

FEBRUARY IS



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

How it began and why it's important - See page 17

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COTTAGE Living

Stompin' at the Savoy

By Robert C. Jones (Bob Jones), ThumbPrint News Columnist

A violent spring rain had blown through this part of Harlem the previous day and had continued pounding on the roof of this structure well into the morning of May 11, 1937. When the sun appeared, steam rose from the walkways and a blurry fog appeared eerily around the building. The mood seemed to be calling to certain apparitions who would enter to immediately go to the northeast corner - the cat's corner - to ply their jitterbug skills on the soft wooden floors. It was a 10,000-square-foot surface where dancers of all shapes and sizes came to be seen and to strut their stuff at the only place to be, the "Heartbeat of Harlem", the soul of the neighborhood - the Savoy Ballroom.

Inside this mammoth, city-block-long building, with two orchestra stages, the pink walls were sweating. They were waning in color to a grayish-smoky hue. Each wall was draped with several mirrors where the dancers' images could be seen contorting and twisting to their favorite hop step.

Last season, the ballroom floor had been replaced with mahogany and underneath a new type of corkboard to cushion the dancer's pronounced blows, which amounted to millions of repeated foot stomping bangings. The floor had to be replaced three times since opening on March 12, 1926.



A postcard of the Savoy Ballroom from 1939

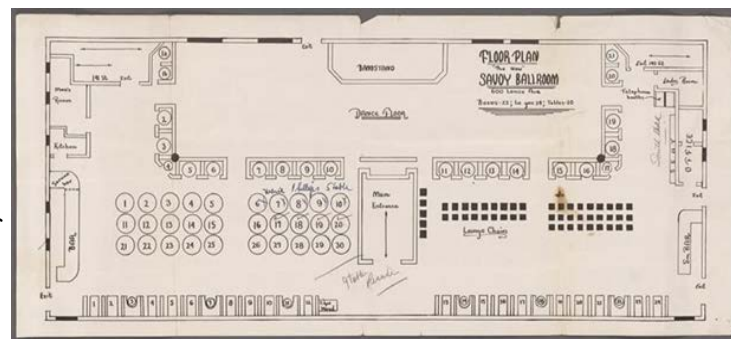


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CHICK WEBB VS. BENNY GOODMAN
 What a night it must have been!

The main ballroom did not possess an adequate ventilation system which led to the rancid foot odors, body sweat and sour bathroom raunch mixing to form malodorous unpleasanties to contend with. Overhead lights often popped from overheating causing shards of glass to rain down on the dance floor resulting in the revelers having to traipse around the mishaps.

Nevertheless, when the music began swinging, thousands of Lindy Hoppers covered every square foot of the floor and all the room's minor inconveniences, the troubles of the times and individual ills melted away with the rhythmic, often fierce, beat of the music bouncing around the room and on warm summer nights out into the street through the open doors.

Hours before the bands began playing, the heavy doors closed behind a twenty-eight-year-old African American man around 11:00 a.m. on this rainy day in May. He moved to the hallway at the southwest corner of the building. His frail frame, hunched back and discordant walk belied the man's sharply focused mind as he almost stumbled into the cramped office.

By 11:15 a.m., the band's arranger, Edgar Sampson arrived, squeezing into the cubby hole.

"Bad news, Boss Man," Edgar began the conversation which would

See SAVOY Page 6

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MARKET MATTERS



The Fannie Mae Home Purchase Sentiment Index® (HPSI) rose 2.9 points in December signaling a shift in consumer expectations.

The HPSI increase was reportedly due to a jump to 31% in the share of consumers expecting mortgage interest rates to decrease over the next year. 36% of the survey group expect rates to remain the same and 31% expect rates to go up in 2024.

Mark Palim, Vice President and Deputy Chief Economist at Fannie Mae, said "Mortgage rate optimism increased dramatically this month, with a survey-high share of consumers anticipating mortgage rate declines over the next year."

The residential mortgage market continues to be a bit volatile. As of mid-January 2024, the 30-year fixed mortgage rates were in the 7% range, down from a peak of over 8% in 2023. The average 15-year fixed mortgage rate was 6.4%. We typically see increases in inventory as well as existing home sales as mortgage rates go down.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 3.4% in 2023 compared to 2022. This was slightly higher than most analysts expected and continues to be above the Federal Open Market Committee's 2% inflation target. The increase in prices from November 2023 to December 2023 was 0.3%, also higher than expected. Factors contributing to the increase were jumps in energy, healthcare and housing costs.

We expect buyers and sellers to be better able to participate in the residential real estate market in 2024 given the combination of lower mortgage rates and increased inventory. Follow your dreams.

Editorial note: Don and Barbara Alcorn are Realtors® serving St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland Counties, as well as the Grosse Pointes. Part of an international network of Realtors®, they are affiliated with Coldwell Banker Realty in Michigan, one of the nation's largest and most successful real estate brokerages. You can reach them at (810) 278-6655, donald.alcorn@cbrealty.com or barbara.alcorn@cbrealty.com.

MAINTAINING YOUR HOME

A home is the biggest investment most people ever make. Proper care and maintenance not only makes your home a more enjoyable place to live; it also helps protect your investment for years to come.

Based on their 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 first quarter. It's not too late for one more 2024 resolution – and with an extra day this month, you can catch up on your decluttering too!

JANUARY: Take down, clean and store holiday ornaments, decorations and exterior lights.

While making room for new things post-holidays, go through your closets and get rid of things you haven't used for a year. Do end-of-year accounting and set up a folder for the current year's taxes.

FEBRUARY: Bathroom once-over – remove and replace any worn or crumbling caulk or grout in and around bathtubs, sinks and toilets. Vacuum vent fan covers.

Clean faucet aerators and shower heads.

Make sure your toilets are in good working order and not running.

Consider replacing them with newer, more efficient models.

MARCH: Kitchen check-in – clean the range hood filter. Wipe shelves clean, check expiration dates on all products, and toss anything old.

Clean your refrigerator and oven.

Move your clocks forward for Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, March 10.

It's also a good habit to test your smoke detector and carbon monoxide batteries at this time of the year. 🏠



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Native American Words of Wisdom

"It makes no
difference as to the
name of the god,
since love is the real
god of all the world."
– Apache Proverb

Apache women Emma and her niece Hattie were displaced when their villages were destroyed by militia under orders of the California governor in 1850. Emma hid Hattie in a depression and covered her with brush so she wouldn't be captured and raped. The two women eventually adapted to the ways of the white man and lived peacefully among them in the Camino area into the 20th century. Hattie eventually married a white man named Boles, who treated her well until he left to fight in the Civil War and never returned. They had a son who died at the age of 16 around 1900.

The two women spent their time cooking and washing for several families in the area. Emma filed for and received a homestead patent in 1897, which included a log house, fruit trees and a fenced garden. Emma passed away in 1908 and was buried next to her nephew on the homestead property.

Hattie was injured in 1925 by a falling tree limb. She spent the remainder of her days in the El Dorado County Hospital where she passed away in 1928.



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WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY?

february

<p>4 On this day in 960, the coronation of Zhao Kuangyin as Emperor Taizu of the Song takes place, initiating three centuries of Song Dynasty dominance in southern China.</p>	<p>5 On this day in 1887, Giuseppe Verdi's opera <i>Otello</i> premieres at La Scala in Italy. It is Verdi's first new opera for over 15 years.</p>	<p>6  On this day in 1895, George Herman Ruth, Jr., better known as Babe, is born in Baltimore, Maryland.</p>	<p>7 On this day in 2005, Britain's Ellen MacArthur becomes the fastest person to sail solo around the world, taking 71 days, 14 hours, 18 minutes and 33 seconds.</p>	<p>8 On this day in 1936, the first ever NFL Draft takes place. Jay Berwanger from the University of Chicago is the first pick by the Philadelphia Eagles.</p>	<p>9 On this day in 1895, volleyball is created by William Morgan, then called "Mintonette", to the world at Springfield College in Massachusetts.</p>
<p>11 On this day in 1949, the single "Lovesick Blues" is released by Hank Williams, it goes on to win <i>Billboard</i> Song of the Year.</p>	<p>12 On this day in 1947, French fashion designer Christian Dior presents his first influential collection, named the "New Look".</p>	<p>13 On this day in 1689, the Parliament of England adopts the Bill of Rights which establishes the rights of parliament and places limits on the crown.</p>	<p>14 On this day in 2010, Alexandre Bilodeau wins the Gold Medal in the freestyle skiing men's moguls' event, becoming the first Canadian to win a Gold Medal during a Canadian-hosted Olympics.</p>	<p>15 On this day in 1965, singer-songwriter and jazz pianist, Nat King Cole, dies at age 45 from lung cancer.</p> 	<p>16 On this day in 2005, the 2004-2005 NHL season is canceled by Commissioner Bettman; the first time a North American professional sports league has called off a season due to labor dispute.</p>
<p>18 On this day in 1861, Victor Emmanuel II of Sardinia becomes the first King of Italy.</p> 	<p>19 On this day in 1974, the first American Music Awards take place.</p> 	<p>20 On this day in 1962, John Glenn becomes the first American to orbit the Earth aboard <i>Friendship 7</i>.</p> 	<p>21 On this day in 1878, the world's first telephone directory is issued with 50 subscribers.</p> 	<p>22 On this day in 1907, the first cabs with taximeters begin operating in London.</p> 	<p>23 On this day in 1945, U.S. Marines raise the American flag on top of Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima.</p> 
<p>25 On this day in 2018, at the Winter Olympics, Marit Bjørgen from Norway becomes the most successful winter athlete of all time with 15 medals.</p>	<p>26 On this day in 1891, the first bison is purchased for Golden Gate Park.</p> 	<p>27 On this day in 1827, the first Mardi-Gras celebration is held in New Orleans.</p> 	<p>28 On this day in 1991, the Gulf War ends after Iraq accepts a ceasefire following their retreat from Kuwait.</p>	<p>29 On this day in 1940, Hattie McDaniel becomes the first African American woman to win an Oscar for <i>Gone With the Wind</i>.</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: #e91e63; margin: 0;">HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!</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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♥ This Valentine's Day ♥ ♥ Is for our Hearts ♥



By Patricia Cosner Kubic, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

During February, I know it seems like you can't take two steps without seeing paper hearts, flowers and teddy bears. Those things are so endearing. I don't know many people who wouldn't want to find a red envelope in their mailbox or watch the van from a local florist pull up to their house on February 14. I've never had the latter happen to me, but I hear it makes your face turn red, and you get warm all over.

But, aside from those who don't have a reason to celebrate Valentine's Day, there is something we can all show a little love to: OUR HEARTS. Despite never receiving its own sparkly red and pink card, that muscle is the ultimate workhorse.

I am astonished at the work effort of our hearts. It never takes a day off, let alone takes a vacation. The whole idea of weekend fun is not happening for our hearts. It's just too busy beating 115,000 times a day! A day! I can't imagine the engineering that needed to happen to make that motor do that day in and day out. That means its weekly quota is about 800,000 beats, and I don't have the guts to calculate the annual output.

Just thinking about the massive quantity of beats fills me with respect for my heart. I feel so appreciated anytime someone does a little something for me; so, I can't imagine a Valentine large enough to say thank you to my heart.

And those 115,000 beats aren't just making noise; they keep us going by pumping 2,000 gallons of blood each day. That is about 1.5 gallons of blood every minute...more than a jug of milk rushing through us every minute. Just think about how many gallons of blood are pumped while waiting in line at Target. One report said the heart creates enough energy to drive a truck 20 miles daily. Over an average lifetime, that is equivalent to going to the moon and back. Ok, maybe order two dozen roses.

I am pretty disciplined about hitting the gym three to four times a week. And whenever I'm pushing myself on the treadmill, I think about my heart. I hope it feels treasured for the continuous work it does for me, even when I'm sleeping. I hope it feels strengthened after each session on the treadmill. Most of all, I hope it feels cherished.

Our heart does so much for us. Besides our cornea cells, every cell in our body, all 37.2 trillion cells in the average adult, gets blood delivered to them by our hearts. Simply grab a tennis ball and squeeze it tightly: that's how hard the beating heart works to keep the blood moving throughout our body's 60,000 miles of blood vessels...enough miles to go around the Earth twice. I'm not sure how many times in a row I could squeeze that tennis ball, but I know I could not do it continually. Seriously, every month needs to have a Valentine's Day in it so we can tell our hearts how much we love them.

So, this month, maybe spend some time with your hand on your chest...feeling your heart beating...being grateful for something in our lives that, for now, hasn't stopped working for us. It is an astonishing, masterful muscle that keeps us moving forward. And, it deserves piles of love not just in February but all year. 🌱

Author's note: All my heart facts were found on the websites for Healthline, Temple Health and Sunway Medical.

You can reach Patricia at pcubic@gmail.com.

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MONTH _____ YEAR _____

HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFERING LATER HOURS

The St. Clair County Health Department, 3415 28th Street in Port Huron, and Teen Health, 2215 Court Street in Port Huron, will offer later hours on the first Monday of the month starting Monday, February 5, 2024. Hours of operation will be 10:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Normal hours of operation at both locations for Tuesday through Friday are 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

To learn more about Health Department services visit stclaircounty.org/PageBuilder/scchd/ and follow us on social media @scchdmi.



Love Yourself to Health

As we approach Valentine's Day, we often think of our loved ones, whether it's romantic or familial love. But do we ever stop to think about loving ourselves, or what it means to truly love ourselves? The answer to this question is relative depending on who you ask and what they value. If I were to answer this question, I'd have to say first and foremost loving ourselves means taking care of our health! Without our health, nothing else matters. When it comes to our health, there are so many ways to love ourselves, be it eating nutritious foods, drinking adequate amounts of water, regular exercise, minimizing stress and anxiety, inspirational work and hobbies, healthy, nurturing relationships and making sure we know where we stand with our overall health.

Most of us get an annual physical, bloodwork and eye exam, but how many of us get our hearing tested regularly? In my several years in the hearing care field, I have found that most people don't even consider getting their hearing tested, even if they experience some degree of hearing loss. I believe that if people knew the facts about the negative effects of untreated hearing loss, regular hearing exams might be sought after more frequently. Hearing loss is one of those conditions that will not go away; it only gets worse over time, if not properly treated and managed. Once we lose the cilia in our ears, which are tiny hairs that are responsible for sending sounds to our brain, they are permanently gone and do not grow back. As a result, the brain is less and less stimulated, which causes some of the negative effects of untreated hearing loss such as increased hospitalization, increased risk of falls, social isolation, depression, dementia and Alzheimer's, to name a few.

Some of the most common causes of hearing loss are natural aging, exposure to loud noises for extended periods of time, ototoxic medications, injury, etc. While we cannot combat the natural aging process, we can limit our exposure to loud noises for extended periods of time. But what do we do when it's too late and we have permanently lost some of our ability to hear? We love ourselves and seek a professional that can provide insight into what problems we might be experiencing and possible solutions and treatment options before our condition worsens. If you are experiencing any of the signs below, it's very likely that you have some degree of hearing loss and should again, love yourself and seek the help of a professional for a better quality of life!

SOME EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF HEARING LOSS INCLUDE:

- 1 You experience ringing in your ears.
- 2 You have been told you speak too loudly.
- 3 Your family complains that you play the radio or TV too loud.
- 4 You often ask people to repeat themselves.
- 5 You have trouble understanding all the words in a conversation.
- 6 You have difficulty understanding a conversation in a large group or crowd.
- 7 You find yourself reading people's lips in order to understand the conversation.
- 8 You find yourself saying "huh" or "what" a lot in conversations.
- 9 You find that communicating over the phone is difficult.
- 10 You complain that people mumble or talk too fast.

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.



Vocabulary Voyage

Compiled By Laura Irwin, ThumbPrint News Staff

"That is what learning is. You suddenly understand something you've understood all your life, but in a new way." – Doris Lessing
British Novelist and Winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature 2007

aggrieved ag-grieved | ə-'grēvd

An adjective meaning : troubled or distressed in spirit, 2a : suffering from an infringement or denial of legal rights, 2b : showing or expressing grief, injury or offense. First known use: 14th century from Middle English *agreved* "annoyed, resentful."

Ex: The man felt aggrieved when he lost his position as manager through the duplicity of his co-worker.

desiccated des-ic-cat-ed | 'de-si-, kā-təd

An adjective meaning : dried up : preserved by drying : drained of emotional or intellectual vigor or vitality. First known use: 1670 from the Latin word *desiccare* meaning 'made thoroughly dry'. *Ex: I was quite put out when I found a desiccated skink in my bed.*

pejorative pe-jo-ra-tive | pi-'jōr-ə-tiv

An adjective meaning : having negative implications : tending to disparage or belittle : uncomplimentary. First known use: 1882 from the Late Latin verb *pējōrāre*, meaning "to make or become worse." *Ex: Pejorative words or phrases, such as control freak or loser, are hurtful, insulting and belittling.*

"If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all."



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SAVOY

Continued from Page 1

take many bad turns and sour the bleary, rainy day even more. “Our man Joe is ill with a bug; it’s that drafty section of the pit where he plays (piano) every night under a stupid fan which is noisy and cold on his head. Who do I scream to? Jay (Faggen), Moe (Gale), or Charley (Buchanan) to take the darn thing down?” (Owners/managers of the Savoy.) “Everybody’s buggin’ me, wanting to play something different – instruments and songs alike.” As the arranger went on and on, the hunched man, now appearing to be in some pain, only peered into a mirror while staying fixed to his chair.

“And how can I tweak ‘Stompin’ at the Savoy’ with Mario (Baugh) complaining that he wants a solo part leaving Reunauld (Jones) and Taft (Jordan) (trumpet) out to dry? That part is made for all three players!” Edgar continued to rant before taking a much-needed breath. “Who the hell did we hire – a bunch of juvenile yokels still hangin’ on mama’s apron strings?”

The hunched man only sighed and appeared to slouch even more, sagging down uncomfortably in his chair.

Edgar pounded the table causing dust clouds to scatter about the tiny room and flutter up towards the lit bulbs perimetering the mirrors before continuing toward the room’s skylight. The hunched man coughed and seemed to swallow some of the coagulated dust particles. This one-sided conversation came to an end at 11:42 a.m. Edgar summarized the order of the arrangements to be played that night, along with other notations that would be added or subtracted from the individual band members' arrangements finishing with, “I can’t please everyone. You know you’re sticking your neck out by acceptin’ this fool’s challenge from that upstart Goodman. What were you thinkin’? We’ve got our hard-earned reputation on the line – somethin’ fierce! They got Russin, James, Krupa and Stacy, all considered the best of the best, as well as that tinkle turner clarinet man Goodman.”

There was a short pause before he continued, “What can I do as your arranger? Your humble servant is what I am. Maybe I can find a way to juice up your ‘Stompin’ at the Savoy’, and add a few bars to ‘Harlem Congo’. ‘Sunny Me a Swing Song (and Let Me Dance)’ will pale without Ella since this competition is strictly instrumental. ‘Tisket a Tasket’ will be a disaster without her. You’ll just have to improvise your solos and hopefully, our wayward boys will be able to keep up. At least you’ll all be together in this farce of all farces.” Before leaving, Edgar asked, “Any last requests Boss Man?”

Finally getting a word in, the weary-eyed, hunched over, diminutive man uttered one brief panting statement: “Yes, get me the New York City phone book to sit on, the Harlem book is too small.”

As Edgar departed, he began muttering to himself, “This Benny fella has something brewing, a premix jazz piece called ‘Sing Sing Sing’. If he thinks he’s gonna introduce that piece tonight and play for nine straight minutes or more, I’ll personally stuff that clarinet of his into an orifice where it will stay ‘til death do him part!” Thankfully for everyone involved, no clarinetes were harmed that night. “Sing Sing Sing” wasn’t introduced by the Benny Goodman Band (BG Band) until two months later on July 6th.

The PR department for this evening’s cutting competition spread the word throughout Harlem and its environs. By 1:00 p.m., despite the earlier weather, a crowd spanned along Lenox Avenue, continuing around the block. Enthusiastic fans with their hopping shoes draped over their shoulders were hoping this cutting contest would allow for dancing. Others were wondering if Norman Miller, the great jazz dancer, would be there as rumors were flying throughout Harlem.

What would the format of this cutting contest be? The challenge came from Goodman and many in the crowd had listened to records of jazz standards by Benny's quartet and orchestra with many having heard this clarinetist proclaim he was the King of Swing. Several in the crowd felt this to be an outlandish overstatement causing even more buzz of conversation with many stating ‘how dare this reed man and his henchmen come up here and try to stick it to our man!’

Other orchestras had challenged the Savoy Orchestra (e.g. Count Basie, Fletcher Henderson and Lloyd Scott, among others) but, according to the expert judges, none prevailed.



Benny Goodman vs. Chick Webb, 1937, marquee sign, photo credit: Weegee from messynessychic.com

At 6:00 p.m., two hours before the contest was set to begin, the doors were opened to allow nearly 4,000 eager fans to burst through to find places near the bandstands. According to some reports, there were another 5,000 fans that were relegated to listening from outside.

The visiting competitors entered at 7:15 p.m., led by Benny Goodman himself followed by the rest of the members of his orchestra. Their warm-up was disciplined and crisp. No riffing or extraneous meandering – each instrument on cue. Gene Krupy peered over at the unoccupied orchestra area with what some described later as arrogant like he was ready to “blow away” the House Band with his clever displays of rhythm and syncopation combined with what he and the music nation at the time thought to be the best evening band in the country.

The other players too were ready to take the House Band apart, note by note if necessary, to ensure a victory that would secure the BG Band’s ascension to the top of the swing era! And they were keen to do it on the House Band’s stomping grounds.

Soon, the House Band casually strolled in on their side of the ballroom, some saying almost lazily. Members of the two orchestras were eyeballing the other as the House Band took their places. Only time would tell how much of the day’s stress had on the members. Edgar Sampson was noted to be scowling and shaking his head at Jon Truehart as Jon took out his banjo. However, Truehart paid him no mind.

After a brief warm-up and scaling, the House Band stopped suddenly as the eight o’clock hour approached. The crowd hushed. The tension was evident. The home team seemed out of focus while the visitors were slick, practiced and on cue to a fault.

The announcer stepped up to the microphone; “Welcome ladies and gentlemen to the Savoy Ballroom – ‘The Heartbeat of Harlem’, the soul of the neighborhood. We introduce our visiting band – the Benny Goodman Orchestra, led by Mr. Benny Goodman on clarinet.” There was a chorus of boos and jeers accompanied by scattered applause.

The announcer turned to the other side of the room facing the House Band, saying with a wave of his hand toward them: “Ladies and gentlemen, The Chick Webb Orchestra led by Chick Webb, percussionist extraordinaire.” The crowd erupted with wild applause, cheering, whistling and some fans shouting “Get ‘em, Chick!” As the applause died down, the announcer continued, “For this format, visitors go first, then the home orchestra, and so on until at 9:30 p.m., when time is called. Let the fans, the critics and the press be the decision makers – on we go,” he said as he pointed to the BG Band.

Their first piece was carefully orchestrated and very precise, catering to Goodman’s swing style – not overpowering and overall considered a safe start.

Next, the Chick Webb Orchestra’s first piece was the “Harlem Congo”. Chick’s hunched frame and short arms barely gave him room to hit all his cymbals and drums. His foot pedal was specially designed to accommodate his small frame and foot size, even with the added height of the New York City phone book. This particular piece showed off his skills and drove the audience into a frenzy. The other players took their cue from Chick and kept pace with his energetic playing.

The playing went back and forth with the Goodman orchestra precise but considered somewhat stale, not taking chances, not really taking off.

Then it came to Chick Webb’s signature song, “Stompin’ at the Savoy”. Every note vibrated throughout the vast ballroom with a clear, pounding, passionate beat. Some later said that the ether in the air of the hall was clearer than it had ever been. If there was perfection in sound, this was it. The other players fed into this perfect frenzy.

Chick’s drumming was mesmerizing

See SAVOY Page 16



Photo credit: frimframjam.com/news/2017/4/27/savoybattle)



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www.lionswinterfest.com



Friday, Feb 23rd

5 PM Tent Opens
5-8 PM Social Cornhole
6-7:30 PM Music by Anchor Bay Jazz Orchestra
8:30-11:30 PM Music by The Gobies
Band Break Beer Stein Hoisting Competition
9 PM Raffle
12 AM Tent Closes



Saturday, Feb 24th

9-12 PM FREE Techno Laser Tag
10 AM FREE Boxing Demo by Champion Boxing
10-3 PM Children's Vision Screening
12 PM FREE Pizza Lunch for Kids donated by Lion Tim Webb
12 PM Beer Sales Open
12-3 PM Pony & Horse Rides by Day Dreams Farm
12:30-1:30 PM The Clark Lewis Show
2-5 PM Music by Foxhound
3 PM FREE Nacho Bar for Kids by Trini's Mexican Carryout
5-6 PM Music by BlueSkye Riley
6-7 PM Music by Paisley Grace
5-8 PM League Cornhole
7:30-11:30 PM Music by Set N Stone
At Dusk Drone Show
9 PM Raffle
12 AM Tent Closes

KIDS DAY!
FREE ACTIVITIES!



Sunday, Feb 25th

8-10 AM Boy Scout Troop 211 Pancake Breakfast
10-2 PM Bloody Mary Bar
11-4 PM Music by Gopher Broke
12 PM Beer Sales Open
12-4 PM Cornhole Tournament
12:30 PM T-Shirt Design Winner Genny Lang Award Presentation
12:40 PM National Anthem by Paisley Grace
12:45 PM Guns N' Hoses at Walter & Mary Burke Park
1 PM Polar Bear Plunge at Walter & Mary Burke Park
4 PM Grand Raffle & Prizes
5 PM Tent Closes



*Event schedule subject to change.



New Baltimore Lions Club

The New Baltimore Lions Club has been committed to the community since 1978. The first Winterfest was held 31 years ago in 1993 and has grown into our largest fundraising event.

We hold many different fundraisers and events throughout the year to raise money to support Lions charities, such as Leader Dogs for the Blind, Project Kidsight, Eversight and more!

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- Meeting new people?
- Helping your community?

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newbaltimorelions.com/join

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Table after Table after Table

By **Rita MacDonald**, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist



I'm sitting here cuddled up on the couch tonight all by myself, enjoying the quiet, and looking at my kitchen table I love so much. Life has always happened around it. Life just looks a lot different these days. Seasons – they change.

The tablecloth is hanging way too low on one side – the side where I sat this morning. And there are a few crumbs left there too. (I love a good English muffin with jam.) My planner is spread out at one of the other settings, where this evening I wrote some upcoming tentative plans to attend a hockey game soon and to meet up with two new special friends, then I penciled in a pizza night with my grandkids and some friends, and finally attending a musical with Dave and Jean.

I really should shake out that tablecloth and throw it in the washer.

My dad's cap hangs on the shelf on the wall behind it, and pictures of my grandkids hang beside that. I often wish he could meet them. Someday I hope he does.

When I first began my blog, way before I started submitting my thoughts as articles for this paper, I remember wanting to write about anything that took place at my kitchen table. That table has changed a few times, but its purpose has been inherited by one new table after another. Each one I've cherished.

I shopped for a long time to find just the right first table. I knew what I wanted, and I knew I'd know when I found the right one. That moment came one day when my sons were very young, and we were shopping at a Sears closeout sale. "As is" furniture was all over the place, the floor was a mess, and we were weaving in and out of all sorts of pieces of furniture when I found a really pretty, dark wooden table with six chairs. But how would I get it home?

I called my neighbor and close friend Michele, and she soon came to my rescue with her van. Since it was a close-out sale, the salesmen were even unwilling to help us load it into her van. So, I purchased the appropriate tools to remove the legs, and Michele, myself, my two boys along with her two boys and twin girls managed to load the table, its four legs, and six chairs (and the eight of us) into her van. We drove in some pretty heavy snow/rain/slush/mess but made time to stop at McDonald's for ice cream on the way home. Over the years, I wish I would have kept track of every soul who came and sat with us. I loved that table, and it stayed in my dining room for many years.

Several years later, my dream table – an oak clawfoot dining room table with six chairs – went on sale on a Sunday at Art Van, but I still really couldn't afford it. The next day I stopped at the end of my street, and there it sat on the side of the road. I felt like that little girl on *Miracle on 34th Street* at the end of the movie when she saw her house and insisted that her mother and father pull over immediately. Someone had tossed it out to the street. A friend and I lugged it all the way back to my house on foot, and a couple of months later, we found out who threw it away and they offered us the six matching chairs as well! I'll let you guess what I said.

Fast forward to 2021, and I moved into a smaller one-story condo. The original large wooden dining table from Sears was put out to the street, and I hoped someone would find it as much of a treasure as it had been to me. A few days later, I learned that a friend's daughter had come and gotten it. That really made me smile.

I had also purchased a very small white wooden table with two chairs for my kitchen at my favorite store in Saginaw, but when I moved into my new home, it was too small for my dining area, so that one currently sits in my basement, along with the six traditional-looking chairs that matched the oak clawfoot table. I removed one of the leaves to that table and it fits perfectly in my dining area! I've covered it with a pretty blue-green tablecloth, and added the two white chairs to match my more modern decor, but...I really needed two more. Where would I find them? That table came from a specialty store.

Lo and behold, one day while seeing patients in an assisted living home, a gentleman's mother had passed away and he was removing her furniture from the room. He asked me to hold the door open as he walked out with two chairs on his shoulders that matched the two at my current table! Score! A few minutes later, I was the proud owner of two white chairs that matched the other two white chairs!

By this time, you probably think I need to join a support group for people who collect kitchen tables. But I like to think of it as more of a gift that God just keeps giving me. He knows I love faces across from me at my table. He provides me with the sweetest souls as friends, and a place for us to visit. And though I may not have a separate dining room anymore, would you believe He even provided me with a nice long porch with a beautiful view to relax on every night?

My chairs match each other, but they still don't match my table. I'm certain, though, that no one who's ever sat there has noticed. Or cared. I love it. I've laughed at it, cried at it, had two people at it, 10 people at it, and this Friday I'm going to have 12 people sitting around that table! I've played games there, wrapped gifts, and even had snowball fights around the table – several of them, in fact!

Yesterday, I was a little overwhelmed (okay, maybe a lot overwhelmed), by some yucky stuff, but today...today I'm able to sit and enjoy my life here. Amy sent me a picture of her cute new kitten, and texted me Matthew 6:26 right when I needed to read Matthew 6:26! Mike and Sarah sent me some pictures of their beautiful new granddaughter. I sat next to Katie the past few days listening to her sing, and watched Bernie interacting with all (ALL) of her patients as if they were old friends. Joyce came over last night for a quick visit and a laugh, and tomorrow I get to catch up with Deb. My friend in Australia has sent me some fun poems to read! Next month, my friends are coming from Iowa for a three-day visit, and I can't wait to see them – and have them at my table!

So, there you have it – the history of all of my kitchen tables. It was good for me to reflect on this today. Trust me. It was. Now I've got some kitchen table shenanigan ideas running through my noggin. I'll keep ya posted.

Till then, let me know when you can come pull up a chair and chat so we can sharpen each other's iron! 🌱

"IRON SHARPENS IRON, AND ONE MAN SHARPENS ANOTHER."
- PROVERBS 27:17

THUMBPRINT NEWS PET PHOTO CHALLENGE

We are featuring Popcorn,
sent in by her chicken tender,
Laura of Cottrellville, MI



Thank you, Laura, for sharing
Popcorn with us and we're so
sorry for your loss!

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.



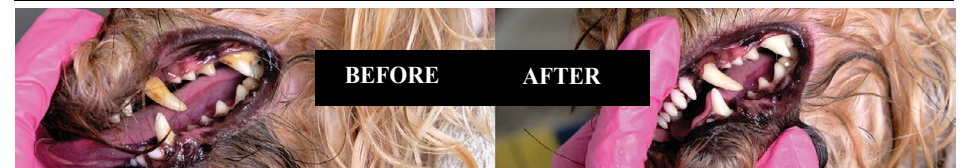
Meet Popcorn – our rescue chicken. Of the seven backyard chickens we have, Popcorn by far had the biggest personality. She made her own rules about being a chicken, often refusing to join the other girls in the coop at night, preferring to roost in a tree. In the morning she would come running to greet me, clucking softly. When it came to eating, she required the 'princess' treatment with her own pile of scratch along with a copy of her favorite monthly paper! She was very friendly, letting me pet and hold her. I think she wanted to be a house chicken. She recently went to free-range chicken heaven and I miss her very much.
RIP Popcorn



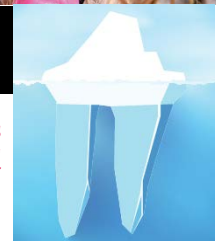


Make Sure Your Furry Friends are Smooch Ready!!

FEBRUARY IS PET DENTAL HEALTH MONTH



MOST DENTAL DISEASE OCCURS BELOW THE GUM LINE WHERE IT'S HARD TO SEE.



Did you know dental health is a very important part of your pet's overall health? Take a moment to brush up on your pet dental health facts. See if you can answer these dental questions:

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Poor dental hygiene can put your pet's health at risk.
2. Routine cleanings for dogs and cats do not require anesthesia.
3. There are four stages of periodontal disease in pets.

ANSWERS:

1. True. "Dog breath" can be more than an annoyance. It can be a sign of serious dental conditions, for example, an oral infection. If left untreated, you may put your pet at risk for greater problems, even heart disease.
2. False. Full dental cleanings and exams for dogs and cats require anesthesia. They can help prevent disease and save money in the long run. A complete oral examination can detect hidden health problems. Even if your pet's breath smells fine, there still could be dental conditions that are hard to spot without a complete veterinary exam under anesthesia.
3. True.
 - *Stage 1 periodontal disease:* There is visible tartar buildup on the teeth and slight swelling and redness of the gums.
 - *Stage 2 and 3 periodontal:* The gums are more swollen in stage 2, and there can be mild loss of bone around the tooth roots, which is only visible on X-rays. Stage 3 can look like stage 2 on the surface, but X-rays show more severe bone loss.
 - *Stage 4 periodontal disease:* Stage 4 is very serious, with severe tartar accumulation, receded gum lines, tooth damage and decay, as well as bone loss.







Schedule your pet's dental checkup with your veterinarian now. They can perform a thorough checkup to make sure your pet is in optimum health. 🌱

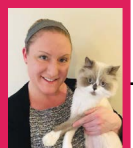
ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION:

- 80% of dogs and 70% of cats have periodontal disease by age 3.
- Regular pet dental exams can save money in the long run.
- Left untreated dental disease can damage a pet's internal organs. Prevention costs 1/3 as much as treating the disease.
- Routine dental cleanings help prevent periodontal disease and detect hidden health problems.




BEST ORAL HEALTH RECIPE:


+

+

=


Proper nutrition Tooth brushing Regular checkups & cleaning Oral health



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.

**Building Bridges & Understanding
Between Customers & Businesses**

**WATCH FOR RED FLAGS THIS
VALENTINE'S DAY**

Valentine's Day is just around the corner and many of us will be focused on sharing gifts with loved ones or searching for that special someone. While Cupid is busy shooting some of us with his arrow, con artists will also be hard at work, tugging on heartstrings to get into your wallet.

Most romance scams start with fake profiles on online dating sites created by stealing photos and text from real accounts or elsewhere online. Scammers often claim to be in the military or working overseas to explain why they can't meet you in person. Over a short period, the scammer builds a fake relationship with you, exchanging photos and romantic messages, even talking on the phone or through a webcam.

Just when the relationship seems to be getting serious, your new sweetheart has a health issue or family emergency or wants to plan a visit. No matter the story, the request is the same: they need money. But after you send money, there's another request, and then another, or the scammer stops communicating altogether.

Sadly, scammers often take advantage of the human desire to have emotional connections. We all want to love and be loved, but sometimes infatuation can cloud our better judgment, so it's important to keep yourself educated about common romance scams.

To avoid getting duped in your quest for love, Better Business Bureau® Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula has narrowed down some warning signs to watch for.

- **Too hot to be true.** Scammers offer up good-looking photos and tales of financial success. Be honest with yourself about who would be genuinely interested. If they seem "too perfect", your alarm bells should ring.
- **In a hurry to get off the site.** Catfishers will try very quickly to get you to move to communicate through email, messenger or phone.
- **Moving fast.** A catfisher will begin speaking of a future together and tell you they love you quickly. They often say they've never felt this way before.
- **Talk about trust.** Catfishers will start manipulating you with talk about trust and its importance. This will often be the first step to asking you for money.
- **Don't want to meet.** Be wary of someone who always has an excuse to postpone a meeting because they say they are traveling, live overseas or are in the military.
- **Suspect language.** If the person you are communicating with claims to be from your hometown but has poor spelling or grammar, uses overly flowery language or uses phrases that don't make sense, that's a red flag.
- **Hard luck stories.** Before moving on to asking you for money, the scammer may hint at financial troubles like heat being cut off, a stolen car, a sick relative or they may share a sad story from their past (death of parents or spouse, etc.).

HOW TO AVOID THESE SCAMS:

- **Never send money or personal information** that can be used for identity theft to someone you've never met in person. Never give someone your credit card information to book a ticket to visit you. Cut off contact if someone starts asking you for information like your credit card, bank or government ID numbers.
- **Ask specific questions about details given in a profile.** A scammer may stumble over remembering details or making a story fit.
- **Do your research.** Many scammers steal photos from the web to use in their profiles. You can do a reverse image lookup using a website like tineye.com or



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images.google.com to see if the photos on a profile are stolen from somewhere else. You can also search online for a profile name, email or phone number to see what adds up and what doesn't.

If you encounter a suspected romance scam, cut off all contact with the perpetrator by blocking their accounts and phone number. Then, report your experience to BBB.org/ScamTracker.

To learn more about ways to protect yourself from romance scams, and other fraudulent activities, visit BBB.org or call (866) 788-5706.



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.



By David Gillis
ThumbPrint News
Columnist

Here we are, settled into this new year of 2024. This year promises to bring with it media bombardment of political chaos, new economic pressures, personal relationship difficulties and disappointments over personal weight-loss efforts begun just a month ago. Oops! Did I touch a nerve? Sorry.

Statistics, unfortunately, show that millions of people start a new year with a diet that loses its momentum often within days of beginning. An estimated nine out of ten (87%) will break their new healthy eating habits as soon as January 12. Some will survive with the new eating regimen until the end of the month, but not much further. Hey, we're only human beings and our dedication to good habits only goes so far.

January is "Healthy Weight Awareness Month", surely a time when many of us consider a fresh start with healthier eating and exercise habits. Awareness is important. Consider the statistics on obesity in America as provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Forty-one percent of Americans are considered obese.

It seems that our bodies are wired for survival and our mind interprets less energy availability brought about by dieting as somewhat of a threat to survival. As a reaction, our bodies combat calorie deprivation with countermeasures that may include metabolic, hormonal and neurological changes that overwhelm willpower.

Following the rush of the holiday season and eating habits that took a turn for the worse on Thanksgiving Day, January may feel like it is moving far too slowly. A New Year's resolution to dieting becomes a part of that journey at a snail's pace.

So, what then? Are you waiting for some positive tips for saving your weight-loss efforts? Well, you won't find them in this essay.

Allow me to help you justify your broken dieting promise or, at least, to be able to blame it on someone or something else. Let's venture into the month of February with some real comfort food attractions. The first day of the month is National Baked Alaska Day and also National Dark Chocolate Day. Certainly, you should be able to do something with that understanding and simply explain your actions as only doing your part to recognize national special days.

You may skip the next day in February unless you're a potato fan. If you are, you may want to consider

that it is National Tater Tot Day. Hey, just enjoy and move quickly to the next day, which happens to be National Carrot Cake Day followed by the fourth of the month when Bubble Gum Day makes its annual appearance. Maybe this should be called National Keep Your Dentist Busy Day.

Let's all really just accept the importance of the fifth day of February and give in to it. On that day we will celebrate National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day, which is joined by World Nutella Day. Now, how can you go wrong with that on your calendar schedule? But wait, we aren't even through the first week of the month yet. The seventh day of February is National Fettuccine Alfredo Day. Alright, now we have made it through the first week of the month. How do you feel now?

You may be feeling a little bloated by now, so we'll slow down on national days of observance except for National Pizza Day is on the ninth, National Peppermint Patty Day is February 11, National Tortellini Day is two days later, and the week ends with National Cream-Filled Chocolates Day. Not too bad, except that Super Bowl Sunday and Valentine's Day both occur in February, and we all know how we are attracted to eating on those days.

I won't even ask if you want to continue and will just forge ahead. Surely out of curiosity, you will want to know that the following week (February 15-21) offers National Gumdrop Day, National Muffin Day, National Cherry Pie Day and National Sticky Bun Day. This year, the month of February also provides "Fat Tuesday", and it always has the honorable No One Eats Alone Day.

There, you have made it through the first three weeks of the month. Are you feeling any better?

I will finish this shortest month of the year with a reminder that the final week includes National Banana Bread Day, National Tortilla Chip Day, National Chili Day, National Chocolate Covered Nut Day, National Clam Chowder Day, National Pistachio Day, National Strawberry Day and normally ends with National Chocolate Soufflé Day. The fourth week is also known as National Eating Disorders Awareness Week. Since 2024 is a Leap Year, we will have an extra day (February 29) just to rest in our recliners and consider how we have destroyed our weight management program for the year. Sorry, there are no eating-recognition days on this date. Maybe within four years we'll be able to establish one. Any ideas?

While my writing efforts this month have been done with tongue in cheek and just to have some fun, the days of national recognition quoted are real, so some people must be celebrating them. Find one or two dates you can personally embrace and celebrate.

I know I will be. We now have an excuse or reason. Bon Appétit! 🍷

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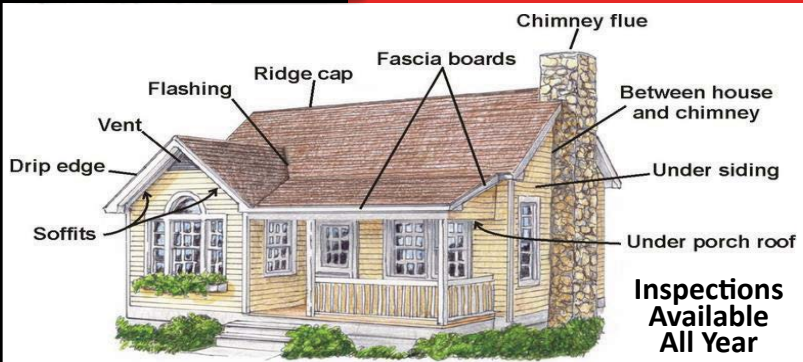
Bats play an important role in many environments around the world. Some plants depend wholly on bats to pollinate their flowers or spread their seeds, while other bats control pests by eating insects. But bat guano can cause severe respiratory illness in humans.

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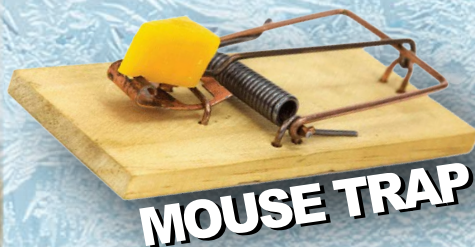
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LIONS OF THE THUMB



Highlighting Lions District 11 D2

By **Jim White**, Lions Club District 11 D2 Governor

MAKING THE WORLD BETTER, ONE PERSON AT A TIME

Beginning with our oldest club, 103 years ago, the Lions Clubs have served the people of the Thumb dutifully. Lions International District 11 D2 started with the Port Huron Host Lions and now encompasses what is often referred to as the “Thumb District” – Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, and Saint Clair counties.

The district’s membership is proud to operate by the Lions Club International’s motto, “We Serve”. This district also strives to meet the organization’s vision of working “...to improve the lives of the visually impaired and prevent avoidable blindness.” The Club can also be found trying to improve the conditions for those with diabetes, youth outreach, disaster relief, childhood cancer, the environment and those suffering from hunger. Consequently, the “Thumb District” proudly serves by offering unique and impactful initiatives, programs, and opportunities to its local communities and throughout the state of Michigan.

District 11 D2 is made up of 47 Lions Clubs, three of which are Lioness Lions clubs and four are Leo clubs, and the district has over 1,200 members. As affiliates of the world’s largest humanitarian service organization, our efforts benefit those in need daily, and in times of disaster, at home, around the state, and in the world. Lions Club International is a worldwide organization that serves people in need through the Lions Club International Foundation. Lions Clubs helped with chartering the original United Nations and has a non-voting seat at the U.N. today, which lends a voice to all clubs around the world.



Jim White, Lions Clubs District 11-D2 Governor

Lions Clubs hope to provide service to their communities while having fun. Our district governor, Jim White’s motto this year is “One Member, One Service, One Smile.” When someone smiles due to our work, it causes a chain reaction of smiles and the world seems a little brighter, creating a future that is hopeful and promising. As a Lion, you can expect great friendships and relationships with others who are like-minded.

Anyone interested in checking out one of our local clubs can find one nearby at www.11-d2lions.org.

Lions roar to serve and with your help, we can do more.

Editorial note: The idea for this new column came from the Lions Club Thumb District 11 D-2 Governor Jim White, with the goal of highlighting our area's Lions Clubs. Visit www.11-d2lions.org to learn more about your local Lions.



2023 RED KETTLE CHRISTMAS SEASON REPORT

Since the inception of this voluntary campaign in 2016, contributions have continued to increase each holiday season and has provided a total of \$42,294 in donations over the past eight years.

“We appreciate the residents who volunteer their time to ring the bell and man the kettle during such a busy time of the year,” Kemp said. “In addition, we appreciate the generosity of all of the visitors to our neighborhood who contribute to the campaign each year to help the Salvation Army in Port Huron provide gifts for children and meals for families in need at Christmas. We look forward to doing this again during next year’s Christmas season.”

The Sherman Woods Homeowners Association’s 2023 bell ringing raised \$8,337 to assist the Port Huron Salvation Army’s annual holiday fundraising campaign for the 8th consecutive year.

Visitors made donations while touring the Sherman Woods location to view the distinctive Christmas light displays the neighborhood organizes each year, as well as listen to the Sherman Woods Chorus and visit with Santa Claus.

“It’s certainly remarkable and heartwarming to see such a robust increase in donations in 2023 over last year’s total,” said Fred Kemp, president of the Sherman Woods Homeowners Association.



Volunteers who manned the Red Kettle during the 2023 Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign, photo credit: Sherman Woods Homeowner’s Association

WARNING SIGNS

of Flea Infestation



- Small black dots that look like dirt trapped in fur
- Hair loss on pets - Fatigue in both pets & humans
- Rashes and itching - Weight loss on pets - Blisters
- Cough and cold - Fever and vomiting - Death of pet

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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 January 2024 contest, we asked our readers to identify what is pictured to the left. Several entries were correct in identifying this as a camera but only three specified the type. Of the correct entries, Gary Cronenvhet of Burton, Michigan, was randomly chosen as January's winner. Gary correctly identified this to be a Phototank camera.

According to CoelnCameras.com, Le Phototank camera was designed by Frenchman, Henry Bayle and was built by Victor Houssin of Bordeaux, France. The design is inspired by the famous tank built by Luis Renault from WWI. It is the forerunner of Leica for 50 exposures 24x24 on 35mm film. The one pictured above is from 1921, and is valued at almost \$30k. There are less than 10 of these rare cameras in existence. It is an all-metal nickel plated camera with a metal focal plane shutter.



For our February 2024 contest, we are asking our readers to identify what is pictured to the right if you think you know, visit our website, www.thumbprintnews.com, to answer. GOOD LUCK!

PROBLEMS
PERSISTING

FURTIVE FLEAS



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



Winter is in full swing. The cold weather has settled deep into the earth and our bones keeping most of us snug and warm inside. The last thing we want is a house infested with bugs and itchy, fur babies. Bugs of all types want to join us inside to survive the colder weather. If you have pets, you're familiar with the one pest I'm going to focus on this month – the flea. These tiny critters hitch a ride on dogs, cats and even you and your family.

Once fleas make their way inside, they will infest everything, and they can be very difficult and expensive to eradicate. You may think animals can't get fleas in winter, but that is false. While flea populations slow down a bit in the cold weather, they do not go away completely. That's why it is important to keep flea treatments going even in frigid weather, both inside and out!

Fleas are small, flat and reddish brown in color. Though they don't have wings and cannot fly, these little buggers are able to move from or attach to a host by jumping. They're able to jump vertically up to seven inches and horizontally up to 13 inches. They'll jump up onto your dog who is minding his own business, just innocently playing outside, and ride him right into your home. Just think about that!

Of the over 300 flea species found in the U.S. – about 2,000 globally – the most common species in our area is the *Ctenocephalides felis*, or cat flea. These fleas typically prefer to feed on furry hosts such as dogs, cats, rabbits, mice, rats, squirrels, etc., but they will feed on humans if they can't find a blood meal elsewhere. Their bites can leave welts and red marks, cause an allergic reaction or transmit diseases to both human and pets, such as: dermatitis, tapeworms, anemia, rickettsiosis or Bartonella.

Cat fleas aren't the only species of flea that can be found on domestic cats (and dogs too), but they are definitely the most annoying and hard to get rid of, especially once they get inside. It is only a matter of time before just a few become a full-blown infestation.

So, what can you do about it? Aside from a pesticide treatment, vacuuming can greatly reduce the population. You will need to vacuum, twice daily – disposing of the soiled vacuum bag outside of the house, or emptying the bagless tank into a bag that will be removed immediately from inside the house and then thoroughly clean the tank. It is also recommended that you wash any fabrics you are able to, including pet bedding, rugs, curtains, couch pillows, etc. and then dry them in the dryer at the hottest setting available.



If you have pets, it's a good idea to have them seen by a veterinarian and get them on some type of flea preventative. Every time your dog or cat goes outside, they are at risk of bringing fleas back inside the house with them. A flea preventative will protect your pets, your home and your family. It is always best to practice preventative maintenance so you don't have to tackle a severe flea infestation because, after all, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

The lifecycle of a flea is rather complex and they go through a complete metamorphosis before becoming a biting adult flea. Under optimal conditions, a cat flea can complete its entire lifecycle in just two weeks. In adverse conditions, the lifecycle of the cat flea can take upwards of one year. Because of this, it may require multiple treatments to get rid of them. Using over-the-counter products or a flea bomb will most likely not be enough once infestation has occurred! ABC Bees, a division of ABC Home & Commercial Services, offers interior and exterior flea treatments. It is best to combine both treatments for a more thorough extermination. Reducing the flea infestation in your yard will greatly reduce your chances of getting fleas inside your home. Together, we can work to rid your home of these persistent, long-lived, irritating pests. Call us today at (810) 794-5678 to get an appointment scheduled. 🐾

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EXPERIENCE ELEGANCE IN

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TASSELS

Then and Now!




By Theresa Nielsen, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Like some of my other recollections, my grandma's house was where I first saw yet another fabric-related item – tassels! They were on the throw pillows at her house on the lake back in the '60s. At the time I thought they were interesting and can remember wondering how they were made. The next time I noticed them was in a magazine when I saw a man dressed in a kilt. Wait, I thought to myself, is that a tassel? It sure was.

Since then, I've developed a deeper interest in tassels. Now, I see them wherever I go. I've noticed them on rearview mirrors, on flags, of course, adorning animals in parades. Not only are tassels interesting, but they can also be made from wood, metal and even precious diamonds. When I sat down to write this article, I decided I wanted to know how long they've been around. The earliest evidence I could find was that they were seen in Egyptian royal tomb paintings – that's a long time.

Passementerie, a French word for the art of making elaborate trimmings, covers a wide range of tassels, braids, fringe, etc. As a crazy quilter, I love that word. It's so unique. Crazy quilting is my opportunity to adorn and embellish however I want to on my projects. I love using tassels, those made with beads, yarn and other fabrics. Tassels, cords and braids aren't just for quilts either, they can be used to tie back curtains, dress up a lampshade, or even on fancy purses. A tassel can hang from the cupboard door and light cords.

You might ask, what is the function of tassels today? Well, it's purely decorative. They are fun, eye-catching and certainly a conversation starter. While visiting a resale shop recently I found a lovely pair of red earrings with long tassels attached.

Personally, I like to hang them from a decorative cord, along with some crystals to catch the sunlight. I've spotted my cat following their shadow across the ceiling. Tassels remind me that life is fun, especially on those gloomy winter days. So, next time you need a pick-me-up, grab yourself a tassel...or two.

I see more tassels in my future, for sure. What about you? 🌿



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.



SAVOY

Continued from Page 6

with each beat throbbing lustfully in the heads of the audience, serving the moment. The world seemed to stop at this moment to pay tribute to the greatest drummer ever born. This date and competition went down in history as the "Music Battle of the Century".

Chick played that night to the point of collapse. His frail torso slumped, his head barely held upright, his fingers aching to the bone. The spinal tuberculosis that had affected him since an accident in his childhood was getting worse. But at the end of the contest, he stood with a wide grin and his unconquerable spirit, bowing to his audience.

The packed house that night knew they had seen history made. One of their own had conquered the adversary but the ripple went beyond this one night.



A night at the Savoy Ballroom in 1941, photo credit: Messynessychic.com

The Savoy Ballroom's pulsing rhythmic swing music would now be heard by a much larger audience.

The context of this competition that pitted two great orchestras against one another can be construed as cultural, social and even ethnic was purely two great, well-rehearsed orchestras going at each other in musicality, training and talent.

The fans left that evening, pouring out onto Lenox Avenue to a sky with a million twinkling stars. The air was clean. Collectively the dispersing crowd knew that Goodman had been beaten even as the era of swing music had just begun. Those pulsing beats and powerful strokes – each instrument in sync.

William Henry "Chick" Webb was born February 10, 1905, in Baltimore, Maryland, to a very poor family and was taken care of by his grandfather after his father left when he was seven. When he was small, he fell down some stairs in his family's home, crushing several vertebrae and requiring surgery, from which he never regained full mobility. The injury progressed to tuberculosis of the spine, leaving him with short stature and a badly deformed spine which caused him to appear hunchbacked. At the time of his death, he was 4' 1". He left school at the age of 9 to sell newspapers to help his family, eventually raising enough money to buy a set of used drums. His passion for drumming was inspired by parade drummers he saw on his way to church. He discovered that playing the drums helped relieve joint stiffness caused by his spinal disease.

The neighborhood children nicknamed him Chicken because of his unusual gait. It was eventually shortened to Chick. He went by that name for the rest of his days, except to his mother, she always called him William.

He moved to New York in 1924, and his fast rise to stardom began with playing night clubs at age 17, starting at the Black Bottom and Paddock Club. These gigs led to his being discovered by Duke Ellington who encouraged Chick to form a quintet called the Harlem Stompers. Through many ups and downs, he became a renowned band leader as the quintet evolved into one of the most revered swing bands in New York – The Chick Webb Orchestra. He began playing at the Savoy in January of 1927. In 1935, he added the teenage Ella Fitzgerald to his orchestra – she eventually became known as "The First Lady of Swing". It was Ella who took over the Chick Webb Orchestra after his death, until she left to focus on her solo career in 1942, leading to the disbandment of the orchestra.

Chick Webb's short life came to a close a mere 34 years after his birth. On June 16, 1939, his battle with spinal tuberculosis came to an end. This was one battle he could not win. Mourners packed the church at his funeral which was held at the family church, Waters African Methodist on Aisquith Street in Baltimore, Maryland. The procession was said to have had 80 or more cars. He is buried in Baltimore County, in Arbutus Memorial Park, in Arbutus, Maryland.

Chick Webb defined the Swing Era. Though he died young, his legacy and those great drummers who emulated his style live on. The Savoy went out of business in 1958, and was demolished the following year, making way for a housing project. The fixtures of the ballroom were auctioned for a "slum clearance housing project". On May 26, 2002, a commemorative plaque for the

CELEBRITY

Autograph

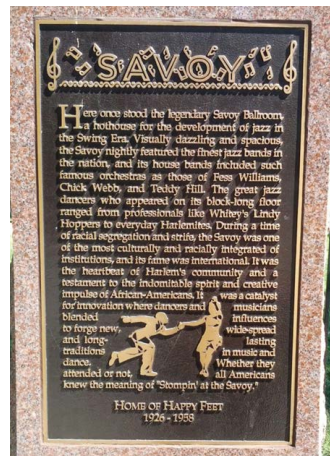
DONATIONS

Submitted by Tina House
Lapeer County MSU Extension 4-H

In preparing for its 31st Annual Celebrity Autographed Items Auction, to be held in April 2024, the Lapeer County 4-H Youth Program is seeking donations from the public of autographs of famous people. Autographs can be of all types of well-known people on any type of item, for example autographs on books, sports stars on balls, movie stars on photographs.

With questions or to make a donation, call the Lapeer County MSU Extension office at (810) 667-0341 or email msue.lapeer@county.msu.edu. Anyone interested in attending this autographs auction can contact 4-H to be put on a mailing list for event details.

Savoy Ballroom on Lenox Avenue between 140th and 141st Streets was installed by two members of Whitey's Lindy Hoppers. If one night defined the jazz swing age, it was the night of May 11, 1937, at the Savoy, brought about by the redoubtable spirit and talent of the crippled, stooped, hunched man, Chick Webb. 🌱



Savoy Ballroom commemorative plaque, photo credit: LukeHolladay, Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0 DEED

and musicians blended influences to forge new, wide-spread and long-lasting traditions in music and dance. Whether they attended or not, all Americans knew the meaning of "Stompin' at the Savoy." ~ **Home of Happy Feet ~ 1926 - 1958**

Editorial note: While this article is one of historic fact, some of the conversations have been created to give better context to what went into the event. We also encourage everyone to visit YouTube to listen to a few songs mentioned in the article – they're sure something! Thank you to Bob Jones for sharing this incredible story with us for Black History Month!



Undated photo of Chick Webb, photo credit: messynessychic.com

The Plaque Reads: *Here once stood the legendary Savoy Ballroom, a hot house for the development of jazz in the Swing Era. Visually dazzling and spacious, the Savoy nightly featured the finest jazz bands in the nation, and its house bands included such famous orchestras as those of Fess Williams, Chick Webb and Teddy Hill. The great jazz dancers who appeared on the block-long floor ranged from professionals like Whitey's Lindy Hoppers to everyday Harlemites. During a time of racial segregation and strife, the Savoy was one of the most culturally and racially integrated of institutions, and its fame was international. It was the heartbeat of Harlem's community and a testament to the indomitable spirit and creative impulse of African-Americans. It was a catalyst for innovation where dancers*

You're sure to enjoy this children's story by local author, Robert C. Jones!

The story is about a young boy, Bobby, age 8, who befriends a family of red foxes, much to the chagrin of his uncle and aunt who own a resort near Torch Lake, Michigan, in what is known as the North Woods.

The Tale of the Red Fox in the North Woods



Robert C. Jones

Problems arise when area businessmen have their properties vandalized by this family of red foxes. Bobby learns a lot about the emerging natural and manmade world around him from the people familiar with the area; childhood friends, close neighbors, and his uncle and aunt.

The book includes many facts about the survival of the red fox, nature, the native Chippewa Indians, as well as the history of the North Woods along the stretch of Torch Lake near his uncle and aunt's resort.

This book is a good choice for young people aged 8 - 12 years.

Robert C. Jones, aka Bobby, is a retired special education teacher. He lives with his wife of 50+ years, in Washington Twp., MI. They are the proud grandparents of three boys: Brandon 19, Joshua 16, and Justin 11.

Available for purchase at Squirrel Away Bookshop in Armada and directly from the author via email at robertsparty1@gmail.com for \$20.

It is also available on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com for \$27.



Black History Month How It Began and Why It's Important

In February of 1926, African American historian Carter G. Woodson launched Negro History Week with the purpose to raise awareness and honor the accomplishments of African Americans. Fifty years later, in 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized the entire month of February as Black History Month. In

his bicentennial speech, he encouraged all Americans to

“seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

February was chosen because it holds the birth month of two iconic abolitionists: Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

Black History Month is a time to remember and honor the outstanding citizens who have persisted and fought to bring equality to Black people the world over and to acknowledge their contributions to our shared economic, cultural and social development.

Acceptance of diversity is a two-way street we all need to traverse to help us prevail over years of division.

"What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate and religious prejudice."



– Carter G. Woodson, 1875-1950. Woodson was the first and only Black American to receive a doctorate in history from Harvard University whose parents had been slaves.

"Please stop using the word 'Negro'... We are the only human beings in the world with fifty-seven varieties of complexions who are classed together as a single racial unit. Therefore, we are really truly colored people, and that is the only name in the English language which accurately describes us." – Mary Eliza Church Terrell, 1863-1954. Born in Memphis, Tennessee, to freed slaves



of mixed racial ancestry, she is one of the first African American women to earn a college degree. She was a founding member of the National Association of Colored Women and a Charter member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

"In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute."

– Thurgood Marshall, 1908-1993. He was an American civil rights lawyer and jurist. Nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson, Marshall was the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court from 1967-1991.



The evolution of language and how the meaning of words change, often becoming discriminatory, has led to many words being used to describe nonwhite people in our country. Currently, using the term "BIPOC, which stands for 'Black, Indigenous, and People of Color,'" is preferred for generalizations as "it enables a shift away from terms like 'marginalized' and 'minority'. The choice to use 'BIPOC' [rather than just people of color] reflects the desire to illuminate specific injustices affecting Black and Indigenous people" (Healthline.com).

However, generalizing is not always the answer, and "admittedly, people are afraid of getting it 'wrong' or using an imprecise term. Language is fluid, and [it is important to] continue to review and revisit the terminology we use" (macfound.org). Also, when possible, seeking out and respecting someone's self-identification is always a good rule of thumb.

The information in this last paragraph is from articles from Healthline.com and the MacArthur Foundation; however, many articles have been written about this very topic, and we encourage you to do your own research to understand the importance of using language to be inclusive and representative rather than offensive.



If you have an event in March that you would like listed in the March issue of ThumbPrint News, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by February 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

February 6 – Burton Flint Genealogical Society Meeting, Burton Senior Center, 3410 S. Grand Traverse, 7:00 p.m. Join us for “Becoming American, Research with Naturalization Records” presented by Kris Rzepczynski from the State Library in Lansing. 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

February 4, 11, 18 & 25 Lapeer Sunday Flea Market, The Lapeer Center Building, 425 County Center St., 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. We 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.

February 7, 14, 21 & 28 Imlay City Imlay City 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 for this 10-week tournament for just \$15 per 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.

February 10 – Lapeer Habitat For Humanity's 2nd Annual Adult Prom "Black & White Party", Lapeer Country Club, 3786 Hunt Rd., 6:00 p.m. Please join us for an amazing night of fun for a GREAT cause! With a wonderful plated dinner, desserts, a DJ, both professional & photo booth pictures, door prizes, silent auctions, a cash bar and TONS OF FUN! Tickets are \$65 each. Visit bit.ly/HfH-Prom to get your tickets today! For more info call (248) 931-8311.

MACOMB

All Month Long Memphis & Richmond 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.

February 2, 14, 16 & 23 Memphis Lent 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. Lent cod fish dinners begin on Ash Wednesday and every following Friday until Easter, 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 and leave a message at (810) 392-3237.

February 2, 9, 16 & 23 Memphis 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 and leave a message for Mary Beth at (810) 392-3237.

February 4 – Clinton Twp. John F. Kennedy KOC Council 5460's Annual Polish Dinner, KOC, 33320 Kelly Rd., 12:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Join us for dinner benefitting ALS & the Capuchin Soup Kitchen! We'll have all homemade food. For more info call Wally at (586) 481-6833.

February 5 – Roseville Teen Craft: Valentine Mugs, Roseville Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., 6:00 p.m. Teens (12-18) will make hot chocolate mugs using infusible ink! Registration open. For more info and a full list of library events, visit rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events or call (586) 445-5407.

February 5, 12 & 26 – Roseville Baby Signs: Sign, Say and Play, Roseville Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., 10:00 a.m. Sign, Say & Play® is a 6-week play series that uses songs, games, books and other interactive activities to engage families in

learning sign language concepts that complement the development of young children. Registration open. For more info and a full list of library events, visit rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events or call (586) 445-5407.

February 6 – Richmond 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.

February 6 – Roseville A Century of Love Songs, Roseville Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., 2:00 p.m. Pianist David Rodgers returns to present a piano concert talk highlighting the history and evolution of popular love songs from the 1920s through the present day. Mr. Rodgers includes cultural and historical fun facts and stories plus musical trivia questions along with piano performances and a Q&A session. No registration required. For more info and a full list of library events, visit rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events or call (586) 445-5407.

February 7, 14, 21 & 28 Memphis 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 and leave a message for Mary Beth at (810) 392-3237.

February 8 – Shelby Twp. Shelby Garden Club Presentation, Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center, 4101 River Bends Dr., 1:00 p.m. Join us for the presentation “Ikebana – The Japanese Art of Flower Arranging” presented by Leslie Rosinski, President of Ikebana International Detroit Chapter. Learn about peace and understanding through the promotion of traditional Japanese arts. 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 (586) 873-3782 or shelbytwpgardenclub@gmail.com.

February 9 – Ray Twp. Stop Motion Animation Workshop, Ray Township Public Library, 64255 Wolcott Rd., 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Join Alex Thomas and friends for a fun-filled, productive workshop on Stop Motion Animation. Open to 20 participants (all ages) who will get a hands-on lesson. You MUST be registered to attend. Non-participating guardians of youth participants do not need to register. This activity is funded

in part by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council and the Michigan Humanities Council. If you'd like to learn more about this event or other library events, visit raylibrary.org or call (586) 749-7130.

February 12 & 13 – Roseville Pączki Sale Pick Up, Memphis American Legion Post 566, 34330 Bordman Rd. Pre-orders must be placed by February 5. Don't miss out on this tasty treat! For more info call (586) 291-7029.

February 21 – Roseville Planning Your State Park Camping Adventure, Roseville Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., 6:00 p.m. Join us and Holly Vaughn of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for this presentation that will help you figure out where to start when it comes to camping at our best state parks. We'll cover what to pack, activities to enjoy and how to reserve a campsite. You don't have to travel far to have a wonderful camping adventure with your family or friends. Registration opens January 31. For more info and a full list of library events, visit rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events or call (586) 445-5407.

February 25 – Washington 18th Annual George Washington Birthday Party, The Washington Historical Museum, 58230 Van Dyke, north of 26 Mile Rd., 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Visitors will be able to tour the museum, a former school building from 1916. Refreshments will be served at this free event that is open to all! For more info go to washhistsoc.org, our Facebook, leave us a message at (586) 786-5304.

OAKLAND

February 2, 9, 16 & 23 – Oxford 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.

February 9 – Royal Oak The Polio Vaccine Story, Royal Oak Historical Museum, 7:00 p.m. Join us in learning all about every parent's nightmare of the '40s and '50s – polio. We'll dive into the history of the vaccine and the role of Detroit's manufacturer Parke-Davis. \$10/person and limited to 50 people. For more info or to register visit royaloakhistoricalsociety.com.

ST. CLAIR

All Month Long – Kimball Advance Ticket Sales for the Richmond Area Historical Society's 10th Annual Historic Tea Fundraiser, event on March 16 at the Solitude Links Golf Course & Banquet

Center (formerly Fore Lakes), 5810 Flinchbaugh Rd., 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. This year's program is "Birds, Bees, and Butterflies!" presented by Luke Marion, founder of Mlgardener. We'll also have a hat contest, raffle and silent auction. \$45/person and advance sales only. To purchase tickets contact Christine at (810) 392-0261 or crowley50@comcast.net, or Sue at (810) 305-6338 or ejakubiak99@comcast.net.

All Month Long – Port Huron 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.

February 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 Port Huron

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.

February 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 St. Clair

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 experienced needed. No partner needed. No cost. For more info, to register or for on-going free bridge lessons, contact Tom at (810) 326-0121 or tjbroyles@aol.com.

February 2 – Smiths Creek 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.

February 2, 9, 16 & 23 Port Huron

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.

February 3 – St. Clair 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.

February 3 & 4 – Ira Twp. Breakfast For Babies, Knights of Columbus Au Lac Council 10724 at Immaculate Conception Parish, 9764 Dixie Hwy., 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. on Saturday and 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. on Sunday. Breakfast served after all Masses. We'll have a 50/50 raffle and gift baskets! Asking for a free will donation or baby items (we can only accept new or handmade items). 100% of all donations help moms and babies! For more info email smscmi@att.net.

February 3 & 17 – Casco 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.

February 5, 12, 19 & 26 Port Huron

Play Bridge, Palmer Park Recreation Center, 2829 Armour St., 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. 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 (810) 326-0121 or tjbroyles@aol.com.

February 6 – Algonac Woman's Life Chapter 883 Meeting, Church of Christ, 1601 St. Clair River Dr., 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome, and we're always looking for new members. For more info contact Paula (810) 278-4466, (810) 794-9641 or paulaburgess@comcast.net.

February 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23 & 27 – St. Clair

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 (810) 326-0121 or tjbroyles@aol.com.

February 7 – Columbus St. Clair Kennel Club General Meeting, NEW LOCATION: 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.

February 7 – Port Huron 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. Join us for a presentation by Justin Westmiller, Director of the St. Clair County Emergency Management. \$5/person. For more info email sccra917@gmail.com.

February 7, 14, 21 & 28 Marine City

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 (810) 326-0121 or tjbroyles@aol.com.

February 7, 14, 21 & 28 Marysville

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

February 7, 14, 21 & 28 Port Huron

Progressive Bingo, Charles A. Hammond American Legion Auxiliary Unit #8, 1026 6th St., play begins at 6:00 p.m. (doors will be open at 4:00 p.m.). Join us for Bingo! License #A22694. Proceeds to benefit the Auxiliary's charities. Open to the public. For more info call (810) 982-9553.

February 8 – Marysville The Arc of St. Clair County's 2nd Annual Show the Love Event, Alexander's Banquet Center, 1200 Gratiot Blvd., 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Come support for the Arc of SCC by joining us for this Dinner/Dance and Auction, with special guest appearance from singer/songwriter Julianne Ankley. \$40/person. We'll have a photobooth, silent auction and a booze pull! For more info visit thearccsc.org.

February 8 – Port Huron Vernor's Collector's Club Presentation, Main Branch St. Clair County Library, Gilbert Wilcox Meeting Room, 210 McMorrان Blvd., 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Come hear the story of how Vernor's blossomed from a small soda fountain in a pharmacy to a huge factory taking up an entire city block. Keith Wunderlich, author and Vernor's historian, will present this story through historical images and memorabilia. Please register in advance. For more info or a full list of library events, visit stclaircountylibrary.org/events and select your local library or call (810) 987-7323.

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Thumb Print News

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FROM

February 9, 23, March 8 & 22
Yale

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.

February 10 – Marine City Fire, Ice & Spice: 3rd Annual Marine City Winter Wonderland Festival, 300 Broadway, 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Grab your skates and join us for ice skating, fire performances, a chili cook-off, music, raffles and more! For more info go to visitmarinecity.com.

February 11 – Smiths Creek 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.

February 14 – Port Huron Blue Water Doll Club Meeting, Council on Aging/Senior Center, 600 Grand River Ave., 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Join us to discuss doll history, maintenance and to display dolls based on that month's theme! February will focus on Black History Month. Visitors and new members are welcome. For more info call Linda at (810) 765-4663.

February 16 – Kimball Important Books Club, G. Lynn Campbell Library, 1955 N. Allen Rd., 3:30 p.m. Become more culturally literate by joining this club! You'll read books that have shaped our culture or have stood the test of time. February's title is *In Cold Blood* (Capote, 1966), the first "nonfiction novel" that began the true crime genre. Coffee, hot chocolate, tea and a snack provided. For more info or a full list of library events, visit stclaircountylibrary.org or call (810) 982-9171.

February 18 – Port Huron AYCE Breakfast, Port Huron Masonic Lodge #58, 927 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. \$12/adult. Discounts for veterans, service members and seniors. For more info call (810) 982-5044.

February 19 – Port Huron Port Huron Elks Lodge #343's 59th 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 245 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: porthuronelks343. For more info email elks343@comcast.net or call (810) 982-8531.

February 24 – East China 84th Annual Muskrat & Wild Game Dinner, Southeastern Michigan Conservation Club, 2402 N. Belle River Rd., 6:00 p.m. Join us for this All-U-Can-Eat dinner! We'll have door prizes, raffles, a cash bar and this year we'll have a gun broker doing blitz raffles. Tickets are \$20 each and will be available at the door. For more information call (586) 405-2289 or (740) 213-9371.

February 24 – Port Huron Murder Mystery Dinner, Port Huron Elks Lodge #343, 3292 Beach Rd., doors open at 5:30 p.m., event is from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Bring your wits and courage and join us for a fun night of mystery, dining and excitement. Cost is \$55/person, for more info and reservations please contact Aliena at (810) 982-8531 ext. #4 or email elks343@comcast.net.

February 29 – Marysville New Life Christian Academy's Annual Banquet "Take a Leap With Us", Alexander's Banquet Hall, 1200 Gratiot Blvd., doors open at 6:00 p.m., dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. There will be a silent auction set up from 6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m., and a live auction that will begin at 7:15 p.m. We'll be welcoming Tim Schmig, Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Christian Schools, as our guest speaker. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the school office or nlcaschool.com. For more info call (810) 367-3770.

SANILAC

February 10 & 24 – Sandusky Thumb Dance Club & Euchre, NEW LOCATION: 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. Hope to see you for dancing and euchre! All ages are welcome! For more info call (810) 310-2715.



TRAVELING TASTEBUDS

By **Bethany Wolf**
ThumbPrint News Staff

THIS MONTH'S RECIPES ARE FROM
KOREA

TONGBAECHU KIMCHI (통배추김치)
(WHOLE NAPA CABBAGE KIMCHI)

& KIMCHIJEON (김치전)
(KIMCHI PANCAKE)



Celebrating the new year isn't quite over for everyone! Many countries around the world celebrate the lunar new year, which falls on February 10th this year. We decided to highlight the East Asian country of Korea that celebrates what they call Seollal (설날).

According to Wikipedia, "It is one of the most important traditional holidays for ethnic Koreans, being celebrated in both North Korea and South Korea, as well as Korean diaspora all around the world.

"During this time, many Koreans would visit their family, perform ancestral rites, wear the hanbok (한복, South Korean) / cheoson-ot (조선옷, North Korean), eat traditional food and play traditional folk games. One of the most well known practices in the current day is receiving [a gift] from their elders after performing a formal bow."



The country is made up of the Korean Peninsula and 3,960 islands, similar in size to Minnesota or the United Kingdom. Historically, Korea dates back to 2333 BCE, but it has changed many times throughout the years. One of the more recent changes stems from when the country was liberated from Japanese rule after World War II, the country was divided at the 38th Parallel with Soviet troops taking control of the northern region of the peninsula, while U.S. forces occupied the south. The Cold War and ideological differences led to the two zones building their own leadership – South Korea holding UN-supervised elections and North Korea's Kim Il Sung strengthening his rule to establish a totalitarian dictatorship.

Over the years, reunification talks have happened; however, in a speech given in December of 2023, North Korea's current leader, Kim Il Sung's grandson, Kim Jong Un, stated "that reunification can never be achieved" According to Wikipedia: "Some scholars have suggested that a complete abandonment of Korean reunification may

be necessary, in exchange for the North to dismantle its nuclear weapons program", but only time will tell as of now.

Since the split, North Korea, officially called the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, has become incredibly isolated while developing a "military first" policy "with the highest number of military and paramilitary personnel. Its active-duty army of 1.28 million soldiers is the fourth largest in the world" (Wikipedia). It is also considered to be one the world's most oppressed nations and one of the largest contributors to human rights violations.

South Korea, the Republic of Korea, has embraced the capitalism of the Western world and is now "the world's

thirteenth-largest by nominal GDP...and it's armed forces are ranked as one of the world's strongest militaries. In the 21st century, South Korea has been renowned for its globally influential pop culture, particularly in music (K-pop), TV dramas (K-dramas) and cinema, a phenomenon referred to as the Korean Wave" (Wikipedia).

QUICK FACTS

- Blood types are significant in determining one's personality, similar to Zodiac signs
- Koreans are automatically one year old at birth and are counted as older upon the new year, not birthday – however this aging system went out of effect in 2023
- The Korean alphabet, Hangeul (한글, South Korea) or Chosŏn'gŭl (조선글, North Korea), is said to be easy to learn since it uses a phonetic writing system and has only 14 consonant and 10 vowels
- There are 250 different types of kimchi! The fermented dish can utilize a variety of vegetables and seasonings depending on preference – cabbage is just the most popular

TONGBAECHU KIMCHI INGREDIENTS**For Salting**

- 6 lb Napa cabbage
- 1 c Kosher salt

For Porridge

- 2 c water
- 2 Tbsp glutinous rice flour (aka sweet)
- 2 Tbsp Turbinado sugar

Seasonings & Spices

- ½ c garlic cloves (24 garlic cloves), minced
- 2 tsp ginger, minced
- 1 onion, minced
- ½ c fish sauce
- ¼ c fermented salted shrimp (saeujeot) with the salty brine, chopped
- 2 c red pepper flakes (gochugaru)

Additional Vegetables

- 2 c Korean radish, sliced into matchsticks
- 1 c carrot, sliced into matchsticks
- 7-8 green onions, chopped
- 1 c Asian chives (buchu), chopped – optional

DIRECTIONS**Prepare and Salt the Cabbage**

1. Split a cabbage in half without shredding the densely packed leaves inside, first cut a short slit in the base of the cabbage, enough to get a grip on either half, and then gently pull the halves apart so the cabbage splits open. Next cut a slit through the core of each half, up to 2 inches above the stem. You want the cabbage leaves to be loose but still attached.
2. Wet the cabbage before generously sprinkling salt between the leaves. Use more salt closer to the stems, where the leaves are thicker.
3. Let the cabbages rest for 2 hours or more. Turn over every 30 minutes and ladle some of the salty water from the bottom of the basin over top of the cabbage.
4. Once the cabbage stems are bendable it is time to wash them under cold running water to remove the salt and any dirt. As you wash, split the halves into quarters along the slits you cut into earlier. Cut off the cores, give them a final rinse, and put them in a strainer over a basin so they can drain well.

Make the Porridge (while the cabbage is salting)

1. Combine the water and the sweet rice flour in a small pot. Mix well with a wooden spoon and let it cook over medium heat for about 10 minutes until it starts to bubble. Add the sugar and cook 1 more minute, stirring. Remove from the heat and let it cool off completely.
2. Pour cooled porridge into a large mixing bowl. Add the seasonings & spices and mix well with the wooden spoon until the mixture turns into a thin paste. Add the additional vegetables and mix well.

Make Kimchi

1. In a large bowl, spread some kimchi paste on each cabbage leaf. When every leaf in a quarter is covered with paste, wrap it around itself into a small packet, and put into your jar or plastic container.

2. Eat right away, or let it sit for a few days to continue fermenting – using a spoon to release the bubbles from beneath.
3. After 2-3 days of room temp fermentation, store in the fridge to use as needed. This slows down the fermentation process, which will make the kimchi more and more sour as time goes on.

**KIMCHIJEON INGREDIENTS**

- 1 c fully-fermented kimchi, thinly sliced
- 1-2 scallions
- ¼ medium onion, thinly sliced
- 4 Tbsp cooking oil with high smoke point

For the Batter

- ½ tsp sugar
- 1 c all purpose flour
- ¼ c sweet rice flour or corn/potato starch
- 2-3 Tbsp liquid from kimchi
- 1-2 tsp gochugang or gochugaru (Korean chili pepper powder or flakes) – optional
- 1 egg, lightly beaten – optional
- 1 c icy cold water (use about 1 Tbsp more water if not using egg. Flour to liquid ratio should be 1:1)

For Dipping Sauce

- 1 Tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp vinegar
- 1 Tbsp water
- ½ tsp sugar
- pinch of black pepper

**DIRECTIONS**

1. Thinly slice the kimchi, about 1/2-inch thick. Cut the scallions into about 2-inch pieces. If the white part is thick, cut in half lengthwise.
2. In a large bowl, combine the flour with the liquid from kimchi, the optional gochujang/gochugaru and egg, and water, a little bite at a time. Start with dissolving the gochujang with water, and mix everything together. Do not over mix.
3. Add a little more water if the batter is too thick. The batter should flow easily from a spoon.
4. Stir in the kimchi, scallions and onion.
5. For dipping sauce, mix all ingredients together and set aside.
6. Heat one tablespoon of oil in a non-stick pan over medium heat. Ladle the mixture into the pan, and spread it evenly into a thin round shape. Cook until the edges turn light golden brown, about 3 minutes. Turn it over, and add more oil to the sides of the pan. Gently swirl the pan to distribute the oil under the pancakes. Press the pancake down with a spatula. Cook until the other side is nicely browned and crispy, 2 to 3 minutes.
7. Repeat the process until there is no remaining batter. Serve hot with a dipping sauce, if desired.

Author's note: While tteokguk (떡국, ricecake soup) is the typically the main dish served during Seollal, we decided to try our hand at making a different traditional dish instead: kimchi jeon. Part of why I picked this was because my friends and I have been talking about making our own kimchi for awhile. We went with the Tongbaechu kimchi and the process was a lot easier than I expected it to be, just time-consuming. I think it was worth it since I was able to tweak the recipe to my taste, creating a very garlicky and mildly spicy kimchi. As for the kimchi pancakes...it turns out that the first pancake rule was still true. I'm not sure if I had too much oil or too much batter, but it was a gooey and inedible mess. Once I got that one out of the way, the rest turned out pretty tasty, yet still a little gooey in the center. Since the homemade kimchi I used in the jeon was milder than what I've had in restaurants, and I found that I was able to enjoy a larger portion of the dish – though, I will say I was not able to replicate the perfectly fried technique at home. The edges had a nice crisp, but I would have to make it a few more times to really get the hang of it.



By Pamela Lynn Hayes, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

We wrapped up the holidays and have made it through the long, cold month of January. To think, we have only about two months to go before we start to plan for spring.

This month brings us Groundhog Day, which is a fun day to “predict” our early spring coming this month. February 3rd is recognized by music lovers as “The Day the Music Died” – honoring the date in 1959, when musicians Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper were tragically killed in a plane crash in the Iowa cornfields.

Of course, we have Mardi Gras this month on Tuesday, February 13th. Directly followed by the best day of all this month: Valentine’s Day! Some say this is the month of love.

This year marks 12 years of owning my little place up north, but more on that in the May edition! Just before I closed the cottage for the winter season, I acquired a small indoor plug-in camera that works on Wi-Fi. I decided to place it on the floor

Cottage Mouse Cam

of the cottage near the stove where I thought a little mouse or two might sneak in. There was no movement for about a month or so, then I got an alert on my cell phone that there was activity in the area where the camera was. So, I looked at the digital footage and saw a tiny gray mouse just staring at the camera lens before it skittered away. Okay, just one I guess is okay? A friend of mine recommended some peppermint and tea tree mouse packets.

If you have a winter visitor or two in your cottage, and depending on how much you want to spend, you can get a pack of 10 and the pump spray with it for under \$40. When I went up for our traditional New Year’s weekend, the cottage smelled great! No sign of mice!

I was also told to put the toilet paper in a high place as they like to use the soft paper in their nests...just the word “nests” makes me shiver.

During my mid-winter check-up, everything looked great, we haven’t had terribly hard freezing weather as of the time I am writing this, so all was well. I am doing my spring countdown now so that makes it a bit easier to get through these cold winter months. Although, moving out of the city in the late fall has done wonders to keep me busy! Getting to know the town, neighbors and the area is so fun! I am officially a “Thumb Girl” now and I am loving it in the “month of love”! 🐱

Happy Valentine's Day, ThumbPrint News Readers!

Pamela can be reached at pammypoo123@icloud.com.

ATTENTION GLUTEN-FREE EATERS: NOT ALL GLUTEN-FREE FLOURS REACT WITH YEAST!!!

By Laura Irwin, *ThumbPrint News* Staff

Two days after my failed attempt at making the Pompes a L'Huile (olive oil brioche from the January 2024's Traveling Tastebuds), I came across a blog that explained why it failed. SMH! (Smack my head!)

The two brands of GF flour most readily available to me: Bob's Red Mill 1:1 and King Arthur Measure for Measure do not work with yeast recipes. ?????!!! Bob's states this on their website but not on the package, while King Arthur states it on the back of the bag of flour. This information, along with brands that do work with yeast and family-friendly gluten-free recipes can be found by visiting the blog FearlessDining.com.