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ThumbPrint News

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



JUNE 2013

Inside This Issue

PAGE 7 Tasty Summer Treats



PAGE 15 The Bighorn 50 Miler



PAGE 23 What A Great Place!



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Who could imagine that something as seemingly insignificant as an eyelash could change the course of one's life forever? Who could dream that the simple act of wiping one's cheek could yield an encounter that would produce the future star of a successful children's book series, a musical, and an educational program?

Well, these are questions that I still find myself wondering about quite often.

My name is Julie Woik. I'm the author and creator of *The Life and Times of Lilly the Lash*®, a successful children's book series in which an eyelash utilizes her charm and mystic to playfully explore important life lessons, and empower audiences everywhere to build strong self-esteem and good character.

Of course there are millions of creative people doing millions of wonderful things all around the world every single day, and there's a story to accompany each and every one of them. I'm no exception. However, over the years I've discovered that people aren't only enamored by the tantalizing tale regarding the birth of Lilly the Lash®, but they also want to be part of the journey forward as well. Lilly has this way of engaging virtually everyone she comes into contact with, leaving them with a lasting impression of down-home goodness and heart-felt hope. People want to be part of that. They want to be connected to that. They want to believe that together we can make the world a better place. And THAT, I have deemed, is what really makes this story worth telling.

So let's take a moment to step back in time. It all began late one night, in May 2006, on my way to the bathroom! Yes, that's right,

See *LILLY*, Page 20



By Robert L. Christensen
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Like most small boys of my era, my favorite game was cowboys and Indians. Our heroes were Tom Mix, the Lone Ranger, Roy Rogers and Gene Autry. Each weekend we eagerly awaited the respective radio shows that featured these famous cowboys (we never guessed that they were not real cowboys!). The latter two were what were called "Singing Cowboys" and might be credited with giving us some limited measure of music appreciation, although at the time we grudged the program time spent by Roy and Gene as they crooned to their horse, the cows, or to their buddies (seldom, if ever, directly to a girl). Girls were generally

helpless creatures who needed help to save the ranch from the grasping banker or land baron. On the radio at least there was little hint of anything more than a platonic or brotherly relationship between our hero and a girl! From the perspective of a few years and some experience it is possible that an adult might read something more behind the lines. Since I haven't heard any of these radio shows in more than 50 years, it is only speculative. Roy did have a lady friend named



See *HI-YO SILVER*, Page 12

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Our first cover story in this edition introduces Julie Woik and her children's book series which features Lilly the Lash as the main character. We hope you enjoy reading the article and have a chance to visit Julie's website, www.lillythelash.com. We are hoping that this is just the beginning of a long-term relationship with Julie and Lilly and we have plans to feature their articles on a regular basis in upcoming issues.

The reason I am so excited about this article is that I truly believe that Julie, Lilly and their positive messages will be welcomed in the Thumb area of Michigan.

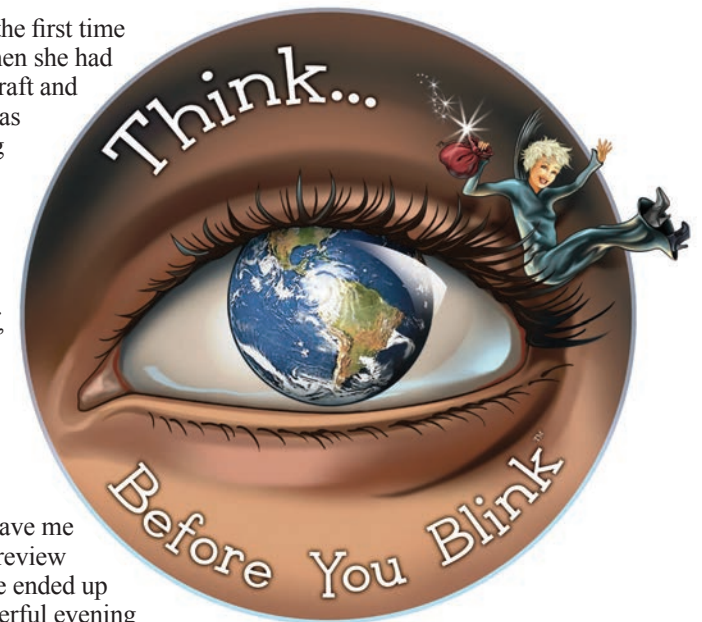
ThumbPrint News has been called my many of our readers "a good news newspaper". We hear with each issue how people enjoy the positive nature of our newspaper and how they share their issue with friends and family when they are through reading it. They talk about how some of the articles by our regular writers, such as David Gillis and the Restless Retiree, promote "old-fashioned values". This was always one of our goals when establishing *ThumbPrint News* and it is good to know that many people think we have been successful.

It seems that not a day goes by that we aren't bombarded in daily newspapers, on the internet, on the radio and on television with news that isn't positive. It would be wrong of me to think that there is not a place for this type of reporting as well. We do need to know what is going on in our world – both good and not good – so that we can strive to make positive changes for

the good of mankind.

I met Julie Woik for the first time in Sarasota, Florida, when she had a tent set up at a local craft and farmer's market. She was there promoting, selling and signing her books about Lilly the Lash. I immediately started what ended up being a lengthy conversation with Julie about herself, Lilly, and her mission. Julie is such a dynamic person. Her passion for Lilly and her messages of good character and values are immediately apparent. Julie kindly gave me her first three books to review – and I was hooked! We ended up spending another wonderful evening under our tiki hut discussing Lilly and all of the new ventures that are in the works: books, a play, and, possibly, a television series.

These are books that are fun to read, are vibrantly illustrated, and that could be read by children themselves or as read-alouds for parents, teachers, grandparents and others who have influence over a child's life. Julie's website, www.lillythelash.com, which is accessible even to those who have not purchased one of her books, offers lesson plans, activities, wall charts, etc. that can all be printed out at no charge and used in helping children develop good character.



I think that helping our future generations to develop these positive traits is the key to changing our world into a place where everyone can live and love in harmony. Julie and Lilly are well-known in Florida and are starting to have a presence in other states and in Canada. I am proud to introduce them to the Thumb of Michigan! Watch out for Julie and Lilly; they are soaring daily to higher and higher heights! I want to be a part of that journey and want to share that journey with you!

DIANE KODET
Editor, *ThumbPrint News*

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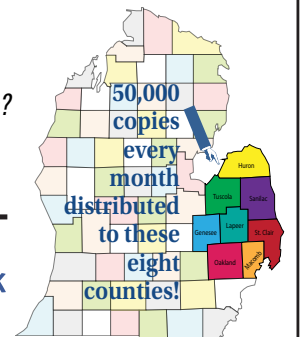
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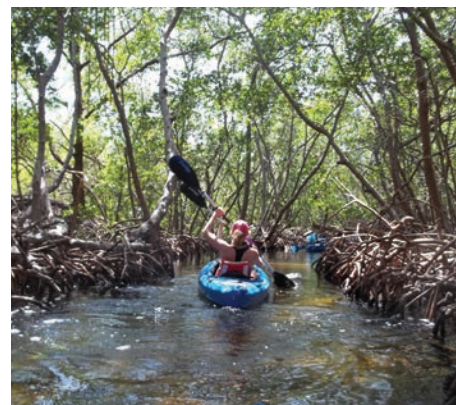
By Diane L. Kodet
 ThumbPrint News Editor

Obviously one thing many Thumb Birds think about doing when they travel to the Sarasota, Florida, area is spending the day on one of the many fabulous beaches of Sarasota County. However, I would like to suggest that there is another really cool thing to do on a hot day when visiting this gem of the Florida Gulf coast – go kayaking!

I recently had the chance to try kayaking for the first time. The day was bright and sunny and about 85 degrees. Having signed up for an Eco-Tour with Sarasota Bay Explorers, we made our way to Mote Marine Aquarium, which is the place from which our kayak tour was leaving. (Mote is not only an aquarium, but also a world renowned marine laboratory that conducts research on marine plant and animal life and also helps to rescue injured marine animals and nurse them back to health until they can be released into the ocean.) Sarasota Bay Explorers operates

a desk just outside the main entrance to Mote Aquarium, which is located at 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway in Sarasota.

Our guide was a trained naturalist/marine biologist who provided a narrated introduction to the marine life of Sarasota Bay as we cruised on a tour boat for approximately 30 minutes to the south end of Long Boat Key. There, tunnels that were cut through the mangrove forest to encourage water to flow more freely also provide the perfect place for kayaks to explore not only the mangrove trees but also the wildlife that is found within. Once we reached our destination, our kayaks, which were being hauled behind the tour boat, were



The narrow opening in the Mangrove tunnel proved to be challenging but fun.

unleashed and lined up along the sandy beach for a short introduction to the art of kayaking. Now it was time to get our feet wet!

Even as a novice, I had no trouble guiding my kayak

through the narrow, twisted pathways of the mangrove tunnels, thanks to the excellent instruction of our guide. When we were inside the tunnels, which actually consisted of the twisted branches and roots of the mangroves, it seemed as if we were in another world. The filtered sunlight splashing through the trees onto the narrow stream bounced off and created the effect of jewels hidden among the leaves. Even though the day was hot, inside the tunnels the gentle breeze and shade from the overhead trees kept the temperature at a comfortable level.

The tour, which lasted three hours, went by way too quickly. It was a once in a lifetime experience for me and something I would recommend to anyone visiting the Sarasota area. On the tour boat back to Mote Marine Aquarium, our guide talked about and passed around many interesting sea creatures from the mangroves,



Our guide lines up the kayaks on the beach in preparation for a mini-lesson.



The kayaks that we would use were tethered to the back of the tour boat.

including various species of crabs, a sea urchin, a star fish, a huge conch shell and others, before releasing them back to their underwater paradise.

If you are interested in this or other Eco Tours offered by Sarasota Bay Explorers, call (941) 388-4200 for information, reservations and ticket sales. You can also go to sarasotabayexplorers.com for a full description of each of the tours that are offered. This is one cool thing you'll want to experience! 🐦

Editor's note: If you are a Thumb Bird and you spend part of the year in Florida, why not join our Thumb Bird email list? The purpose of this list will be to communicate with each other about things to do and see, events to attend, recommendations for restaurants, hotels, etc. and just to share interesting highlights of our Florida experiences. The only requirements to be on this list will be that you live or have lived in the areas served by ThumbPrint News and that you now either spend part or all of the year in Florida. Please send your first and last name, your mailing address and phone number in both Michigan and Florida and your email to thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Thumb Birds" in the subject line. Alternately, you can mail that information to me at Diane Kodet, ThumbPrint News, 8061 Marsh Rd., Algonac, Michigan, 48001. I assure you that none of your information will be shared with anyone else without your permission. Hopefully, the Thumb Bird group can include enough people who may wish to get together sometime in the future – and, if you are in the Sarasota area when I am, let me know. I will send you an invitation to join us for a few drinks and hors d'oeuvres under our backyard tiki hut while we talk about Florida and Michigan stuff!

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(Editor's note: In our May 2013 issue, David Gillis, one of our regular columnists, in his article, "Grandma's Kitchen", shared his memories of his grandmother's wonderful baking – most of which were made with lard as one of the ingredients. In Bob Christensen's letter below, he also shares a memory of growing up with lard – however, this time used in a much different way! Interestingly, my husband, who grew up in Port Huron, Michigan, was just telling me the other day about some of the same lunches he had as a child as are mentioned in Bob's letter.)

LARD SANDWICHES

Back in the 1930's and 1940s we were poor. It wasn't bad for us because we didn't really know we were poor. Only in retrospect do we really know how bad it was. Yet we survived.

Believe it or not, one of my favorite meats is bologna. When I was a kid we almost never had bologna sandwiches to carry to school, while quite a few of the other kids did. Even today when we visit family in Michigan I look forward to buying a ring of bologna to eat raw. It never tastes the same anywhere else.

We did carry sandwiches made with other things. We had jelly and jam and

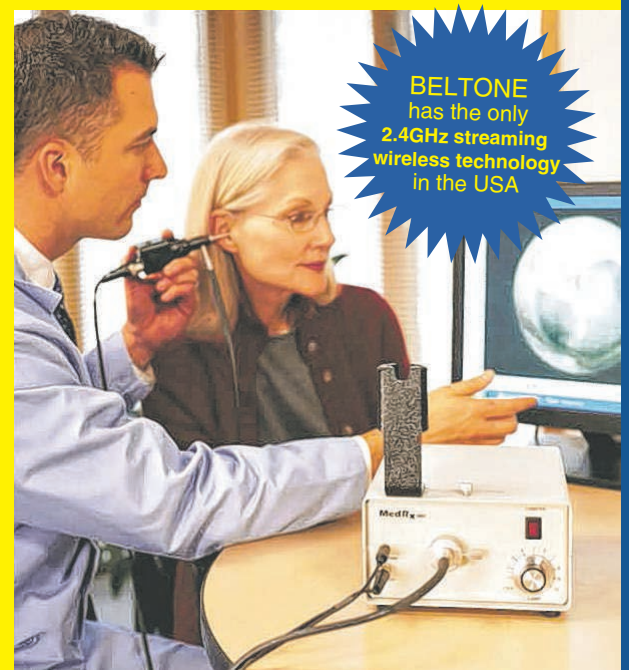
peanut butter. Apple butter was very popular with my mother. In good times she got special treats for us called "potted meat". Today this stuff is not cheap but it must have been back then. Today I hate the stuff! There was a reason why we didn't have the luncheon meats, but at the time I didn't understand. We didn't have a refrigerator, so for many months of the year we ate meats fresh or canned and/or cured. Leave any luncheon meat out at room temperature today and they quickly become slimy and unappetizing (as well as potentially hazardous to your health). We often had some of the canned beef or pork on sandwiches that I enjoyed and would still to this day.

What I remember more vividly are the low points of the lunches we carried to school. The next to worst were cold sliced boiled potatoes on sandwich bread. They could have some flavor with salt and pepper. The "pits" however, were lard sandwiches. You knew things were tough when all you had to put on your bread was lard. When those times came you hoped that rather than plain white lard you would get the drippings or fried off fat from bacon or the salt fatback. At least they had some flavor!

Bob Christensen
Bradenton, Florida

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Classroom Attitude Adjustment

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

Last year I began working with an area high school in the development of a program entitled “restorative justice.” While not a new concept, it is for schools and focuses on providing methods of behavioral modification for those students who need correction, which also is not new. In essence, it offers alternatives to the normal punitive sanctions of detention, suspension or expulsion by involving the offending student in seeking solutions in a positive manner.

I enjoy working with the challenges and satisfaction found in this concept, but that is not what this essay is about. It only offers an introduction to my recollection of those methods of student behavior adjustment learned many years ago. They were quite different and, although many may disagree, substantially effective. You won’t, however, find them used in classrooms today.

Probably the person I identify as my favorite teacher now, wasn’t at the time I was a student at Algonac Elementary School. She was serious about ensuring her students received an education and offered a good mix of dedication, compassion and discipline in the process. Unfortunately, or as it may be, fortunately for me, she was my teacher in the fourth as well as the sixth grade.

At nine years of age it seems children have fairly well perfected mischievous behavior. I guess that’s part of the adolescent effort to gain independence well in advance of when it is deserved. And, even as it is today, what better place to experiment with the discovery of freedom of expression than in the classroom where one can perform for other students.

One of the more memorable conclusions of bad manners in the classroom was the teacher’s mandate to write a substantial number of times, “I will not _____.” You might want to fill in the blank from your own recalled acts of ill-conceived and misdirected wisdom. What was more embarrassing was if you had to do it on the blackboard during class while others watched and giggled. It even became worse when you had to remain after school to clean your literary masterpiece off the blackboard. Find that in a classroom today.

Another humiliating punishment was only meted out after fair warning from the teacher. She had a strict rule about not chewing gum in her class and she announced at the beginning of the school year what would happen if she caught someone doing it. Invariably, there were

always those who doubted her or simply forgot. The result was the placement of the gum on your nose where it stayed and dried for the remainder of the class. It seemed that when this happened the teacher always found an opportunity for the student to rise, face the class, and read something.

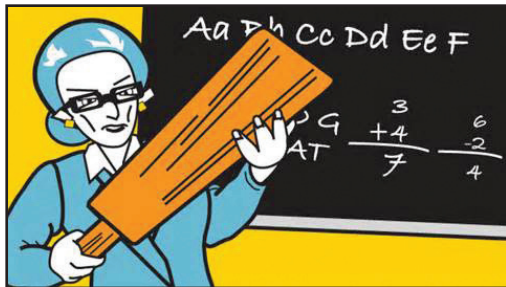
Another classroom management practice of this teacher involved a wooden ruler that seemed to somehow be attached to her hand. A quick slap on the palm of your hand normally served as an effective adjustment to a student’s bad judgment regarding behavior.

Most of these practices not found in today’s classroom were experienced in my fourth grade. At the very mature age of eleven and in the sixth grade, we learned just how serious she was about discipline and an open demonstration of just who was in charge. That’s when we were introduced to the “board of education,” a well-designed paddle made of oak.

My teacher didn’t use the paddle that often during the second year I spent in her classroom before moving on to junior high school. The few times she resorted to demonstrating its effectiveness on a student was enough for most of the other students because it was done in front of the class. The misbehaving student was told to bend over with hands on knees and a moment later a single whack in the appropriate place addressed the wrongful incident for which it was administered. The vision of the punishment rested in the minds of all other students and served well as a deterrent of misconduct. To add insult to injury, students who met the “board of education” were required to place their initials on the wooden surface.

Now, before anyone decides to write letters to the editor about corporal punishment and how it is psychologically damaging causing low self-esteem, sadness, shame and depression, please understand that I am not promoting that we return to the “good old days.” What I am explaining, however, based on current experience in working with high-risk kids in high school, is that possibly some formerly used approaches in the earlier years might be beneficial.

I haven’t personally experienced low self-esteem, am rarely sad, and have not suffered from depression. Yet, I recall having to write repetitive sentences on the blackboard and my initials are embedded on my sixth grade teacher’s “board of education.” At this point in my life my only comment to her would be, “Thank you.” 🍌



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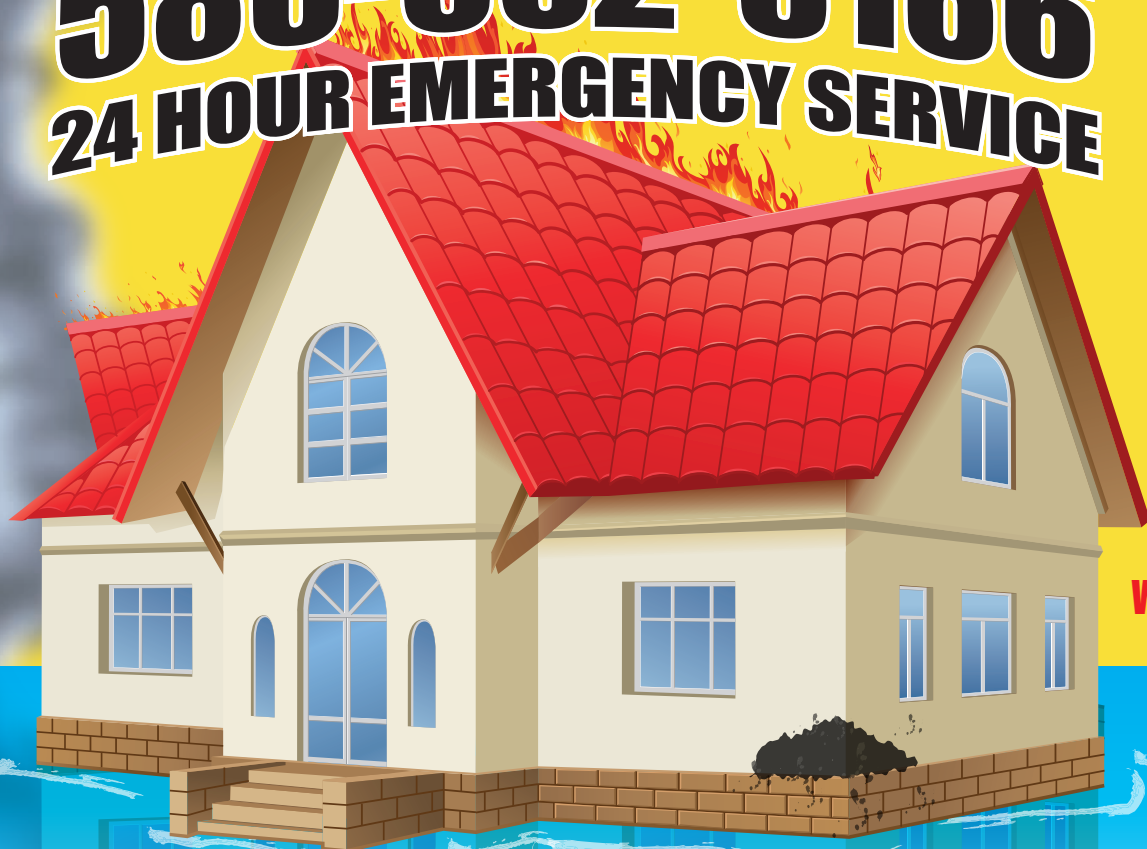
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in the community and offer our customers a new menu and updated image," states Larry. "Customers love the friendly atmosphere and know that they can count on consistently great food." *ThumbPrint News* wishes Four Star Grille best wishes for many more successful years as part of Marysville's business community.



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of this issue



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Continued from Page 1

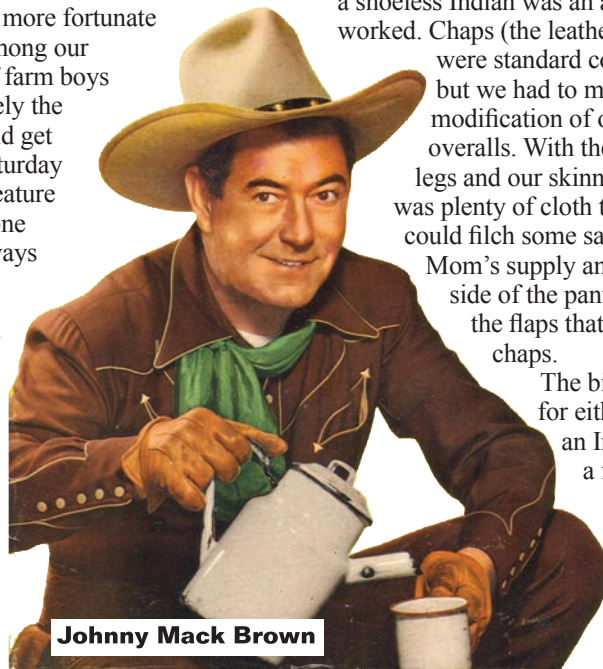
Dale Evans, who actually became his wife in real life. Her horse was given the cutesy name of "Buttermilk". We also enjoyed the gargly voices of the comic relief characters of Andy Devine and Pat Buttrum.

Some of the more fortunate and affluent among our small group of farm boys of approximately the same age would get to go to the Saturday night double feature movie where one movie was always a western.

Additional movie cowboy heroes included Johnny Mack Brown and Hopalong Cassidy. Tom Mix had a particular connection since my mother had seen him in

person in Greenville before she married. I should mention too, that most of the more famous of the "Cowboy Stars" were also comic book characters. From a moralistic viewpoint these western heroes became icons for our generation who were honest, strove to right wrongs, did not drink liquor, were kind to animals, were unfailingly polite and protective to women, and seldom killed anyone (although the bad guys were often wounded in shootouts). The ones that did get killed were always the bad guys. This was before the somewhat more violent radio shows and movies featuring actors like Jack Palance and John Wayne in which people did get killed. Some of the cowboy heroes even had brief runs in the early days of television.

Much of our play with other kids took place at school during recesses and lunch hours. We did our best to emulate the costumes of the cowboys with our limited resources. Toy guns were the easiest because they were common presents given to boys at birthdays and Christmas, usually as a result of strong lobbying on the part of the boy. (Kids today lobby the same way for video games). The boys would also borrow Dad's straw hat as a sombrero and sometimes a pair of Mom's high heels. (In our farm area men wore work shoes not western style

**Johnny Mack Brown**

boots). Mom was usually not amused!

Wearing Mom's high heels often backfired because the boy might be teased for wearing girl's shoes, even though they made him two inches taller than his peers. Since some of us had to be Indians and at home or school went barefoot, being a shoeless Indian was an alternative that worked. Chaps (the leather leggings) were standard cowboy attire, but we had to make do with a modification of our normal denim overalls. With the roomy pant legs and our skinny shanks there was plenty of cloth to work with. We could filch some safety pins from Mom's supply and pin the outer side of the pant legs to simulate the flaps that looked like chaps.

The biggest difficulty for either a cowboy or an Indian was having a faithful and well trained steed. None of us had the real thing, but imagination supplied us with just what we wanted. We

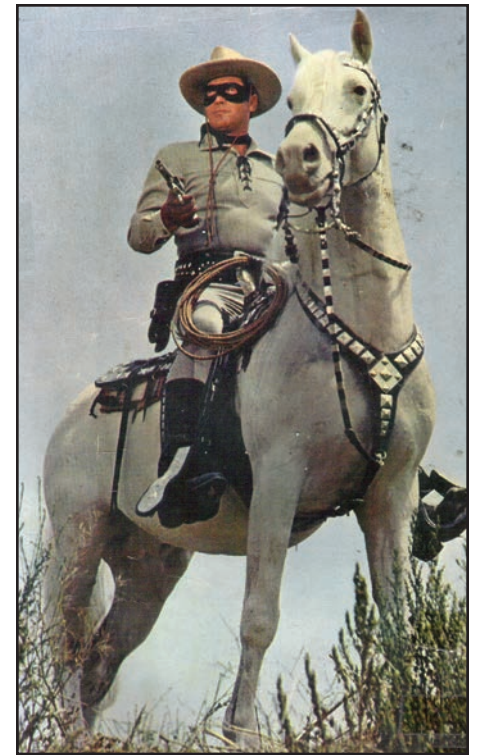
could see ourselves riding a palomino stallion, an Arabian, or a quarter horse. With our youthful legs we galloped, trotted and cantered, complete with sound effects. For the illusion it was necessary to exercise the full vocabulary of commands and encouragement for "Trigger", "Silver", "Champ", "Scout", "Paint", etc. I'm sure our teacher was treated to a wonderful mélange of roundups, massacres and gunfights during her tenure. She must have somehow kept track of us because I fail to recall any real instances of scalping, or burnings at the stake, even though most of us had knives and matches. But I digress.

The fact that we had no real riding horses did not mean that we had no real horses to relate to. At that time the majority of farmers used draft horses, although a few had tractors. By 1950 most of the teams of horses had been retired to be replaced by Farmall, John Deere, Case, Oliver, Allis Chalmers, Ford, and other brands of tractors.

To those who may think a horse is a horse is a horse, let me assure you that there is a very big difference between a Belgian and a quarter horse or Arabian. Our workhorses were not totally averse to being ridden. After all, they were used to a bridle and a harness on their back. Our fathers, who were well aware that a horse could cause physical damage to a human if so inclined, were generally not overly enthusiastic about our saddling up old Betsy. Also, a real saddle was usually not available and not many saddles fit a draft horse very well. But we often persevered,

tried to ride, and gave it up as a hard job. Also old Betsy was often not fully into the whole idea. Let me elaborate a bit more. In addition to the saddle problem, riding bareback was not a whole lot of fun, even though the movie Indians seemed to have no difficulty hanging on while galloping at full speed. There was the problem of relative size. The draft horse's back is about three feet wide while a 10 year old boy's leg inseam is about 24 inches. Stretching one's legs over that wide back with heels around the breadth of the horse's barrel can be uncomfortable! If you, a six foot male, have some difficulty grasping this, imagine being astride a pipe some five feet in diameter that is bouncing up and down while your only handholds to steady your self are the reins and the only way to keep from falling off is by clamping your feet to the side of the slippery pipe! Your seat is too wide, it's slippery, you have no place to anchor your feet, and your conveyance feels like a careening skateboard going at high speed down a path of railroad ties! All this is necessary background in era, circumstance, and setting for the following experience.

We had a gaunt, elderly, semi-retired draft horse named Pat. He was dirty white, which gave him a vague resemblance to the Lone Ranger's great white stallion, Silver. Pat was not great nor had he been a stallion for a long time. At that time I had



not read of the similar steeds of Icabod Crane or Don Quixote which Pat more closely resembled than he did Silver. In the current vernacular, old Pat was "flaky". Perhaps he, like my wife's grandmother, felt that age gave one permission to exhibit certain eccentricities without incurring censure. At any rate, although not deaf,

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his hearing was selective. As mentioned, he was thinner than the other draft horses, which narrowed the upper deck from a width of 30 inches to about 18 inches which made it easier for a boy to straddle. However, his backbone became much more prominent forming a longitudinal ridge bearing some resemblance to the pictures of the backs of some dinosaurs. This made riding bareback somewhat less inviting.

Anyway, one day Dad, to my surprise, listened to one of my impassioned arguments for the need for a riding horse to round up the cows for milking every morning and night and my willingness to perform that chore. He calmly told me with a small smile that old Pat would probably enjoy a little exercise and, if it worked out, we could in fact ride around the farm and neighborhood and bring them in to the barn. He stipulated, however, that the cows must not be made to run (disappointing, but you can't have everything after a major victory like this!) My enthusiasm was also somewhat dampened by his refusal to buy a saddle. A compromise was an old horse blanket tied around Pat's middle with a harness strap.

Dad helped "saddle up" old Pat and advised me to lead him over to the watering tank which I could get up on and then get the rest of the way onto Pat's back. Finally success! I was atop a horse that imagination transformed into a sleek, speedy and devoted mount. Did I mention that Pat was "flaky" and with "selective" hearing? When I was finally aboard, Pat turned his head and regarded me with a stare dominated by the whites of his eyes.

Off we went across the road to get our act together. Across the road meant a 20 acre pasture with plenty of room for whatever. All was going reasonably well since Pat saw this as an opportunity for some leisurely grazing. Pat ambled along in the general direction I steered, pausing now and then for a quick snack. After awhile the sedate pace palled for the rider and strenuous urging resulted in Pat obliging with a shambling trot. This created a sense of riding on the narrow edge of a two by four building stud having notches every two inches. Now I knew that horses had other gaits like canters and gallops and in the movies cowboys mostly rode at gallops and they just seemed to float along so smoothly that their hats never bobbed at all. Now I know that no matter how skilled the rider, a trot is not the most comfortable way to travel. However, the horse would seem to prefer it to the more energetic paces.

No matter how hard I tried it seemed that Pat was unable or unwilling to consider anything other than a leisurely walk or

a bone shaking trot. That is until about an hour into our pioneering ride. Every day at about 10:00 a.m. in the morning, the milk truck would come to pick up the milk from our dairy herd. Young milk truck drivers were similar to cowboys or race car drivers in being flamboyant and risk taking. At any rate they would drive like "bats out of hell" with dash and élan. Among the modifications they would make to the truck were "Straight pipes", "cut-outs", and "flutter valves", all of which affected the sound effects emitted by the engine. Our milk truck would exit the next farm up the road, floorboard the accelerator for a half mile and then decelerate for the quarter mile into our driveway. This maneuver resulted in a prolonged "Bbbbbrrrrraaaaaapppp" burst of flatulence lasting perhaps 30 seconds.

Remember me and Pat? I was increasingly bored by Pat's reluctance to gallop through the canyons among the sagebrush and cactus. We were sleepily plodding along when the milk truck began its descent into our farm. Pat, who had heard the sound effects from the truck hundreds of times, woke up. I, half-asleep, had also heard it before and paid no attention. When Pat's ears went back and he did a little quick step I still was daydreaming. On this day, however, the truck added to its sound effects. It backfired once, twice, three times exactly like rifle shots and Pat went ballistic. He might have thought this was the real thing and that the safest place to be was in his stall in the barn! It made little difference to him that the truck was at the barn,

because in his experience the truck only farted; it did not sound like a gun. We did not walk, trot, or canter to the barn. We galloped the quarter mile at a speed that rivaled that of Seabiscuit. Somehow I stayed on Pat's back the whole way. Luckily, the barn door leading to Pat's stall was closed or I might have lost my head as we roared through. Since it was closed he came to a four footed sliding stop that would have been a credit to Trigger or Silver. Unfortunately for me, with the sudden stop I went up over his neck and head and hung, feet off the ground suspended by my death grip on the reins and the mane of this miserable piece of dog food.

Worst of all, my Dad and the truck driver had been alerted by the sound of the pounding hooves and my cries of "Whoa" as we raced to the barn. Both were roaring with laughter. Dad treasured this as one of his favorite stories as long as he lived. My daughters and granddaughters have never really appreciated the fact that I do not love horses as much as they do. 🐾



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Bill MacDonald would like your input

In a recent interview, the president of Bill MacDonald Ford sat down with *ThumbPrint News* to discuss an exciting idea for a new real estate development in St. Clair that would also benefit the surrounding area.

Bill MacDonald is looking for suggestions from the general public on a proposed community center on Fred Moore Highway near the corner of King Road.

The idea for the project came when Bill was watching his granddaughter skate at the Macomb Township Recreation Center on Broughton Road near 25 Mile Road.

He was so impressed with this 90,000 square feet facility that he took a brief tour. This large complex features two swimming pools, gymnasium, aerobics room, complete workout area, soft play indoor playscape, child watch room, teen room and party room.

Bill thought that the St. Clair, Marysville, Marine City, Algonac and Richmond areas could benefit from a similar activity center.

Before pursuing all of the necessary things that would have to be done to start such a project, Bill wondered how the residents of the community would welcome such a facility.

Based on the success of the nearby St. Clair Little League baseball diamonds, this shows that parents and kids alike enjoy being involved in sports activities.

With help from area residents, we can develop a sports complex that would serve the parents, grandparents and children.



Bill would like to have your comments on the project which is only in the preliminary planning stages.

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On The Track Drew a Tag – Now What?

By Jeremy Yarbrough

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

I met the grayish sunrise at my favorite trail running spot as I prepared for a grueling four hour trail run. My breath confirmed the cold wintery weather report and my face stung as pea-size sleet slapped my exposed skin. As I loped up the muddy trail my mind concentrated on the upcoming fall and the past hunting seasons that physically broke me down; I vowed never to be in that position again!

To prepare for the rigors of mountain hunting, my sister and I signed up for the Bighorn 50 miler. This race is in Dayton, Wyoming, with a starting elevation of 8,800 feet, with a maximum elevation of over 9,300 feet. Couple that with 4,300 feet of climbing and you've got your work cut out for you.

Is this type of training required to be a successful high country bow hunter? Absolutely not.

For me, nothing tests my mental toughness like a long, tough trail run when the last thing I want to do is strap on my mud caked shoes while the family is having pancakes on a Sunday morning. This type of running has helped me hone my mental toughness and increase my hunting distances from the trailhead. Before long-distance running, I was nervous about hunting three miles from the truck. Now I'm willing to do whatever it takes to get into the most remote country I can find.

I am no expert in health science and I don't claim to be a personal trainer, but one thing I do know is that elk and deer are getting stronger each and every day. Their survival depends on it.

With that said, I focus my training on three areas:



This picture was taken when we reached the 50th mile.

- **Long-distance trail running**, which helps build mental toughness and endurance
 - **Hiking** around home with the anticipated pack weight of my hunt on my back; this is vital to strengthen the muscles that will be called upon while mountain hunting.
 - **Legs** - everything begins and ends with them.
- Whatever type of exercise keeps you motivated, stick with it and don't forget to push the limits if possible. The pre-season work could be the difference between tag soup and the hunt of a lifetime.
- Archery elk success rates hover around 10%, so don't delay putting on those gym shoes – or else, you might just be another statistic in a game and fish regulation booklet. 🍀

Editor's note: Jeremy Yarbrough is a State Farm Insurance agent and can be contacted at 4080 Huron St., Ste A, P.O. Box 708, North Branch, Michigan, 48461 or by phone at (810) 688-700 or (810) 688-7100. Jeremy's email address is: jeremy.yarbrough.m2ib@statefarm.com.



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Gemstones

By **Rennae Hardy**
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Gemstones have been valued as prized possessions for centuries. The diamond found favor as the universal symbol of eternal love and commitment because of its admirable features. The diamond's composition held the same characteristics desired in marriage. Beauty, durability, strength and longevity are the transferable gifts of this gemstone.

Beyond the precious treasure they provide, gemstones are natural "guides" capable of assisting our connection to the universal forces. Stones reflect energies that are already present and these energies can be amplified, as well as tuned for individual use.

Crystalline structures are able to collect, concentrate and emit electromagnetic energy. Scientists acknowledge when a crystal is squeezed, it will release its own internal energy. This process is known as the piezoelectric effect. Scientists,

however, are still learning how powerful crystals are in relation to focusing "life" energy. One such super star is quartz.

Quartz is a master gemstone due to its composition of silicon and oxygen, which are considered to be the building blocks of minerals among geologists. Silicon dioxide is an essential component of our human body, which may be the physical basis for our inter-connection with crystals. The transfer of energy from the natural crystal to our body's silicon could easily suggest a correlated link to healing.

Each mineral crystal (stone) carries its own specific influence, attribute, purpose and vibration. No two are exactly alike. Gemstones' energies can be tapped and utilized by anyone. Natural gemstones do not lose their potency with age and/or usage. Their primal energy originates from the universe and once activated remains eternal.

Gemstones are believed to affect the etheric web that lies outside the field of human vision. Our aura (physical body's electromagnetic field) is charged with



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Cert. Energetic Healer
Reiki M. Tch.

electricity. Gemstones also possess their own fields of electricity and are quite capable of affecting us. Their influence resonates with our energy centers (chakras) and when incorporated effectively can deliver positive results including balance and well-being.

Lithotherapy is the use of gemstones and minerals for healing. Generally, when working with stones, particularly in healing applications, associating the color of the stone to the color of the appropriate chakra is practiced. While this approach is certainly acceptable, occasionally the

individual will display an uncomfortable response. In such circumstances the vibration is not resonating optimally. Determining compatibility is the key to optimizing the benefits "gifted" to us by gemstones.

Link into gemstones ... Discover healing, harmony and empowerment ... Experience the positive vibes! 🌟

Editor's Note: Rennae Hardy is the owner of Radiant Beings, 25962 Knollwood S. in Chesterfield. Rennae is a certified energy practitioner and offers many choices for alternative healing. Contact Rennae at (586) 949-0112 or (586) 489-8611.



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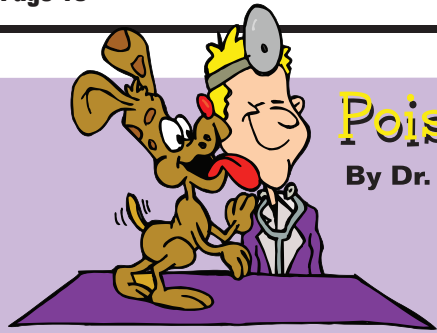
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Poisonous Plants and Flowers

By Dr. DiBenedetto *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

This year I decided to redo some of my landscaping. While planning for my trip to the Eastern Market downtown to buy my plants and flowers for the season it dawned on me that once I decided which ones I liked I would first have to check and make sure that none of the plants would be toxic to my pets. When I started researching the plants and flowers the list was so extensive, I thought this would be helpful information to pass along.

There are actually over 700 plants and flowers that can be poisonous or toxic to our pets. Their effects can range from mild to severe depending on what part of the plant is consumed as well as the quantity consumed. Some plants cause only rashes or slight stomach upset, while others can cause seizures, coma or even death.

Here are some common examples that will cause rashes: cactus, chrysanthemums, ficus, poison ivy, poison oak, primrose and sumac. Plants and flowers that can



cause vomiting and diarrhea include: amaryllis, baby's breath, carnations, daffodils, holly, poinsettia, morning glory, climbing nightshade, gladiolas, aster, boxwood, chrysanthemums, English ivy, kalanchoe and tulips. Azaleas, crocus, foxglove and juniper are some

that can cause damage to major organs like the kidneys or liver. Rhododendron, oleander, mistletoe, foxglove, azalea and delphinium, if ingested in large quantities, can be fatal. These are only a few examples of some of the more common

plants. It is important to use your best judgment when determining whether or not certain plants should remain in your garden. If any of these plants are in areas that cannot be accessed by your pet, or if they have never bothered with your plants in the past, then it is possible you will not have a problem keeping plants with a lower toxicity level in your yard.

There are many resources available when researching plants, such as your local veterinary office, nursery or gardening center. The internet also has many sources available to you, including the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) website which has an extensive list. Plus there are many books out there that can be used for identifying poisonous plants and flowers.

In case of toxin exposure, I recommend keeping a list of important phone numbers in an easily accessible location. Be sure pet

sitters and other people who might be in your home are aware of the location of the list. The following phone numbers should be included in your list: your primary veterinarian, one or more nearby 24-hour veterinary emergency clinics, and poison control (either ASPCA at (888) 426-4435 [with possible fee], Pet Poison Hotline at (800) 213-6680 [with possible fee] or The American Association of Poison Control Centers at (800) 222-1222). We here at Maple Veterinary Hospital wish everyone a safe and happy summer season! 🐾

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

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ThumbPrint News Travels to Washington D.C.!

ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb of Michigan (over 1000 businesses in eight Thumb counties are now drop locations for the newspaper), but readers have also taken *ThumbPrint News* with them to many different states and countries (listed on the right on the bulletin board). *ThumbPrint News* was even seen on television on the *Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and at Walt Disney World in Florida with several of the Disney characters!

When we began inviting our readers to submit photos of where they have taken *ThumbPrint News*, we never expected such an overwhelming response! The newspaper has even traveled to all of the seven continents.

This month's photo shows *ThumbPrint News* traveling to Washington D.C. with Kevin Pfeiffer. Kevin formerly was a resident of Marine City, Michigan, and now resides in Virginia. Kevin is pictured in front of Abraham Lincoln's statue at the Lincoln Memorial.

If you are a reader of *ThumbPrint News* and have taken our newspaper with you on a vacation or to an unusual place – or if you have been able to get a famous person or character to be photographed with our paper, you may submit an email and photo to us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net (jpeg format preferred). Please tell us a little about the photo and include your name, address and phone number. Please be patient as you wait for your photo to appear in *ThumbPrint News*. When it does appear, we will send you a complimentary edition. There are many places where *ThumbPrint News* has not yet been – and lots of famous people to track down. Who will be the next person to help us in our quest? 🐾

A Little Bit about the Lincoln Memorial

In 1910, two members of Congress, Shelby M. Cullom and Joseph G. Cannon, joined forces to create a memorial which would honor Abraham Lincoln, our 16th president. Both men had known Lincoln in Illinois. On February 11, 1911, President Taft signed a bill that created the Lincoln Memorial Commission to oversee the project. The project was originally estimated to cost two million dollars, but ended up costing over three million.

The memorial was designed by New York architect, Henry Bacon, who modeled it after the style of a Greek temple. Various types of stone came from Colorado, Indiana, Tennessee and Alabama to complete the construction.

The famous statue of Abraham Lincoln, which is the prominent feature inside the memorial, was created by Daniel Chester French, the leading American sculptor of the day. It is 19 feet tall and is carved out of 28 blocks of white Georgia marble.

Congratulations

to Kevin Pfeiffer, formerly of Marine City, Michigan and Ashley Spivey of Virginia who just recently tied the knot! Mr. and Mrs. Pfeiffer will reside in Manassas, Virginia.

ThumbPrint News has traveled to:

Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah and Washington **AND TO THE COUNTRIES OF** Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Belize, Bonaire, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Fiji, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Kiribati, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, St. Lucia, Spain and Wales.

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Melanie Duquesnel

New Merchant Surcharges on Credit Purchases

Many consumers have become accustomed to charging purchases, large and small, on a debit or credit card - just swipe the card and avoid the hassle of carrying cash. Look carefully though; you may notice a new fee on your receipt. Retailers are now allowed to pass along to consumers the cost of processing credit cards.

It's called "merchant surcharging" and it's permitted in most states. You can be charged up to four percent on each transaction and, similar to sales tax, merchant surcharging can be automatically added to your bill. After awhile, these charges can add up, so consumers may want to reconsider how they pay for goods and services.

Why now? Well, merchants have long been charged a processing fee by the credit card companies when consumers chose to charge their purchases. Previously, the fee could not be passed along to customers. However, as a result of litigation, merchants in the U.S. and its territories can pass that fee along directly to customers using credit cards (but not debit or prepaid cards).

What can consumers do?

- Use cash for smaller purchases; some retailers may offer you a discount if you pay with cash.

- Look for notices about merchant surcharges; retailers are required to let you know so you can decide beforehand if you want to pay with a credit card.
- Use a debit card with "bricks and mortar" establishments you know and trust; find trustworthy businesses at www.easternmichiganbbb.org.



- Use a credit card for online purchases when you need the greater protections that credit cards offer.
- Get into the habit of monitoring your bank account and credit cards accounts online.

Several states have banned merchant surcharges: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Oklahoma and Texas. In other states, it's optional, and will vary from store to store.

For more information on managing your credit, check out BBB's "Managing Credit - Made Simple" at bbb.org/credit-management.

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

LILLY

Continued from Page 1

The Life and Times of Lilly the Lash® was inspired by an eyelash I wiped from my face at about midnight, while strolling down the hall to my bathroom. As soon as I looked at the eyelash, it became Lilly the Lash®. Within seconds, a poem detailing the recent struggles of a good friend began to fill my head. In the poem, Lilly helped me to "look back" at our friendship; she "showed" me the importance of supporting my friend in her time of need, and then she asked me to help my friend "see" that the circumstances surrounding her situation were happening for a reason.

The next morning I hopped out of bed and promptly typed the poem in a decorative font and printed it onto parchment paper, with the thought of placing it in a nice frame to give to my friend. Suddenly I remembered an old fable about making a wish on a fallen eyelash; you know, the one in which you blow the eyelash to the wind, and your wish magically comes true. Since so many people have grown up with, or have heard of this fable, I decided there must be an image out there somewhere of an angel or fairy gently blowing eyelashes, which I could then use to place next to this rather delicate subject line. After several weeks of searching card stores and gift shops, I finally found a company on the internet that sold incredible artwork of fanciful fairies. Unsuccessful at locating an image that suited my purpose, I called to inquire as to what may lie in their archives. A delightful woman named Brenda answered. I started by explaining my reason for calling. I went on to describe what I was looking for, and then quickly read a couple of stanzas from the poem to offer a better understanding of my quest. It

was then that Brenda, who had worked in various facets of the publishing business for over 19 years, ventured to express how she felt about my writing, and prompted me to use this idea to create something extraordinary for children.

Now this may sound all fine and dandy, but I quite clearly remember thinking to myself that this poor lady had sipped a few too many martinis with her gal pals at lunch that day! Though the poem had most definitely come from me, I was not to be considered any kind of writer, and most certainly had no intention of becoming an author. I recall sheepishly thanking her for her kind words, choosing the image that I felt best fit my needs, and then I simply got back to work.

It wasn't until a few days later that this lady's comment thundered back into my brain like a freight train. Later that evening, I mentioned the whole incident to my husband, who then encouraged me to give it a whirl. The very next night I sat down to see if I could write anything on demand. All I kept thinking was "this could be disastrous!" Almost with the greatest of ease, the words began tumbling onto the paper like a child tossing alphabet blocks, simultaneously forming all of the right words in all of the right places. I found tapping into the profound experiences I had encompassed while working with young children, and combining them with my own personal struggles and triumphs, I was overcome with enormous inspiration. And then, lo and behold, right before my eyes...out popped one book, and then another, and yet again, another.

In the weeks to follow, a friend and I put together a mock-up of the first





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book. I bought children's books from a used bookstore, and we cut and pasted the days away. This ended up to be a pretty important step in the whole process; as it allowed those I shared it with an opportunity to visually grasp my concept, and provide feedback appropriately.

The time had now come to deliver the poem to my dear friend for her birthday. After she had a chance to look it over, I enlightened her with this most unusual story of how her poem had led to me holding this "book of sorts" in my hand, and how I intended on taking it further. Having been in business all of their lives, she and her husband felt it might be a good idea to involve a professional who could review my plans, and offer invaluable unbiased advice.

Enter Chris Caswell, an entertainment lawyer of the best kind. It was Mr. Caswell who led us down the path of self-publishing. We (my husband and I), met with Chris to explain my vision of making this book part of a series, and more specifically, part of a whole project. He felt strongly that we had something really special on our hands (he referred to it as "a gold mine") and encouraged us to take it on ourselves, hence retaining all of the rights. After gathering much information through a variety of educational avenues, we decided it was the right road to take, and the journey began. Oh yes, Chris had one last piece of advice, "If you're going to do this, make sure you do it right." For this, we owe Chris much gratitude.

The next step was finding an illustrator. I got out my computer, typed "illustrator" into the search engine, and up came nine gazillion sites! I then focused on key words that more specifically described what I was looking for, which reduced my choices to a mere three billion sites. I investigated about 100 of them, emailing about 20 suitable candidates. Replies began pouring in; some were out of our price range, some didn't illustrate children's books at all, and some were just too busy. But when I emailed my illustrator, he didn't reply back with an email at all – he



called back. It was from the very instant that we spoke that we both knew this was something really special. Twenty-five days later I was on a plane to his home in Pennsylvania, concretizing the deal of a lifetime!

You can't even talk about *The Life and Times of Lilly the Lash*® without calling attention to the breathtaking artwork. The illustrations, created by Marc Tobin, are so visually stimulating; they appear to pop off the page in 3-D style. I knew the cinematic-like images were going to be a key component in the success of the series. I needed every page to carry an element of allure that would draw a child's interest again and again. I felt if I could provide a book that empowered their imagination, that power, in turn, could be used to promote good choices and positive behavior. Clearly Mr. Tobin was the man for the job.

Although it only took me a few weeks to write *The Garden Gathering*, the first published book in the series, it took Marc a tad longer to develop the imagery. We normally work on the illustration of a book about nine to ten months. Much goes into the design and layout of each and every page, and the extended time period allows us to discuss and add detail that isn't often seen in other children's books.

The writing and illustrating of the books are first and foremost, but there are other critical components that come into play. I needed to find a graphic designer who could lay out the book pages to my specifications, and prepare them for the printer. Elsa Kauffman is one of the best in the business, and has been the perfect right-hand "woman." We love local, so finding a printer in our area within our price range was something that meant a lot to us. We had talked to several, and were very lucky to have hooked up with companies who understood our "small fish in a big sea" position. Don't get me wrong. I'm not against foreign trade or doing business out of state, but when it comes to a possible ink blob on Page 13, I needed to know that I could speak to someone face to face about how this issue might be resolved. My parents were business owners for



years, and I learned early on that a promise of good-will and a handshake could do wonders for everyone involved.

So almost a year had passed, and the first book in the series was now in my hands. That upcoming weekend we were invited to a friend's house for a gathering. They had all been so very supportive throughout this venture, and were anxious to see the final product. It wasn't until we saw and heard the reaction from both our friends and the other guests at the party that we realized what we had actually accomplished. This silly little eyelash was making a big impression! Lilly inspired a gentleman to read the story aloud to a captivated audience in a packed living room. She

inspired a woman to share a remarkable story in which she and her three best friends were all diagnosed with breast cancer within the very same year. (Breast cancer is the cause we support in the first book). And the best thing of all

was how Lilly got everyone talking about how necessary the lesson in the book was, for children and adults everywhere, to understand and remember.

By the time my husband and I walked out of that place, we were simply beside ourselves. And to this day, the reaction is exactly the same. What we have LEARNED, is that people view the values and morals of the 1950s as core to the survival of our species. People feel they've slipped away, they want them back, and they want them practiced on a regular basis. What we KNOW, is that Lilly the Lash® provides old fashion values, with a modern day twist. I guess it's pretty fair to say, "She's an Eyelash with a Mission!"



Editor's note: For more information about purchasing any of the books in the Lilly the Lash® series, visit www.lillythelash.com. Ordering on this website will allow the purchaser to have the

book or books personalized with a message written by the author, Julie Woik, at no extra charge.



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MUSIC from "The Voo-Doo Doctors" 6pm-11pm

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24
Country Store 12pm-8pm
Flea Market 12pm-8pm
MUSIC from "The In-Crowd" 6pm-10pm
Join Us for a SUMMER PICNIC Under the Tent
Featuring our Pulled Pork Dinner **5:30pm-7:30pm**
Beer Tent 5pm-10pm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25
Country Store 11am-6pm
Flea Market 11am-6pm
MUSIC from
"Ted Pavlik and the Melody Makers" 1pm-5pm
Beer Tent 12pm-6pm
FAMOUS CHICKEN DINNER 12pm-5:30pm
Hooligan Booth & Children's Games 12pm-5pm

Main Raffle Grand Prize Sunday 6pm

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Thumb Area Activities & Events for June 2013

If you have an event in July that you would like listed in the July issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by June 12, 2013. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some of the events that were submitted to us, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

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

Genesee

Flint – June 16-19

23rd Annual City Wide Juneteenth Celebration, noon until 9:30 p.m.

A celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation and Afrikan American Independence. The celebration begins at Max Brandon Park with activities beginning at noon. A parade starts at Max Brandon Park, 3606 Dupont, at 5:30 p.m. and goes to Riverbank Park at 1101 Beach St., where there will be a celebration with live music, vendors, a movie screening and more.

Huron

Bax Axe - June 1

Carfest, downtown area. Car show and live entertainment. For more information call Joyce at (989) 738-7600 or visit www.portaustinarea.com.

Bax Axe - June 7-9

Bad Axe Hatchet Festival, Bad Axe City Park, 210 S. Hanselman St. Live music, arts and community events. For more information contact the Bad Axe Chamber at (989) 269-6936 or visit www.badaxemich.com.

Lapeer

Brown City - June 22

Extreme MudBog Competition, FreelinMX facility, 8395 Cargill Rd., 1:00 p.m. \$1500 bounty on the pit. Cans ok, no glass bottles please. Real bathrooms. Live announcer and music, sideline bleachers (or bring chairs), playground area, lots of parking. \$8 per person, 5 and under free. Visit www.FreelinMX.com for more information or call (989) 761-1301.

Macomb

Richmond – June 6

Gas Pumps with Dave, Richmond Historical Society Historic Village, corner of Beebe and Park Street, 7:00 p.m. David Foster, a life-long resident of Richmond, has collected and restored antique gas pumps for many years and will share the stories and restoration process of his many beautiful pumps. Free. For more information call (810) 329-5797.

Romeo – June 6-9

Annual Village Garage & Antique Sale, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. each day. Boundaries now extended to include Washington and Bruce Twp. Each house may vary open sale dates and times. Lists of sale sites will be available online at rwbparksrec.org after May 24. For more information call (586) 752-6543

Chesterfield – June 8-9

French Fur Trade Re-enactment, Chesterfield Historical Village, 47275 Sugarbush Rd., 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Hosted by the St. Claire Voyageurs, this event helps to promote the learning and understanding of the Great Lakes fur trade era. There will also be tomahawk throwing, gun skills and cannon firing demonstrations. \$1 donation per adult and \$2 per family is requested. Food and drink will be available for purchase. For more information visit www.hsmichigan.org/chesterfieldhs.

Washington Township – June 8-9

Antique Show and Loren Andrus Octagon House Open House, 57500 Van Dyke, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. For more information visit www.octagonhouse.org.

Fraser – June 9

Rummage and Plant Sale, Baumgartner House, 18577 Masonic, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Hosted by the Fraser Historical Commission. For more information call Marilyn at (586) 293-7477.

Mt. Clemens – June 22

Garden Taste & Tour, Painting your Garden "Garden Breakfast", Crocker House Museum, 15 Union St. Many events need registration. Call (586) 465-2488 or visit www.crockerhousemuseum.com.

Ray Township – June 30

Annual Ray Township Picnic, 64255 Wolcott Rd., 12:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. For more information call (586) 749-5171.

Richmond – June 30

Log Cabin Day at The Historic Village, Park St. between Stone and Beebe Streets, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Log cabin day is a statewide celebration of the log cabin and the role it played in Michigan's history. Many new activities have been added this year and the Donley log cabin will be open. For more information visit www.richmondhistoricalsociety.org.

Oakland

Troy - June 1

Bowling for Rhinos, Thunderbird Lanes, 400 W. Maple Rd., 7:00 p.m. The Detroit

Chapter of the American Association of Zookeepers invites bowlers to help save endangered rhinos "one pin at a time". Bowlers may register individually or form a team of four to five for the event, which features bowling, a silent auction, 50/50 raffle and children's games and crafts. \$10 registration includes shoe rental, two games, pizza and soft drinks. Bowlers are asked to collect a minimum of \$15 for adults and \$10 for children in sponsorships. Participants who raise \$50 or more will receive a Bowling for Rhinos T-shirt. All donations are tax deductible. Register asap at www.aazkdetroit.org.

St. Clair

Algonac – June 2

Classic Car Cruise, Music - Benefit - BBQ, in Memory of Terry Hogert. Cruise leaves from Brackett Auto, 592 Pte. Tremble Rd., at 3:00 p.m. and goes to Perch Pointe Conservation Club, Meisner and Palms Rd. Benefit 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. \$15 admission, 12 and under free. Advanced tickets sold at Brackett Auto. Cash bar. Proceeds go to Terry Hogert Estate. For more information call Ed at Brackett Auto (810) 794-9357 and about benefit call Kerry (810) 794-5529.

Goodells – June 2

Shimmering Moon Farm and Fuzzy Horse Show and Festival, Goodells County Park, 8345 County Park Drive, 8:00 a.m. Part of the proceeds goes to the Sanilac County Humane Society. There will be an open horse show with show clothes optional, a breed display for people to pet and learn about various horse breeds, a showcase of sales horses for owners who would like to sell a horse, vendors, crafters, a silent auction, food and other fun. Adoptable dogs, horses and cats will be there for a meet and greet. For anyone wanting to participate visit www.shimmeringmoonfarm.com/show.html. For more information call (810) 384-1027.

Port Huron – June 2

Blue Water Sturgeon Festival, Vantage Point Maritime Center, 51 Water St., 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Free parking and admission. The festival will feature a *Huron Lady* Sturgeon Cruise and indoor and outdoor exhibits along the shores of the St. Clair River showcasing these prehistoric freshwater creatures. On the cruise, guests will be able to see lake sturgeon via a live video feed from a professional diver underneath the *Huron Lady*. Tickets for cruise are on sale at

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www.SturgeonFestival.com. For more information call Sheri at (810) 987-5306.

East China – June 13, 14 and 15

Oklahoma, presented by the **St. Clair Theatre Guild**, East China Performing Arts Center, 1585 Meisner Rd., 7:30 p.m. Adults \$15, seniors/students \$12. Sue Daniels is directing this emotion filled play loaded with romance and drama which takes place while the Oklahoma territory is on the verge of impending statehood. Cast members hail from New Baltimore, Port Huron, Richmond and St. Clair. For more information call Sue at (810) 329-4498.

Marine City – June 14

Humane Society of St. Clair County Visits Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 10:30 a.m. This will be an opportunity to meet a therapy dog and find out about foster care and adoptions for animals. Everyone is invited. You do not have to be interested in adoption or foster care to enjoy the program, therapy dog, and other animals they may be bringing. For more information call (810) 765-3522..

Casco – June 15

Lempke-Blackwell VFW Post 7573 13th Annual Golf Outing, Michigan Meadows Golf Course, 4575 County Line Rd., 8:00 a.m. shotgun start. \$80 per person includes 18 holes with cart, hot dog, chips and refreshments at turn, steak dinner and two drink tickets at the VFW Cove after golf. Extras include Vegas hole, 2 longest drive holes, 2 closest to the pin holes and team skins. For more information call Dave at (586) 843-9846.

Marine City – June 20-21

Art Expo and Sale, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Works of art include pottery, drawings, photographs and oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings. Admission is free. For more information call (810) 765-3523.

Fair Haven – June 21

Euchre Party, St. Peter Lutheran Church, 6745 Palms Rd., registration at 6:30 p.m., games start at 7:00 p.m. Free

goodies, coffee and tea. Hot dogs and pop \$1 donation. Cash prizes. For more information call (810) 765-8161.

Emmett – June 23

Chicken Bar-B-Q, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 10828 Brandon Rd., 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. \$9 for adults, children 6 – 10 are \$4, 5 and under are free. For more information email Ed at ewatteny@att.net.

Port Huron – June 26

St. Clair County Family History Group, Port Huron Museum, 1115 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. Mary Lou Duncan will be speaking about “Irish Genealogy”. Anyone interested in local history or researching their family tree may visit our programs as a guest or become a new member. For more information visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miscfhg/ or call (810) 989-0399.

Sauilac

Sandusky – June 8 and 22

Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. On June 8 there will be a catered dinner at 6:00 p.m. Sign-up is necessary. \$7 for dinner. Entertainment provided by Lighthouse Three. On June 22 bring finger foods (for 9:00 p.m.) and friends! \$5 for members, \$6 for non-members. Entertainment provided by The Natural Tones. For more information call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250.

Tuscola

Gagetown – June 14

Lincoln Day Dinner (Huron & Tuscola Counties), Thumb Octagon Barn, Munro Building, 6948 Richie Rd. Continuous tours of the Museum and historic buildings beginning at 4:30 p.m., dinner and program at 6:00 p.m. For more information contact the Huron Republicans at (989) 269-3341 or visit www.thumbgop.spruz.com.

What a great place to call home!

Submitted by **Phil Pavlov, Michigan State Senator, District 25**

In Michigan, you are never more than six miles from a lake or stream, or a short drive from one of our magnificent Great Lakes. Along with providing outdoor adventure, boating and fishing contribute billions of dollars to the state economy. By spending your vacation dollars here in our great state, you help keep countless family businesses and communities thriving.



Phil Pavlov

Before you head out on the water, here are some safety tips and other resources, along with legislative news about our work to keep Michigan waterways accessible in light of low water levels.

FREE Fishing License for Disabled Veterans

Everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy Michigan's outdoor sporting heritage, especially servicemen and women wounded in service to our country. Starting this spring, Michigan's 100-percent-disabled military veterans can obtain any resident fishing or hunting license—for which a lottery is not required—free of charge. Veterans must provide proof of eligibility at the time of purchase and carry this proof when fishing or hunting. Licenses can be obtained at www.mdnr-elicense.com or a local license retailer. With many disabled vets living on limited incomes, it's my hope that eliminating license fees will help our heroes enjoy Michigan's great outdoors. Beyond that, this is one way to honor their service.

Boating Safety is No Accident

Nothing puts a quicker end to a day of fun on the water than an accident or injury. Here are some safe boating basics to keep in mind:

- Always wear a life jacket. The number one way to stay safe on the water is to wear a personal flotation device (PFD).
- Never operate a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Alcohol is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents.
- Maintain a safe speed and stay alert. Most boating accidents are caused by operator error.
- Take a boating safety course. Michigan now offers two online boating safety classes, www.Boat-Ed.com/mi and www.BoaterExam.com.
- Keep your boat in safe working order.

Make sure your vessel meets state and federal requirements and is properly equipped.

- File a float plan. Let someone on shore know where you're going and when you plan to return.

Michigan FREE Fishing Weekend

The future of fishing in Michigan depends on the next generation of anglers. You can introduce your kids to this great sport during Michigan's 2013 Free Fishing Weekend, which runs from June 8-9. All fishing license fees are waived on these two days. Residents and out-of-state visitors may enjoy fishing on both inland and Great Lakes' waters for all species of fish. All other fishing regulations still

apply. Find more information, including a list of sponsored and state park events, at www.michigan.gov/freefishing.

Bluewater Trails of Michigan

There's nothing like jetting on the open water with the

wind on your face! Yet for a change of pace, enjoy a quiet adventure on one of Michigan's water trails. Paddle the four-mile canoe trail around Hamlin Lake in Ludington State Park or travel on one of the big and bold Great Lakes Bluewater trails. Find more information on St. Clair County's own award-winning website www.BluewaysOfStClair.org, or visit www.MiSeaGrant.umich.edu; type in the key words “water trails”.

As always, I would appreciate hearing your comments and suggestions on ways to preserve Michigan's outdoor heritage. You can contact my office by visiting www.SenatorPhilPavlov.com or calling toll free at 866.305.2125.

Best wishes for a Pure Michigan summer! 🍃



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Whoops, We Goofed!

On page 14 of the May 2013 edition of *ThumbPrint News* in our “Book Nook” column we reviewed Annette Johnston's new book, *Adventures of the Frolic Riders; The Skeleton Creek Caper*. We inadvertently spelled her last name as “Johnson”, rather than “Johnston”, in two places. We apologize for our error. Annette's book is available at www.frolicfarm.com or on Amazon.com.

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General

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Help Wanted

THUMBPRINT NEWS has grown tremendously in the last year and we are seeking a motivated, competitive, and hard-working individual who is extremely career-oriented and driven by success! We have an open sales position to be filled immediately in the Thumb area.

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ThumbPrint News Contest

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, email us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Contest" in the subject line. Be sure to include your name, phone number and full address. Of all persons submitting correct answers by the 15th of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a gift basket valued at over \$100 at the end of this year! On December 31, 2013, one winner will be drawn and the lucky person will be notified.

In May's edition, we asked our readers to identify the object pictured below:

Randomly selected from those submitting correct answers was Wanda Srebinski of Sandusky, Michigan, who correctly identified the object as a giant puffball mushroom. Wanda will be entered into our year end drawing for a gift basket valued at over \$100.



Giant puffball mushrooms (*Calvatia gigantea*) are commonly found throughout North America and Europe in late summer and autumn in meadows, fields and deciduous forests. Edible when young, puffball mushrooms taste very similar to tofu or melted cheese when cooked. They can be sautéed, broiled or fried. However, when mature the puffballs began to turn yellow and then brown and at this point can cause digestive upset.

Most giant puffballs grow to be between



four inches to almost 28 inches in diameter, although occasionally some can reach diameters of up to 59 inches and weights of 44 pounds!

As with all mushrooms, gathering in the wild should be done only with the guide of an expert mushroom hunter who can tell the difference between an edible mushroom, such as the puffball, and other mushrooms with a similar appearance which may be poisonous.

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



WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY?

June

By Diane L. Kodet
ThumbPrint News Editor

1 On this day in 1657, the first Quakers arrived in New Amsterdam (New York).

2 On this day in 1928, Velveeta Cheese was created by Kraft.

3 On this day in 1939, "Beer Barrel Polka" by Will Glahe hit number one on the pop singles chart.

4 On this day in 1896, Henry Ford took his first Ford through the streets of Detroit.

5 On this day in 1907, the automatic washer and dryer were introduced.

6 On this day in 1932, the U.S. Federal gas tax was enacted.

7 On this day in 1965, the Supreme Court ruled that the 1879 Connecticut law banning the use of contraceptives was unconstitutional.

8 On this day in 1949, Siam changed its name to Thailand.

9 On this day in 1934, the first Donald Duck cartoon, "Wise Little Hen", was released.



10 On this day in 1898, the U.S. Marines landed in Cuba, during the Spanish-American War.

11 On this day in 1947, WW II sugar rationing finally ended in the U.S. (It began May 28, 1942).

12 On this day in 1993, *Jurassic Park* opened and set a box office weekend record of \$502 million.



13 On this day in 1927, a ticker-tape parade welcomed Charles A. Lindbergh to New York City.

14 On this day in 1901, the first golf championship was played.

15 On this day in 1924, Native Americans were proclaimed U.S. citizens.

16 On this day in 1903, the Pepsi Cola Company was formed.



17 On this day in 1898, the U.S. Senate agreed to annex Hawaii.

18 On this day in 1873, Susan B. Anthony was fined \$100 for attempting to vote for President.

19 On this day in 1862, slavery was outlawed in U.S. territories.

20 On this day in 1949, the Central Intelligence Agency Act was passed.

21 On this day in 1948, the first stored computer program was run, on a Manchester Mark I.



22 On this day in 1847, the doughnut was created.

23 On this day in 1949, the first 12 women graduated from Harvard Medical School.

24 On this day in 1961, the Beatles recorded "If You Love Me Baby".

25 On this day in 1638, a lunar eclipse was the first astronomical event recorded in the U.S.

26 On this day in 1946, Fred Allen's last radio show took place (with Jack Benny as his guest).

27 On this day in 1974, U.S. President Nixon visited the U.S.S.R.

28 On this day in 1762, the first reported counterfeiting attempt took place (in Boston).

29 On this day in 1891, the National Forest Service was organized.

30 On this day in 1936, *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell was published.





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