten out the wrinkles in both the tablecloth and the dough. Continue stretching the dough on the tablecloth using your hands.

4. Gently stretch the dough paper-thin from the inside to the outside, working your way around the sheet of dough. Stretch it until it starts to look translucent. (The goal is to be thin enough to read something through it.)
5. In the end, the sheet of dough should be stretched into a rectangular shape, with the shorter edge fitting the baking sheet lengthwise. Thick edges should be cut off.
6. Leaving 1 to 1 ½ inch around the edge, brush half the dough with the remaining 2 Tbsp of melted butter. Spread the breadcrumb-mixture over the other half of the dough and pat down evenly. Spread the apples over the breadcrumbs.
7. Fold in the side-ends of the dough. Using the towel, roll the dough, starting at the apple-topped end. Then gently roll the strudel onto a sheet of parchment paper with the seam-side down.
8. Put the dough onto a baking sheet and brush it with the remaining melted butter.

Baking the Strudel

1. Put the baking sheet in the middle (I used rack 2 of 4 from top) of the preheated oven and bake it at 375°F until golden, for about 30-45 minutes.
2. When the crust turns golden, the Apple Strudel is ready. Take it out of the oven, let it cool slightly, cut it into pieces and serve dusted with confectioner's sugar.





BBB BUSINESS BONUS
BEWARE OF THIS SOCIAL MEDIA
PHISHING SCAM TARGETING
BUSINESS OWNERS

In today's digital age, maintaining a strong online reputation is crucial for businesses. Unfortunately, scammers are exploiting this vulnerability with a new social media phishing scam, aiming to steal Facebook and Instagram login credentials.

The scam operates through fake copyright infringement notices sent via email or direct message on Instagram or Facebook. These messages, designed to appear official, claim that recipients have violated copyright terms, and they must fill out a form immediately to avoid account deletion. Victims are often directed to a counterfeit login page where their credentials are harvested by scammers.

Providing login credentials gives fraudsters access to social media accounts, enabling them to impersonate victims. In addition, if your organization does not follow the practice of creating unique passwords for different accounts, the culprits could potentially access additional platforms using the same username and password.

It's imperative for business owners and their employees to always exercise caution when responding to unsolicited messages requesting sensitive information. Remember, scammers are playing on our worst fears, so they are hoping you quickly respond without doing any further research.

To combat such social media phishing scams, Better Business Bureau® Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula urges businesses to follow these tips:

- **Stay calm.** Whatever you do, do not panic. Scammers hope you will be so concerned about salvaging your social media account that you will do whatever they say without thinking. Instead, keep your cool and do not give in to threats or attempts to intimidate you.
- **Verify the "violation".** Look into the claims before taking any action. Log into your account and look for any official notifications. If the scammer claims to represent a specific account or business, look them up and see if they are associated with suspicious activity.
- **Get to know the policies of any social media platform you use.** If you know how Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and other platforms manage copyright violations and disputes, you will know immediately if the proper procedure has been followed or if your reading is suspicious.
- **Take a closer look at where the messages are coming from.** If you receive a direct message, check out the account behind it. If you receive an email, check the form field carefully. If it comes from a random address that you do not recognize, it is probably a scam. Also, remember that scammers like to use emails that appear to come from an official source but are imitations of real businesses.
- **Report suspicious activity.** Report accounts practicing suspicious activity to the social media platform where they contacted you.
- **Use two-factor authentication.** Verifying login attempts with two-factor authentication can help protect your account from getting hacked if you become a target.

To learn about additional business-related scams and best practices to protect your organization, visit BBB.org/bizscams.



Editorial note: Thanks for reading this bonus article from Melanie Duquesnel at BBB. Read their main article for this month on page 15. Contact your local BBB by calling (248) 223-9400 or by visiting bbb.org.

Classified Marketplace

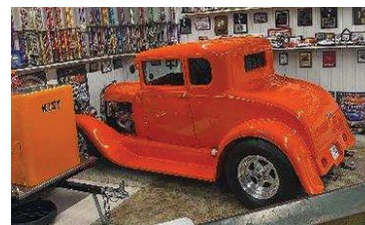
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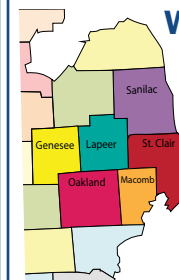
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If you have an event in May that you would like listed in the May issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by April 12, 2024. There is no charge for the listing. Before traveling beyond your hometown to attend any of these events, please call ahead for any changes in dates or times or for any cancellations.

GENESEE

BURTON

2 | Flint Genealogical Society Meeting Burton Senior Center, 3410 S. Grand Traverse, 7:00 p.m. Join us for "Michigan Roots: African American Migration in Michigan" presented by Rozlyn Kelly. There is no charge and all who are interested in genealogy are welcome! If you have any questions, we have knowledgeable people available to help you. For more info visit flintgenealogy.org.

LAPEER

IMLAY CITY

3, 10, 17 & 24 | Eagles #4082 Cornhole Tournament & Ace of Spades Raffle Eagles Hall, 170 S. Almont Ave., sign-up from 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Bag Toss starts at 7:00 p.m., and raffle drawing at 8:00 p.m. Join us as we continue this 10-week tournament for just \$15/person. We'll also have a progressive jackpot each week – win by picking the Ace of Spades! Jackpot is split 60/40 with the club. Each ticket drawn is a winner! \$1 tickets are available at the club, License #C31427. For more info call (810) 724-1954.

5, 12, 19 & 26 | Eagles #4082 Euchre Eagles Hall, 170 S. Almont Ave., check in starts at 6:30 p.m., play starts at 7:00 p.m. Come join us for a fun-filled evening with tournament-style Euchre – no partner needed! \$10/person, 50¢/Euchre. 100% payout! For more info call (810) 724-1954.

LAPEER

7, 14, 21 & 28 | Sunday Flea Market The Lapeer Center Building, 425 County Center St., 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Every Sunday of the month we'll have 50 booths inside and outside selling a huge variety of items to the public. This long-running community event is sponsored by The Lapeer Center Building, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization for over 70 years. We do still have space available if you'd like to participate! For more info email lapeercenter@charter.net or call (810) 664-2109.

12 & 13 | 31st Annual Celebrity Autograph Auction and 38th Annual 4-H Spring Auction

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

MACOMB

CLINTON TWP.

12 | Caring with Laughter: A Night of Comedy The Nail, 36434 Groesbeck Hwy., 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Blankets With Care presents this fun event featuring Knucklehead Comedy! We'll also have a 50/50 drawing and silent auctions. Tickets are \$10 online and \$15 at the door. Please help us bring joy to the homeless, elderly, veterans and those in need in Macomb, St. Clair, Oakland Counties and the surrounding area. For more info email blanketswithcare@gmail.com or follow "blanketswithcare" on Facebook.

13 & 14 | Orff's Carmina Burana Performance Macomb Center for Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Rd., 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. Come listen to this epic concert performed by the Macomb Symphony Orchestra, the Symphonia Chorale, the Oakland Choral Society, the Macomb Choir and the William Harrison Chorale all under the direction of Andrew Neer. \$25/person, discounts available. For tickets and more info call (586) 286-2222.

MEMPHIS

All Month Long | Woman's Life Chapter 855 Bottles and Cans Drive Helping those in need in our community. Make a difference today by donating. For larger donations, we have a pick-up service. Call (810) 543-1128 for pick-up or area drop off locations.

3, 10, 17 & 24 | Wednesday Night Bingo Memphis American Legion Post 566, 34330 Bordman Rd., 5:30 p.m. – 9:15 p.m., games start at 6:30 p.m. Concession stand available, light dinner served at 7:30 p.m. for

a small charge. For more info call (810) 392-3237.

5 & 19 | Fried Cod Dinner Memphis American Legion Post 566, 34330 Bordman Rd., 3:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., for eat in or call ahead (starting at noon) to set up a pick-up time. Chicken tenders available too. \$15/adult, \$7/child (ages 6-12), and children 5 and under eat free with paid adult, eat in only. Call early for the best selection of (limited) desserts! For more info call (810) 392-3237.

5, 12, 19 & 26 | Friday Night Euchre Memphis American Legion Post 566, 34330 Bordman Rd., doors open at 6:30 p.m., start time is 7:00 p.m. \$10/person. For more info call (810) 392-3237.

13 | A Night with Elvis Memphis American Legion Post 566, 34330 Bordman Rd., doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m. and show at 7:00 p.m. Join us in welcoming the award-winning Elvis tribute artist, Darrin Hagel! Dinner and the show is just \$35! Beverages will be available for purchase. For more info call (810) 392-3237.

NEW BALTIMORE

11-13 | Spring Rummage Sale Saint Mary Queen of Creation, Gym and Parish Center, 50931 Maria St., 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. We have all sorts of things! Come on out and see what you can find. For more info call (586) 725-2441.

RAY TWP.

18 | Hudson's Department Store Ray Township Senior Center, 64255 Wolcott Rd., 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Join the Friends of the Ray Township Library and Historical Society for this 1-hr. FREE presentation by Bruce Allen Kopytek. Please register by April 15. If you'd like to learn more about this event or other library events, visit raylibrary.org or call (586) 749-7130.

20 | K of C Council 7561 Euchre Tournament St. Francis-St. Maximilian Church Social Hall, 62811 New Haven Rd., registration, pizza and snacks 5:45 p.m. – 6:25 p.m., games start at 6:30 p.m. Join us for some Euchre fun! \$20/person at the door. For more info call Grace at (810) 343-8011 or John at (810) 343-8005.

RICHMOND

All Month Long | Woman's Life Chapter 855 Bottles and Cans Drive Helping those in need in our community. Make a difference today by donating. For larger donations, we have a pick-up service. Call (810) 543-1128 for pick-up or area drop off locations.

2 | Woman's Life Chapter 855 Meeting Lois Wagner Library, 35200 Division Rd., 6:30 p.m. Everyone is

welcome to attend. We are a friendly group of women who enjoy doing charitable acts for those in need in the community. We are looking for new members to help us in our cause. For questions, please call (586) 872-3867.

4-6 | St. Augustine's Rummage Sale St. Augustine Parish Hall, 68035 Main St., 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 8:00 a.m. – noon on Saturday. Come out and see what treasures you might discover! Sponsored by the St. Augustine Altar Sodality. For more info, contact Darlene at (586) 206-0822.

ROMEO

12 | The Greater Washington Area Historical Society Celebrates Washington Township's 197th Anniversary The Abbey on Main, 102 Church St., doors open at 6:00 p.m. for cocktails, dinner at 7:00 p.m. Join us to help celebrate while raising funds for the Washington Historical Museum. We'll have a delicious meal, music by Wayward Wind, raffles, a silent auction and community awards. \$60/person. For more info go to washhistsoc.org or call Sam at (586) 206-5185.

ROSEVILLE

9 | The Golden Age of Television Roseville Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., 2:00 p.m. Join us for this presentation by Tom Arwady of Troy Historic Village, on the invention of the TV and how it became the dominant media in the '40s-'60s. We'll delve deep into trivia on several genres of early television, such as variety shows, sitcoms, westerns, cartoons, as well as news and commercials. No registration required. For more info and a full list of library events, visit rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events or call (586) 445-5407.

11 | Green Thumb #2 – How to Prepare for the Garden Season? Roseville Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., 6:00 p.m. Join us as we welcome Lori Smith, Advanced Macomb County Master Gardener. She will share her advice and many tips on starting and preparing your garden, including soil tests and adjustments, space clearing, calendar activities and ways to get your kids involved. Registration open. For more info and a full list of library events, visit rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events or call (586) 445-5407.

25 | Book Tasting Roseville Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., 6:00 p.m. Looking to hear more about interesting new books? Join us for an evening "Dinner" where books are on the menu. There will be a wide variety of selections to choose from, as well as an opportunity to enjoy a delicious "bite". On the menu is Off the Wall, Nonfiction, General Fiction and Suspense. Registration opens

April 4. For more info and a full list of library events, visit rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events or call (586) 445-5407.

SHELBY TWP.

11 | Shelby Garden Club Presentation Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center, 4101 River Bends Dr., 1:00 p.m. Join us for the presentation "Let's Bee Friends" presented by Kerry Wysocki. Come meet and apiarist raising bees in the burbs! Our beekeeper will bring items for sale from her hive and garden. Space is limited to the first 40 guests. A fee of \$5 is appreciated to support our ongoing community service projects. For more info contact Ivy at shelbytwpgardenclub@gmail.com or (586) 873-3782.

WASHINGTON

All Month Long | Advance Ticket Sales for the Friends of the Octagon House's Mother's Day Tea event on May 4 at the Loren Andrus Octagon House, 57500 Van Dyke. \$25/person. For more info and tickets call (586) 781-0084 or email reservations@octagonhouse.org.

19 | Open House The Loren Andrus Octagon House, 57500 Van Dyke, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. for self-guided tours. Docents are on-site to assist visitors in the exploration of the 1860 historic three-story house. Admission is \$5. The Sweet Mountain Strings will be performing with dulcimer music until 3:00 p.m. For more info visit octagonhouse.org, email info@octagonhouse.org or call (586) 781-0084.

27-May 4 | Donations Request for the May Book Sale The Loren Andrus Octagon House, 57500 Van Dyke, leave donations on the porch. Friends of the Octagon House are asking for donations of books, games and puzzles. For more info visit octagonhouse.org, email info@octagonhouse.org or call (586) 781-0084.

OAKLAND

OXFORD

5, 12, 19 & 26 | Friday Fish Fry American Legion Post 108, 130 E. Drahn Rd., noon – 8:00 p.m. Average cost is \$12/person. We have walleye, cod and shrimp, combo plates and carry out is available. Building is sanitized daily. For more info call (248) 628-9081.

ROYAL OAK

12 | Red Run: The Ghost River of Royal Oak Royal Oak Historical Museum, 7:00 p.m. Join us for this presentation by Bob Muller, a local historian and naturalist. \$15/person and limited to 50 people.

For more info or to register visit royaloakhistoricalsociety.com.

ST. CLAIR

ALGONAC

All Month Long | Advance Ticket Sales for Spring Tea & Luncheon presented by the Algonac-Clay Twp. Historical Society, event on May 4 at St. Catherine's Activity Center, 1106 St. Clair Blvd. We'll have the program WWI Telephone "Hello Girls" by Lois Keel. \$20/person. For more info call Mary at (810) 794-9214 or visit achistory.com.

2 | Woman's Life Chapter 883 Meeting Maritime Museum, 1117 St. Clair River Dr., 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome, and we're always looking for new members. For more info contact Paula at paulaburgess@comcast.net, (810) 278-4466 or (810) 794-9641.

10 | Fish Dinner Fundraiser Johnny Lega's Restaurant, 9724 Pearl Beach Blvd., 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Join us to raise funds for the Algonac-Clay Township Historical Society with a delicious dinner (\$25/person) and gun raffle (\$20/ticket)! Dinner includes cod, redskin potatoes, coleslaw, tartar sauce & dessert. Cash bar and gratuities NOT included. Purchase tickets in advance or at the door. For more info or tickets, contact Paula at paulaburgess@comcast.net or (810) 794-9641.

13 | Official Launch Party for the 2024 65th Anniversary Edition of Know Your Ships Maritime Museum, 1117 St. Clair River Dr., 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The book's editor/publisher Roger LeLievre will be here to sell and sign copies. Stickers, magnets and the *Know Your Ships EXTRA* magazine will be available for purchase. Plus, Catherine Schmuck, the author of the Great Lakes cookbook *Ship to Shore Chef*, will be here! A \$5 donation at the door includes admission to the museum and earns you \$5 off on author purchases. Tickets for the 2024 Larger Than Life Cash Raffle will also be on sale at this event! For more info visit achistory.com.

24-26 | Friends of the Algonac-Clay Library Spring Book Sale Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., during library hours. Besides gently-used hardcover and paperback books, there will be DVDs and more! Proceeds support library projects and programs. For more info or a full list of library events, visit stclaircountylibrary.org/events and select your local library or call (810) 794-4471.

CASCO

6 & 20 | Euchre Tournament St. James United Church of Christ Basement, 9008 Meisner Rd., play starts at 6:30 p.m. Join us for lots of

fun where laughter is pretty much a guarantee! \$10/person and euchres are 25¢ each. For more info call (586) 727-1623.

KIMBALL

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

13 | The Chapelaires in Concert Wadhams Baptist Church, 5461 Lapeer Rd., 6:00 p.m. Join us for a wonderful show by the Southern Gospel-style group out of London, Ontario. For more info call (810) 982-4253 or visit chapelaires.com.

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

MARINE CITY

3, 10, 17 & 24 | Play Bridge Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Join us to play this fun card game, alternates weekly duplicate and party bridge-style. You MUST pre-register! No experienced needed for party bridge-style, experienced players only for duplicate-style, experienced players only. No partner needed. \$2 to play. For more info, to register or for on-going free bridge lessons, contact Tom at tjbroyles@aol.com or (810) 326-0121.

16-May 2 | Friends of the Marine City Library Book Sale Drop Off Begins Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker, during library hours. Book sale will be May 2 – 4, with \$2 bag days on May 6 and 7. For more information call (810) 765-8487.

MARYSVILLE

3, 10, 17 & 24 | Knights of Columbus #9526 Wednesday Bingo The Knight Club, 1195 Gratiot Blvd., 6:20 p.m. start time. (Doors open 2 hours prior.) For more info call (810) 364-6800.

13 | Princess Luna Presents A Night at the Races Alexander's Premier Banquet Facility & Catering, 1200 Gratiot Blvd., doors open at 5:00 p.m., dinner served at 5:30 p.m. with a 4-hour open bar. Enjoy a fun night as we digitally watch the horses round the track while supporting the SCC K9 Unit Dogs, BWAHS and the SCC Animal Control. We'll have many raffles and prizes. Tickets must be

purchased by April 5. Must be 21+ to attend. Tickets \$45/person or \$430/table of 10. Horses are \$25 each, and you can purchase horses without attending the event. For more info email lunasraceforpaws@gmail.com.

NORTH STREET

3 | St. Clair Kennel Club General Meeting Dorsey House, 6008 Beard Rd., 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Calling all dog lovers to come see what we're all about! For more info visit our website stclairkc.org or email stclairkennelclub@gmail.com.

PORT HURON

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

1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 | Play Bridge Palmer Park Recreation Center, 2829 Armour St., 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on the first Monday, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. all other dates. Join us to play this fun card game, party bridge-style, no experienced needed. No partner needed. \$1 to play. For more info, to register or for on-going free bridge lessons, contact Tom at tjbroyles@aol.com or (810) 326-0121.

3 | The St. Clair County Retirees' Association Meeting Council on Aging Senior Center, third floor, 600 Grand River Ave., doors open at 11:30 a.m., lunch is served at noon. The St. Clair County Sheriff's office will make a presentation about scams. \$5/person. For more info email sccra917@gmail.com.

4, 11, 18 & 25 | Cornhole Tournament Charles A. Hammond American Legion Auxiliary Unit #8, 1026 6th St., 7:00 p.m. Join us to play some cornhole! \$5 to play. Open to the public and all levels of experience are welcome. For more info call (810) 982-9553.

5, 12, 19 & 26 | Euchre Charles A. Hammond American Legion Auxiliary Unit #8, 1026 6th St., 1:00 p.m. Join us for this fun card game! \$5 to play. Open to the public. For more info call (810) 982-9553.

15 | Port Huron Elks Lodge #343's 61st Consecutive Blood Drive Port Huron Elks Lodge #343, 3292 Beach Rd., noon – 6:00 p.m. We

have been supporting the American Red Cross since 2013 and have collected over 250 gallons of blood. To make an appointment, please call (800) RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go to RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: porthuronekls343. For more info email elks343@comcast.net or call (810) 982-8531.

21 | AYCE Breakfast Port Huron Masonic Lodge #58, 927 6th St., Port Huron, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Join us for our All You Can Eat Breakfast! We'll have choice of eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, potatoes, amazing coffee, as well as juice and water. \$10/adult. Discounts for veterans, service members and seniors. For more info call (810) 982-5044.

ST. CLAIR

2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26 & 30 | Play Bridge St. Clair Community Center, 308 S. 5th St., noon – 3:00 p.m. Join us to play this fun card game. On Tuesdays we play party bridge-style, no experienced needed for \$1, and on Fridays we play duplicate-style, experienced players only for \$5. No partner needed. For more info, to register or for on-going free bridge lessons, contact Tom at tjbroyles@aol.com or (810) 326-0121.

4, 11, 18 & 25 | Play Bridge Voyageur Restaurant, 252 S. Riverside Ave., noon – 3:00 p.m. Join us for lunch and to play this just-for-fun bridge card game, no experience needed. No partner needed. No cost. For more info, to register or for on-going free bridge lessons, contact Tom at tjbroyles@aol.com or (810) 326-0121.

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

6, 7, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 & 28 | The Wizard of Oz On Stage Boardwalk Theatre, 109 S. Third St., times vary per date. The show opened on March 23. ThumbCoast Theaters is proud to showcase a tremendous variety of talent in our biggest family friendly show of the season! For more info and ticket purchases, visit ThumbCoastTheaters.com or call (810) 278-1749.

25 | St. Clair County Genealogy & History Society Program St. Clair Historical Museum, 308 Fourth St., 7:00 p.m. Join us for "Genealogy Resources Available thru St. Clair County Library" by Randi Mathieu, Library Technician at SCC Michigan Room. Learn about old and new

databases with access to many Michigan historical newspapers. For more info visit sccghs.org or find us on Facebook.

SMITHS CREEK

5 | Fish Fry American Legion Post 525, 7150 Smiths Creek Rd., 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Join us for some delectable fish! \$11/adult and \$5/child (12 & under). For more info call (810) 367-6351.

14 | Smiths Creek Masonic Lodge Monthly Breakfast Smiths Creek Masonic Lodge #498, 335 Henry St. (across the street from the Pink Elephant), 8:00 a.m. – noon. Join us for delicious eggs, bacon, potatoes, French toast, pancakes (plain & blueberry), along with coffee, orange juice, white and chocolate milk. AYCE for only \$10/adult and \$5/child under 12. For more info email clintonsharrard@comcast.net.

YALE

12 & 26 | K of C Council 8710 Fish Fries Fr. Dunn Hall, Sacred Heart Church, 310 N. Main St., lunch: noon – 1:00 p.m. or dinner: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (or until sold out). Come on out for fish, slaw, mac & cheese, fries, potatoes, rolls, drinks and dessert! We'll have dine-in or carryout. Thank you for your support! For more info email melln1@yahoo.com.

SANILAC

SANDUSKY

13 & 27 | Thumb Dance Club & Euchre Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Please join us for fun, fellowship and live music for only \$5. It's a great place to celebrate a birthday or anniversary because the hall and music are provided. We'll be enjoying a potluck dinner at 3:00 p.m., and would love if you bring a snack to share or a dish to pass. This is a smoke and alcohol-free environment. All ages are welcome! For more info call (810) 310-2715.

28 | Sanilac County Historic Village & Museum's Quarter Auction Mint, 4 Sanilac Rd., doors open at 2:15 p.m., auction starts at 3:00 p.m. \$10/person at the door gets 1 bidding paddle or buy in advance for 3 paddles! Light refreshments included, but we'll have a cash bar. Additional paddles for \$5. Bids range 25¢-\$1. Bid by placing required number of quarters in the jar and raise your paddle. Numbers will be drawn until they match a raised bid paddle. The more paddles, the more bids, the better your chances! All money raised will support the Sanilac County Historical Society, including \$500 in matching funds offered by Lexington Woman's Life Chapter 927! For more info email schsbrittany@gmail.com.

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NOTES FROM OUR READERS

To *ThumbPrint News*,

The first Monday of every month, a group of Detroit Fire retirees meet for breakfast around 8:30 a.m. at Dimitri's Opa Restaurant at Gratiot and 23 Mile Road in Chesterfield. When I leave, I get your paper that is dropped off there – I enjoy reading it. Enclosed is a photo of some of us guys.

Thank you, Bill E.,
Roseville, MI

Bill, we sincerely thank you and your cohorts for all your life-saving skills and for sharing your monthly breakfast with us.

Best Regards, TPN Staff



To *ThumbPrint Staff*,

Thank you so much! You have been so wonderful publishing our events for the Crocker House Museum in Mt. Clemens.

I so enjoy reading your newspaper. There are so many interesting articles. When my mom was alive, she always asked me to pick up a *ThumbPrint News* for her.

Diane D., Clinton Twp., MI

You're welcome! We love that we're able to include the community events for people. Thank you for sharing and continuing to read!

Sincerely, TPN Staff

Dear Laura at *ThumbPrint News*,

I thank you for working with me on getting Dr. Meagan Krick's business card in the next two issues of your paper as a thank you to her for her excellent physical therapy skills that helped me regain mobility. I highly recommend her to anyone who needs physical therapy.

Sincerely, Bernie S., Brown City, MI

Bernine,

It was a pleasure speaking with you and working with you to get your thank you gift in our paper.

Sincerely, Laura

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Jeffrey Leonardi is a travel sales professional and the owner of Travel Time Vacations & Cruises. He's been booking annual adventures and trips of a lifetime for his clients for 28 years.

"I was No. 1 at AAA at one time, and then I was in the Top 10 in the world in what they call the 'Best of the Best for American Express,'" Leonardi said. "I do everything from escorted tours to independent tours, air travel to the Caribbean and Europe. I have dual citizenship, in Italy as well as the United States. I specialize in Europe, the Mediterranean, as well as London, England.

"I'm very tenacious. Any challenge that is given to me, I'm up to the challenge," Leonardi said. "I'll do whatever it takes to make sure that clients know I am their advocate for their travel needs, and I will be there for them."

Leonardi has booked more than 20,000 trips in his career and has traveled extensively himself.

"I've been on over 40 cruises. I've been to Europe more times than I can count. I've been to Hawaii 57 times, and I've traveled the world," Leonardi said. "I work like an old-fashioned travel agent. I work from the day you book with me to the day you get home. I take care of everything."

Leonardi said he knows how to make sure everything goes smoothly, and also how important it is to prepare in case things don't. He knows when and how to use travel insurance, and how to make sure the fine details are taken care of to protect his clients.

"I've seen it all. Once in a while, I get a surprise. I'll deal with it, but I don't stress about it, and I make sure my clients don't stress at all," Leonardi said. "I'm there for them. That's my job, and I enjoy my job."

Proof of his skill and the level of satisfaction enjoyed by his clients can be found in his 95% repeat client and referral rate.

"It's the longevity I have in this. I have a master's degree in travel and tourism," Leonardi said. "If you're going through the internet, you have nobody to talk to and to cover you. I am your first and last contact, and I take care of it all."

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

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