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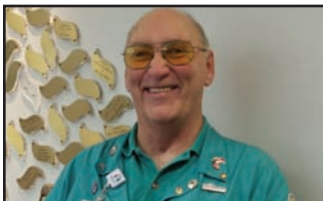
An imprint of places and people at work and play in the Thumb of Michigan

FEBRUARY 2011



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Editor's Note: The month of February brings Valentine's Day – the holiday of love. What better time of year could there be to feature a double love story that came about through the actions and writings of Fred Marengo, a Lexington, Michigan native? In the first article, Fred tells us how his love of horses and a personal struggle to survive led him to open Happy Horse Ranch, a privately funded rescue ranch for abused and neglected horses, and to write a book about his beloved ranch and his personal journey to recovery. In the second article, he tells us how the book he wrote was directly responsible for reuniting two long lost lovers from Crosswell-Lexington High School. Both of the articles will warm your heart and help to restore your faith in the basic goodness of mankind.



SECOND CHANCES A STORY OF LOVE, FAITH AND RESCUE

By **Fredrick G. Marengo**

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

It has been a little over a year since the writing of my book, *Second Chances – A Story of Love, Faith and Rescue*. It has taken so many readers on a journey of laughter, tears, hope, inspiration and love. I have been humbled by the enjoyment that I have brought to so many.

My story started when I retired from the St. Clair Shores Police Department in the spring of 1998 after 29 years of service, retiring as Deputy Chief of Police.

I wrote *Second Chances* in hopes that it may be inspiring to those who feel that

their quality of life has been diminished due to illness or physical challenges. Many of us have had to travel a long difficult road.

I have battled my way back from

See *SECOND CHANCES*, Page 18

Spotlight on a Small Town: Wadhams

By **Diane L. Kodet**

ThumbPrint News Editor

Wadhams, Michigan is centrally located in St. Clair County. Today it is a part of Kimball Township and lies in its northeast corner. Many of the businesses are concentrated around the intersection of Lapeer and Wadhams Roads.

Wadhams has been in the local news numerous times in recent history, mainly because of the construction that has been taking place on the Wadhams Bridge, which spans the Black River.

Originally built in 1939, the bridge had several modifications made in 1976. Now, there is a need for a replacement

bridge to handle the increased traffic due to many new developments and its close proximity to Interstate 69 and Old M-21. Construction began in April of 2010, but in September of the same year the beams that were to be used in the construction of the new bridge were found to have deficiencies. Work will still continue on the bridge throughout the winter and new beams are expected to arrive sometime in February. Engineers are hoping that the summer months may still allow them to make up enough time to meet the original November 2011 completion date, despite the setbacks.

The Black River, which flows under



The Black River as it appears today from the Wadhams Bridge.

the bridge, was originally known as la Riviere Delude after a gentleman by the name of Delude who had drowned in its waters. The banks of the river just

See *Wadhams*, Page 27

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I always enjoy reading emails and letters from our readers. Often, a story or an article in *ThumbPrint News* will rekindle memories in a reader's mind and will initiate correspondence to me. Such was the case with Lisa Bont, both a reader of *ThumbPrint News* and a columnist in the paper, as well as a long-time advertiser. She received an email from a friend that contained the following verse that had been circulating the Internet and immediately thought that it is was a *ThumbPrint News* type of piece.

It was about aprons – those colorful garments women wore over the top of their dresses in the olden days (and less frequently today) to protect their dresses when cooking and doing other household chores. But, according to the verse, the lowly apron was much, much more than it appeared to be.

Here is what that email said:

*I don't think our kids know what an apron is.
The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath because she only had a few. It was also because it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and aprons used less material. But along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.*

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.

And when the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove.

Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables.

After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

REMEMBER:

Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron.

I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron but love!

After reading this email, it brought back a lot of memories for me, also. My own grandmothers and elderly aunts of my growing up years seemed to always be busy in the kitchen baking something wonderful smelling – a pineapple upside down cake, a juicy pot roast (more tender than anything I have ever cooked in my entire life), or molasses cookies that had to be sampled while still warm from the oven. And always, they would be wearing those colorful aprons mentioned above.

The writing also reminded me of my junior high school years and my first lessons in sewing during home economics class. Our first project was an apron, similar to those that my elderly relatives wore on a daily basis.

I remember going down to the local five and dime store to the section where colorful bolts of cotton materials of every color were lined up on the shelves. I chose a flowery calico in colors that would probably be considered "retro" today.

I proudly took my cloth to school the next day where, over a period of a week and several sewing lessons by a very patient teacher, I, and the other girls in my class (no boys in homemaking during the 1950s), transformed our beautiful pieces of material into usable aprons, all sewed by hand with a needle and a thread instead of a sewing machine.

Once we could take the aprons home, I wanted to help my mom out in the kitchen, just so I could wear the apron.

Yes, Lisa, you were right. This is a *ThumbPrint News* type of article. But, if I was going to publish it in the newspaper, I wanted to be sure to give credit to the original author. As is so often stated in things that circulate the Internet, the author of this piece is stated as being "Unknown". With a little more research, however, it appears that the basis of it was a modified version of a poem that is credited to Tina Trivett, who wrote it in honor of her own dear grandmother. Her poem goes like this:



See From the Editor, Page 31

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Don't Lose Sight of What's Important

By Laura Irwin

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Would a near death experience open your eyes to all of your blessings? Would it stop you from complaining about all you don't have or can't do? It did for Paul Dailer. When he became sick in September of 2002, he was taken to St. John River District Hospital in St. Clair, where he stayed until Christmas Eve. He was home for Christmas, but was back in the hospital again on December 26, 2002, so sick that he was comatose. When he awoke in May of 2003 in St. Joseph's Hospital in Ann Arbor, he had not only missed five months of his life and the helicopter ride to Ann Arbor, but somewhere in between he had lost his eyesight as well. He remembers asking the nurses to turn on the lights. Sadly, they were already on. That's when he

realized he would never "see" again. All of this was caused by acute and severe pancreatitis.

Paul is now totally blind in his right eye and has only two percent vision in his left eye, which is to him like looking through a small dark straw. Paul was forced to retire from truck driving and, in his own words, "started his own lonely pity party." Only through the love and help of his wife and family, the guidance of the Michigan Commission for the Blind, and many months of rehabilitation and training at the Hines Veterans hospital in Chicago was he able to overcome this life-changing disability.

In Chicago, he found a mentor – a 96-year-old man who was also facing the loss of his eyesight. This man kept going and wouldn't accept any excuses. Paul says he followed this man around like a shadow and is ever grateful for the positive change he brought.

After rehabilitation in Chicago, Paul continued attending training and support groups at the Detroit Veterans Hospital and, as a result of the exemplary care he received during more than three months at St. John River District Hospital, he started volunteering as a greeter in St. John's emergency room. Paul laughs as he says, "There is something funny about a blind guy telling people how to get where they need to go!"

Currently Paul volunteers in the hospital maternity center "delivering" babies from the nursery to their mothers or giving the moms-to-be rides to the ultrasound room. This Paul compares to a free amusement park ride and job security for hospital maintenance. He also helps out in the maternity ward running errands for nurses, taking specimens to the lab and answering the phones. Shortly after he began volunteering he also

started meeting with the R.O.M.E.O. group at McDonalds which stands for "Retired Old Men Eat Out." There he would relay some of the positive feedback and information he obtained at the Veterans Hospital to the other members. These men urged him to start a low vision support group.

After procrastinating for a year, in 2007 Paul mentioned the low vision support group idea to the supervisor of the volunteers at St. John River District Hospital and within a half an hour, Meeting Room #2 had been duly designated as the room to host the group and Paul found himself in charge of organizing it. There were two attendees at the first meeting. Now a meeting is held on the first Wednesday of each month from 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. and, as word has gotten out, more and more people are attending.

"I have done so much more with my life since the blindness than I ever would have had I remained sighted," says Paul. Before he became legally blind, he would never have considered walking the three quarters of a mile to McDonalds daily, which he now does with the aid of his white cane that is outfitted with a bell and a GPS. Paul also says that he would never have volunteered at the hospital, learned how to build clocks and do woodworking, nor would he have taken the time to become a certified small engine mechanic.

Paul's daily goal is to make at least one person smile. After having spent just 45 minutes with him, I have no doubt he greatly exceeds this goal.



Paul Dailer started a low vision support group, after losing most of his own vision.

"When something like this happens you can adjust or be miserable," says Paul. He states that these words of wisdom were passed on from the "miracle workers" at the Veterans hospitals.

Strangely enough, less than a year before this disease struck Paul, he recalls fervently praying for guidance and life direction from God. He can look back and say honestly, with first-hand experience, "The Lord moves in mysterious ways."

Keep Smiling Paul! You are an inspiration to all who know you. 🍀

Editor's Notes: During Paul's meeting with Laura, he shared with her an excellent resource of independent living aids for those with vision or hearing difficulties. It is a catalog called Independent Living Aids LLC. Looking through the catalog, there were such items as a voice operated GPS system, large print games, cards and puzzle books, talking thermometers, brailled portable pill boxes, talking timers and alarm clocks, and many more items. To receive the catalog call (800) 537-2118 or go online to www.independentliving.com.

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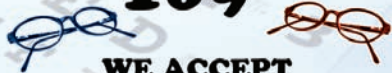
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Valentine's Day Remembrances

By David Gillis
ThumbPrint News Columnist

The month of February offers several recognized events. There's the foretelling Ground Hog Day and the birthdays of both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, which are now combined as President's Day. Of course there's Valentine's Day, that special day of the year when we give our hearts away and seek the affection of another.

When I think about Valentine's Day, I remember how that occasion was treated by my elementary school teachers. It seemed as if we devoted far too much time preparing for this holiday.

It was probably in the first grade that I learned how important mothers were on the 14th of February. Prior to that day, our teacher made sure we all had enough red, pink and white construction paper to make a large greeting card. We normally used an excessive amount of glue to attach the lacey white paper doilies that trimmed the lopsided heart-shaped card. An appropriately colored crayon was used to add misshapen hearts and a cupid's arrow in addition to that very special message to mom emphasizing just how much we loved her.

That being accomplished, we would move on to the second project – the great card exchange.

The Valentine's Day card exchange was held in the classroom each year. Early in my elementary school career we would make valentine cards for each classmate. I really hated giving mushy, lacey cards to other boys, but that's what was expected. Then came the third grade and some new ideas were introduced for this special day.

It was in Mrs. Stark's class that we began making individual "mailboxes" to receive the cards from our classmates. That created another construction paper and glue project. And, although we were encouraged to give a card to each member of the class, that wasn't a requirement. What a great idea; no more cards to boys.

Increased anxieties, however, were discovered with this new approach to card exchange. Depending on whom

you were, or thought you were, this could be a day of happiness and joy or one of sadness and rejection. I learned to anticipate this intensely special event with hope, but mostly fear.

Why fear? Well, I was confident that this single day would damage my self-esteem by providing the truth about just how popular I really was.

I guess my concerns could best be capsulated by the "Peanut's" cartoon character Charlie Brown who went to school on Valentine's Day and took with him a briefcase in anticipation of all the valentine cards he would receive. Remember how, when the card exchange was completed, poor Charlie had received none? Well, that was my fear.

Fear or not, I participated in the ongoing project. It was in my third grade year that we seemed to begin using those ready-made valentine cards with separate little envelopes. If my memory serves me correctly, you could purchase a dozen for 10 cents. Although my mother bought enough for me to give to each classmate, that was not my plan. Just a select number of lucky girls would get a card from me. The remainder would find their way into the waste basket.

On most of the cards, the printed message was adequate and I would simply print my name. For a couple of very special ladies who probably didn't even know I existed, I would write, "I like you." Never would the word love be used. That was reserved for my mother.

My "Charlie Brown" fears never really materialized, although each year I thought they would. One year, I actually received a kiss on the cheek from a recipient of one of those cards with the "I like you" notation.

Many years have passed since Mrs. Stark's third grade and I now exchange cards with just one person. I no longer reserve the word "love" for just my mother, but now share it with my wife who is my best friend and soul mate.

It seems, though, that possibly life was simpler back then. Maybe there was more meaning placed in the card made of red construction paper and white doilies. Surely, there's more meaning in a handwritten message from the heart. Where's my crayon? 🍌

Think Outside the Box

All that Glitters May Be Underinsured



(ARA) – Valentine's day represents a special time for gift giving, including some gifts that sparkle more than others. While this is a time of year where it's the thought that counts, when it comes to more expensive thoughts, there are other things to think about as well – such as insurance.

Although it's hard to put a price on sentimental items, valuables such as diamond rings need to be properly insured against loss or theft. Each year, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, consumers spend \$50 billion on jewelry, of which \$1 billion is lost, stolen or otherwise disappears. Perhaps surprisingly, your existing insurance probably doesn't provide enough coverage for higher-valued items. In fact, the vast majority of these items are underinsured, which means they can't be adequately replaced.

"Many homeowner's or renter's insurance policies provide only a basic level of personal property coverage – often in the \$1,000 to \$1,500 range – for items such as jewelry and furs," says Mario Morales, director of Product Development at MetLife Auto & Home. "That's why people with higher-valued items should make certain that those

valuables are appropriately protected."

For a greater level of coverage, insurance companies offer Scheduled Personal Property (SPP), an endorsement that provides 100 percent of the "stated value" of valuable items for a small additional premium – often with no deductible. Most companies stipulate that reimbursement for a loss will not exceed the actual cash value of the item, or the cost to replace the item, as outlined in the policy. Some, however, offer extra peace of mind, by providing coverage on an "agreed value" basis. This means that, regardless of the actual cost to repair or replace the valuable, the company agrees to pay, in the event of a loss, an amount that has been agreed upon in advance.

Whether an item of jewelry is a recent gift, or a family heirloom, owners can ensure that it's appropriately protected by taking the following steps:

- Create an inventory of all your personal possessions.
- Have items appraised. Locate a professional appraiser and get a detailed description and value of the item – in writing. "Refresh" appraisals every two or three years. Markets, such as those for diamond and silver, tend to fluctuate. Have items reappraised, especially those with individual values of more than \$2,500.
- Talk to your insurance agent, and have him or her compare this appraisal against your jewelry coverage limits, to determine whether you should secure Scheduled Personal Property coverage.
- Finally, store the appraisal in a safe place with other valuable papers. Even if the value increases over time, it's helpful to have the description in writing. 🍌

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Hobby Corner

Making Your Own Soy Candles

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff

Are you looking for a great winter project or maybe an item that you can make and sell for a little extra income? Soy candles are relatively easy to make and are at the peak of their popularity with the general public, especially with everyone wanting to “go green.” Valentine’s Day is also coming up soon and making your own personalized candles can add to the ambience of that perfect romantic evening at home. Persons who make soy candles can get quite creative with the containers used and the special processes that are used to create some really unique effects. However, today we are presenting soy candle making for beginners using one of the easiest possible methods. Let’s get started!

Materials You Will Need to Make Your Candles

(see list of sources for some of the harder to find items following the article):

- Containers in which to make your candle (soy wax is not suited to making pillar or taper candles, unless a special blend of soy and paraffin wax is purchased). Many different glass or metal containers can be used, but for the beginner I suggest making candles in ordinary canning jars. They are available in many different sizes and the glass has already been tempered to lessen the chance that the glass will break when the hot wax is poured into it. Plus, they normally come with lids and rings that can easily be decorated for gift giving and the lids will help to keep the scent stronger when the candle is not in use.
- 100% soy wax flakes
- 100% soy essential fragrance of your choice, if a scented candle is desired
- Pre-tabbed wicks (cotton wicks with a metal disc crimped on the bottom)
- Long nails
- Glue dots or super glue
- Scissors
- Optional wax dyes
- Pyrex measuring cup with a 2 cup capacity
- A large metal spoon
- Microwave

Directions to Make Your Soy Candles

1. Wash and dry the canning jars. Take a pre-tabbed wick for each jar you plan on using and place either a glue dot on the bottom of the metal tab or a drop of super glue. Glue this to the inside bottom center of the jar. The wick should be at least one inch above the top of the jar.
2. Line the jars up on newspaper on a flat hard level surface.



Canning jars make great containers for soy candles.

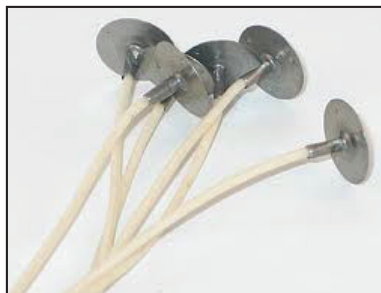
3. Fill the Pyrex container to the top with the soy wax flakes and microwave for approximately five minutes. Remove the container from the microwave with a hot pad. Stir the wax thoroughly. As the wax melts, it will fill less of the container. Add additional wax and microwave for an additional minute or two. Continue this same process until the wax is melted and is approximately one inch from the top of the container.

4. Add a small amount of desired color of dye and stir. The color will appear much lighter when the wax hardens than when it is melted. If no color is added, the candle will be white when it hardens.

5. Add one ounce of fragrance to the wax mixture and stir quickly.

6. Immediately pour the wax into the prepared containers up to approximately 3/4 of an inch from the top rim.

7. Center the wick in the middle of the jar. Lay a nail on each side of the wick and across the rim of the jar to keep the wick in place until it hardens. Do not move the jars until completely hardened (usually about 8 hours).



Pre-tabbed wicks make candle making easier.

8. As the candle hardens, the center of the wax may sink in a little. This is perfectly normal and will not affect the

See Hobby Corner, Page 34



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Gran Pa Remembers the Olden Times in the Algonac/Clay Area

By Joe Nugent

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

We were all just sitting around having some fresh milk and cookies, when my older brother, Jacob, asked Gran Pa, "What was it like when you was a young'n?"

Well, to start, Gran Pa says, "Ye gotta member a few things – and be proud of 'em too! The Harsens Island, St. Clair Flats, Algonac and mainland Clay Township areas are said to be the largest fresh water deltas in the ENTIRE WORLD. They also extend into Canada on the southeast. The largest islands on the American side are Harsens Island, Dickenson Island (used to be Cartwright Island, then Laughten and then Stromness.) Then lots and lots of little islands going out from the biggens."

"They say the early missionaries used to call the area 'The Great Green Meadows' and them older folk's always said ifin you poured one more barrel of water out, the land would flood."

"Now, the Indians were the first in the area – five different tribes of them. The first settlers were French. They came in about 1615 to trade for furs . . ."

"Ma, can ya get me another mug of yer special cider while I try to enlighten these young'ns?", Gran Pa says. "Thank ye, Ma."

Continuing on, Gran Pa says, "Harsens Island was named after Ol' Jacob Harsen, a gunsmith. He'n got here about 1778. Then there was Ol' Harvey Stewart, who came in the early 1800s. He ran a distillery, one of the first in Michigan. His distillery was used as a fort in the War of 1812. T'was about 1812 when Aura P. Stewart started teaching school on Harsens Island. It was the first school in St. Clair County. Beginning about 1840 and continuing until the Civil War, shipbuilding was a big industry in the area."

"Ma", says Gran Pa, "Can I bother ya' for a wee bit more cider? All this'n talking is making me thirsty. Thank ye again."

"Let's see, where was I? Oh ya. Clay Township was one of the four townships that originally made up all of St. Clair

County. Bet ya didn't know that did ya? The other three were Cotterville, St. Clair and Desmond. Fort St. Joseph, later called Fort Gratiot, was built in Desmond and later they plotted out the City of Port Huron. The settlement of Clay was afore they organized the county on May 8, 1821."

"John K. Smith came to the area in 1816. He was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1828 and probate Judge in 1828. Governor Lewis Clark appointed him the first Postmaster in the county on August 26, 1826. The name of the first post office was Plainfield, then in 1828, Clay, Manchester in 1836, and finally Algonac on August 17, 1843, after Henry Schoolcraft, the then Indian Agent, reported to Washington it was 'Algon' for the Algonquin Indians and 'ac' for 'place of' in French. The village of Algonac was laid out in 1836 and was made formal in 1893 by the Michigan legislature. Also, in 1836 a man by the name of Charles L. Poole came to Algonac and started a general store."

"Ma, crack open some more of the special cider, will ya?"

Gran Pa told us that everything he was telling us came from his Pappy, who told him all about it so he would never forget. Now, he wanted to tell us some things he himself remembered.

Gran Pa began, "Did you know that Algonac was still burning oil for street lamps in 1900? Yes, by golly, we had lamps on several street corners and it was the village marshall's job to clean, fill and light those lamps every evening."

"Can ya just imagine that on April 28, 1900, at a Village council meeting that Trustee Langell, supported by Trustee Smith, suggested that the Village President appoint a committee of three to engage the services of an engineer to get a cost of a complete system of water works for supplying the Village with pure water and then report back at the next meeting?"

"I still am trying to figure how they ever got the money, but on November 30, 1900, they made a partial payment of \$3,100 to Arbuckle Ryan &

Company for the amount of the system that was to be installed. My Daddy told me Ol' Charlie Hansen was the engineer at the Algonac Water Works and Electric Light Plant and that he got a whole \$93 a month. That was more than a whole three dollars per day. After Charlie, it was George Dennis, then Bert Wallace and finally Mr. Moran."



Operators at the State Telephone Company in Algonac circa 1900.

"The Detroit Edison Company bought the Algonac Light Plant in 1919. At that time they yanked the steam power and it was replaced by electric power. Four months later everyone was sure they were going to kill all the fish in the river when a submarine cable was installed across the North Channel and electric power was extended to Harsens Island."

"Ya know, them there people at that Detroit Edison sure were smart fellows in the mid 1920s. They started a plant in Marysville to produce gas. They started laying pipes and they reached Algonac between 1920 and 1930."

"The State Telephone Company strung up the wires and in 1900 Algonac started to have telephones. Chris Smith had the first telephone exchange in the back of the post office, located in the 1200 block of Water Street (now M-29 or St. Clair River Dr.) He also had a boat works in the rear, which was the beginning of Chris-Craft. Operators who were at the post office and exchange were May, Jackson, Stella Smith, Nellie Nugent, Jessie Currie, Laura Smith and Della Ames."

Wow, I just don't know where Gran Pa keeps all them thoughts. It was sure making my head hurt sorting out everything! He went on to tell us that Algonac's first fire department was started in February of 1900. The first Chief was J. William McKenzie and the first piece of equipment was a two wheel hand cart with a hand pump on it, supplemented by a bucket brigade.

Things were moving right along now and Gran Pa was telling us about the town starting to build the new school house in 1923 . . .

I was still sitting there, waiting for Gran Pa to tell us some more, but when I looked up, he had gone to sleep in his rocker. So, I think I am gonna go off and see if'n I can find any old pictures to back up his reckonin' . . . 🍷

Editor's Note: Joe Nugent is a member of the Algonac/Clay Historical Society. The story is presented without corrections to the spelling and grammar by the editorial staff as that would interfere with the flavor of the article as it was written by Joe.



The Detroit Edison Company had an office in Algonac in 1925.



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On the cutting edge

St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron offers innovative robotic arm guided knee surgery

By Mary Lou Creamer

Nick Slattery admits a youth spent roughhousing and playing unorganized sports did nothing to help his knees. His 29 years of military service jumping in and out of trucks to refuel aircraft only compounded his problems.

"I had so much pain in my knees I could no longer walk fast," the Capac man said. "In fact, to even go upstairs I had to walk sideways."

Nick is walking better these days thanks to a leading-edge orthopedic surgery available only at St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron. The hospital is the first in southeast Michigan, and only the second in the state, to perform MAKOplasty®, a new, minimally invasive robotic partial knee resurfacing procedure used to treat early- to mid-stage osteoarthritis of the knee. MAKOplasty® offers a more precise and consistent result for partial knee resurfacing and is less invasive than its total knee replacement alternative.

"This surgery is just incredible," said Nick, 59, who had surgery in mid-August on his right knee by Edward Nebel, MD. "I had the surgery on Friday, and on Saturday I was up and using a walker. I went home that day. I used the walker two weeks, and then a cane. A month later, I was hardly using the cane at all."

St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron began providing the surgery in July 2010.

"As a not-for-profit hospital, St. Joseph Mercy is dedicated to reinvesting resources back into the community through innovation and technology designed to enhance care in the community," hospital President and CEO Peter Karadjoff said.

A total of 10 local surgeons are certified to perform the new surgery.

"Patients have the highest and best technology available to them with the accuracy of no other technique out there," Gerald Jerry, MD, said of the new surgery. "MAKO is the premier group in developing components for implants. So, what we have here is cutting-edge technology for implant knee restoration."

MAKOplasty® is designed to be used with the early intervention of osteoarthritis, the most common form of arthritis.

Experts say the perfect candidate is likely to be the middle-aged athlete with a torn meniscus and arthritis; the person not yet ready for a total knee replacement. A patient is likely to get an additional 10 years out of his or her knee.

Patients of this new MAKOplasty® surgery are experiencing numerous benefits, including a shorter hospital stay, quicker recovery and a smaller incision compared to total knee replacement.

In August, James Muse, 60, of Richmond, underwent the surgery by Dr. Jerry. He said he only used a walker 10 days and a cane for another three after the procedure. Within a few short weeks he was walking two miles a day and riding his bike nine miles.

"I could not get over how quickly I recovered from this," James, a millwright at a local automotive manufacturer, said.

"Because the surgery involves resurfacing, not a resection, it is both bone and ligament sparing with less scarring and allows the patient to retain some of the senses critical for balance, explains Dr. Jerry.

Scott Heithoff, DO, one of seven surgeons from Orthopedic Associates, PC, performing the procedure, said another advantage is the detailed pre-surgical plan and customization of the implant.

"Everything is mapped out ahead of the surgery, so it is being done in conjunction with a computer, making everything visible and precise," he said. "The surgeon knows the exact size and exact position of the implant, which results in better tracking on the femur and tibia. The robot doesn't do the surgery, but assists the surgeon with a new level of precision."

All of this results in great mobility for the patient after recovery.

"This allows us to take a middle-aged person with a problem in one compartment of the knee, or even two, and fix them and get them back on their feet in much quicker time like we never have before," Dr. Heithoff said.

An automobile accident in 1999 left Bobbi Bristle with severe knee problems. The 28-year-old Port Huron woman had the MAKOplasty® procedure in August by Dr. Nebel.

"It was bone-on-bone and cortisone shots weren't working," said Bobbi, a manager for a local restaurant. "It was getting so I couldn't stand.

"But this is an amazing procedure. You're back on your feet so soon."

The robotic assisted surgery puts Port Huron back in the leadership seat in pioneering new surgical methods, where Charles O. Townley, MD, developed the world's first anatomically-oriented total knee replacement in 1972.

"Dr. Townley was all about mimicking anatomical alignment when he pioneered the knee replacement, which is why he was so successful," comments Edward Nebel, MD, another of the 10 certified surgeons.

"Instead of patients considering leaving the community for surgery, this will be bringing people to Port Huron again, just like when Dr. Townley began doing knee replacement surgery." 🍀

For more information regarding MAKOplasty® robotic assisted knee resurfacing, please call St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron, at 1-888-MERCYME, or visit us online at mymercy.us. You can also search us on Facebook.



Melanie Duquesnel

Resolve to Give Back in 2011 Five Tips for Volunteering

By Melanie Duquesnel

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Donating your time to a charity is in many ways similar to deciding to make a cash donation. You want to know that the charity you're considering is accountable and will use your time and talent effectively. If you've made giving back part of your New Year's resolutions, the BBB Wise Giving Alliance recommends taking five steps to make sure your volunteering has a big impact.

Much of the great work that charities perform is made possible because of volunteers and because the number of people giving their time continues to grow. According to the most recent numbers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 63.4 million people volunteered for an organization in 2009, or 26.4 percent of the US population.

"Particularly in this tough economy, charities need volunteers to help the community and those in need," said H. Art Taylor, president and CEO of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance. "Volunteering can be an extremely rewarding experience, but you want to be thoughtful and do your research when you give your time, just as if you were giving money."

The BBB Wise Giving Alliance recommends taking the five following steps to make sure your time and energy are put to great use as a volunteer:

Identify your skills. Volunteering opportunities are available for any skill level. Consider what you're good at and what services you'd be particularly well-equipped to provide. From stuffing envelopes to construction to providing pro bono legal advice, you can find a good fit regardless of your education or talents.

Consider your passions. Maximize your enthusiasm for volunteering by finding an issue that resonates with your own personal passions. If you're a runner, consider a mara-

thon fundraiser. By identifying your passions, you're more likely to stay engaged with the charity and be a more effective volunteer.

Determine your availability. Make a realistic estimate of how much time you're willing to give. Maybe it's just a weekend of picking up trash at a park, or maybe you're willing to make a long-term commitment to tutoring someone to read. It's better to volunteer the amount of time you can reasonably handle, rather than drop out in the middle of a longer commitment.

Research the charity thoroughly. Just as you would before making a cash donation, research the charity fully before you volunteer to make sure the organization has a commitment to standards and accountability. You can view BBB Wise Giving Alliance evaluations on nationally-soliciting charities for free at www.bbb.org/charity.

Commit to stick with it. According to an article in the *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, more than one third of those who volunteer one year don't volunteer anywhere the following year. Even if your early attempts at volunteering weren't a good fit, keep at it and look for new opportunities to give back. In a tough economy, charities need the support of volunteers more than ever.

The following are just a few sites that list volunteer openings: www.allforgood.org, www.idealists.org, www.iparticipate.org, www.networkforgood.org, www.serve.gov, www.volunteermatch.org.

For advice on volunteering and to view charity evaluations on nationally-soliciting organizations, visit www.bbb.org/charity.

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

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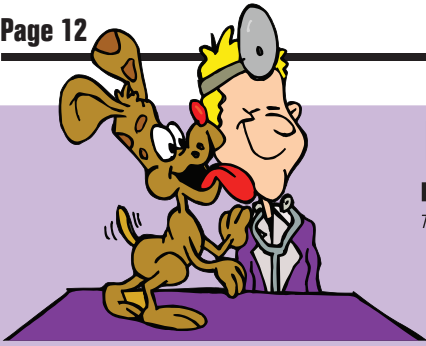
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Epilepsy in Dogs

By Dr. DiBenedetto

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Epilepsy is a chronic condition caused by repeated episodes of seizures. Seizures are a sudden, uncontrolled burst of electrical activity in the brain. They can be caused by numerous things – poisons, lead toxicity, head trauma, brain tumors, viral or bacterial infections, congenital malformations, heat stroke, parasites, fungal infections, low blood sugar, liver disease, low thyroid levels and more. They are not always easy to recognize, and no two look exactly alike. Cardiac and vestibular or middle ear diseases can cause episodes that may look like seizures, but with no loss of consciousness.

The most common cause of seizures in dogs remains unknown; these dogs are diagnosed as having “idiopathic epilepsy.” Idiopathic epilepsy is believed to be an inherited disorder, at least in some breeds. Breeding studies have shown a genetic basis for the disorder in German Shepherds, Belgian Tervuren, Keeshond, Beagles and Dachshunds. Although inheritance patterns have not been documented, the disease also appears to be quite common in Poodles (all varieties), Saint Bernards, Irish Setters, Siberian Huskies, Cocker Spaniels, Wire-haired Fox Terriers, and Labrador and Golden Retrievers. Dogs with Idiopathic Epilepsy generally begin to seizure between one and five years of age.

There are three phases to a seizure, pre-ictal, ictal or active and post-ictal. The pre-ictal phase occurs before the seizure begins. Generally, the dog becomes nervous or agitated, sensing that something abnormal is about to happen. Some dogs seek out their owners, looking for help and reassurance. The ictal or active phase of the seizure is referred to as the tonic-clonic portion. It begins with a stiffening of the muscles (the tonic part). Usually the pet will fall to their side with the legs stretched out and the head back. Once the seizure has begun, the pet is no longer conscious even though their eyes may remain open. Sometimes they will vocalize or their face may twitch. The vocalizations are involuntary and do not indicate pain. Often they will drool excessively, urinate, defecate, or empty their anal glands causing a foul smell. This tonic phase is usually very brief (less than 30 seconds) and gives way to rhythmic movements (the clonic part). Typically, this consists of chomping of the jaws and jerking or running movements of the limbs. Often they will not breathe well during this phase. In addition, owners should be cautioned that their dog could bite them during this phase and not be aware they are doing it. The post-ictal phase is the recovery period. Commonly, dogs will remain blind, pant and seem disoriented for some time after a seizure. The post-ictal phase usually lasts for less than an hour, but can be considerably

longer, especially if they tend to have cluster seizures. Cluster seizures seem to be more common in large breed dogs. In these cases, they will have a seizure and still be in the post-ictal phase when another seizure strikes. Sometimes the seizures will come so close together that it appears there is no post-ictal period, just one continuous seizure. This is a condition called status epilepticus and is a medical emergency. If a seizure goes on for more than 30 minutes, your pet may suffer serious permanent brain damage. Sometimes, depending on the dog’s age and overall health, the stress can be too much and the pet may have a heart attack and die. Fortunately, status epilepticus is rare.

The initial workup of a patient with seizures includes a thorough physical examination, a thorough medical history, blood work and a urinalysis. A complete blood count can reveal signs of infection or inflammation. A chemistry profile helps to rule out metabolic causes of seizures by testing for liver, kidney, glucose and electrolyte disturbances. More extensive testing such as thyroid function testing, CT scans, MRI’s and CSF taps may be necessary when indicated by the initial workup. Whether the source of the seizures can be identified and treated or not, life long treatment for the epilepsy may be necessary. The epilepsy must then be controlled by medications. These medications increase the inhibition of the brains electrical activity, thus making seizures less likely. However your pets will experience side effects such as sedation, increased thirst and increased appetite. With most medications, these effects will resolve

after a few weeks on the medication. The side effects may last longer or be more pronounced if more than one medication is needed to control the seizures. The most commonly used drugs in dogs are Phenobarbital, potassium bromide and valium. There are several newer generation drugs that are used in humans, but dogs seem to metabolize them too quickly. They therefore require more frequent dosing making them very costly.

Never change the dose of antiepileptic medication or discontinue it without consulting your veterinarian!

An animal on antiepileptic drugs becomes dependant on the medication and sudden decreases in the dose can cause serious seizures. Once on the medications chemistry profiles and testing blood levels of the drugs is required every six months. Dosage changes will be needed periodically. Every animal will respond differently to treatment. A medication that works for one dog may not be as effective for another. Some dogs require more than one medication for good control. The goal is to keep the blood levels within a range that controls the seizures but causes minimal side effects. Most dogs with epilepsy live normal lives with daily treatment. Medications can control about 2/3 of our pets with epilepsy. 🐾

Editor’s note: Dr. DiBenedetto is a veterinarian at Maple Veterinary Hospital located at 2981 Iowa in Troy, Michigan. The hospital website is: www.MapleVeterinaryHospital.com. Dr. DiBenedetto can be reached at (248) 586-2622 for other pet related questions.

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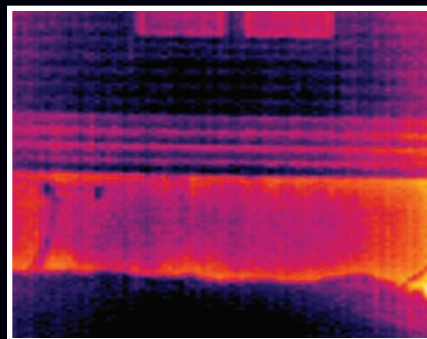
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Thermal infrared imaging can be used to record heat loss anywhere in your home by literally photographing the heat loss. This photo shows heat loss in the floor bond and a walk-out basement. Infrared cameras display heat energy as visual images, providing a "picture" of energy loss that makes it easy to see where corrections need to be made.



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Memoirs from The Restless Retiree

Tracking your Pills A Solution!

By Gabriel Jones, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Many seniors take various medications and vitamin supplements to improve and maintain good health.

But, many of us sometimes forget to take some pills because there are so many to take and some we take twice a day.

We forget which ones to take the second time.

But, I have the perfect system of keeping track of pill taking.

Here it is!

If you have to take a pill twice a day, put that particular brand of pill in two different containers.

When you take the first pill, tip that particular container upside down.

In the evening, all you have to do is take the pills from the containers standing upright.

At the end of the evening, stand all containers upright for the morning.

Its so beautiful and so simple an idea, why didn't they put this in a pharmacist journal!

Oh, excuse me. My wife is trying to tell me something.

"Gabriel, your granddaughter is here and she has been very good in helping me to clean up and organize things.

"Look at those shelves. She organized everything!

"She even stood up all your pill bottles and now they line up beautifully. She said that they were all mixed up, some upside down, and they looked awful. Didn't she do a wonderful job?"

"Gabriel!"

"Gabriel, why do you have that expression on your face?"

Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🍀

A Trip Down Memory Lane . . . Again!

In the January 2011 issue of *ThumbPrint News*, we shared with you a photo that was sent to us by one of our readers. The photo showed ice harvesting on Anchor Bay around the turn of the century. After seeing that photo, Warren and Jean Hoeninghausen of Indian River, shared their own



memory of that spot with us. In the photo below, their son, Scott (second rider, red helmet, #130), is racing motorcycles in that exact location on Anchor Bay, about 80 years later!



It's Not Gone!

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

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

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

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

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

NEVER

- put bleach into the system. Bleach kills the good bacteria.
- put garbage from table waste in at any time.
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KIDS KORNERS

By Louise Allen
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Love Bug Valentine's Day Card Holder

This great Valentine's Day project for kids to make at home, at school or at Sunday school comes from a super website, Danielle's Place, full of thousands of free crafts for kids that are designed to make learning fun.

The website is www.daniellesplace.com and the activity below is reprinted with permission of the website's owner.

What you will need

- Dinner-sized and snack-sized paper plates
- Fun foam hearts (or cut from construction paper)
- Tissue paper
- Pipe cleaners
- Paper
- Hole punch
- Ribbon
- Glue

What to do:

1. Cut one dinner-sized paper plate in half. Glue one half to another dinner-sized paper plate to make a pocket.
2. Fold a snack-sized paper plate almost in half as shown in Figure 1-1. Then fold back the two upper corners to make the face shape as shown in Figure 1-2. Fold a pipe cleaner in half and tape it to the back of the head for the antennae. Glue hearts to the end of the antennae. Glue the head to the large paper plate pocket.
3. Draw eyes on the head. Cut legs from black construction paper and glue them to the bug's body.
4. Cut wing shapes from tissue paper and glue them to the body.
5. Cut out a tongue from pink paper and glue it inside the mouth.
6. You can glue heart shapes with love phrases written on them onto each of the bug's legs.
7. Use a hole punch to punch a hole at the top of the bug. Tie a ribbon to the hole to hang the love bug card holder.



Figure 1-1



Figure 1-2

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Soup - The Perfect Winter Comfort Food

Recipes Gathered By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Soup and a hearty sandwich seem to pair up as the perfect winter comfort foods for a cold, blustery day. How about taking the opportunity to try a few unusual soup recipes that will have your family begging for more? All are perfect for either lunch or dinner, depending on the sandwich or side dishes that accompany the soup. These soups are also unique enough to be something special to serve to guests.



Hungarian Goulash Soup

Ingredients

- 1 oz. butter
- 2 onions, peeled and cut into rings
- 5 oz. lean pork, trimmed and cubed
- 4 oz. chuck steak, trimmed and cubed
- 1 green pepper, seeded and sliced
- 1 small carrot, peeled and sliced
- 1 small can tomatoes
- ¼ tsp. salt
- pinch pepper
- pinch garlic salt
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 6 Tbsp. sour cream

Directions

In a large pan, heat the butter and fry the onions until they are golden brown. Add the meat and sauté for 5 more minutes. Add the green pepper, carrot, tomatoes, salt, pepper, garlic salt and paprika, and stir well. Add ¾ of a pint of water, cover the pot, and let it simmer for an hour. You can add water if necessary. Before serving, add the sour cream.

For a variation, you can add a pinch of cumin, and 2 peeled and cubed potatoes for the last 30 minutes of cooking.

Thai Pumpkin Soup

Ingredients

- 2 (16 oz.) cans low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 (12 oz.) can mango nectar
- 1 (15 oz.) can pumpkin
- ¼ cup reduced-fat chunky peanut butter
- 1 tsp. fresh ginger, grated & peeled
- 1½ Tbsp. green onions, minced
- ½ tsp. orange rind, grated
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- ¼ tsp. red pepper, crushed
- 2 Tbsp. rice vinegar
- Fresh cilantro, chopped

Directions

In a large Dutch oven, combine the chicken broth, mango nectar, and pumpkin and bring it to a boil. Cover the pot, and reduce the heat and let simmer for 10 minutes. In a food processor or blender, combine 1 cup of the pumpkin mixture and the peanut butter until it's smooth. Return to the pan, and stir in the ginger, onions, orange rind, garlic, red pepper and vinegar, cooking for 3 minutes. Ladle into the bowls and sprinkle on the cilantro if desired.

Wisconsin Cheese Soup

Ingredients

- 5 Tbsp. butter
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 5 button mushrooms, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- ½ cup ham, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. cornstarch
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 4 cups milk
- ½ tsp. ground mustard
- ¼ tsp. cayenne pepper
- ½ tsp. paprika
- 2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, shredded

Directions

In a large pot, melt the butter and add the celery, onion, carrots, mushrooms, green pepper and ham and cook over medium heat for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add in the cornstarch and flour, stirring constantly for 3 minutes. Then stir in the broth and cook until slightly thickened. Add the milk, mustard, cayenne and paprika. Gradually stir in the cheese, until fully melted. Don't let the soup boil once the cheese has been added.

Season to taste with salt and pepper.



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Ask the Audiologist

By Lisa Bont

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Nostalgia is a great way to get people talking and sharing history. I recently had one of those conversations, and that led to this month's article. Do any of you remember grandma or grandpa's old hearing aids? My own earliest recollection was of my grandfather's eyeglass hearing aids and then his



This wood/hard rubber conversation tube dates from somewhere around 1860 to 1880.

extremely large, behind the ear hearing aids. As a child I knew they were effective, but why did my beloved grandfather have to have such LARGE ones? This recollection took me back to one of my first college courses on hearing aids and their development. Allow me to share this with you.

In the 1500s, it was noted by a prestigious Italian physician that one could hold a rod or shaft of a spear to one's teeth in order to transmit sound to the ear. Was this the earliest hearing aid? Could one hunt, fish and hear with the same device? Many men would have thought this extremely beneficial! However, it was not until around the 1600s that the first hearing trumpets



French-made conical ear trumpet

were fashioned and made for the public. These devices were made of wood, glass, brass or copper and were generally rudimentary, but effective.

By the 1700s and 1800s, most of these devices were funnel or conical shaped and were becoming quite elaborate. Some were fashioned to mimic

common household items like vases which collected sound via a pierced grille covering aperture that would face all around the room and then deliver that sound via a hose to the hearing impaired. Others were very unique, such as a throne that was developed for the King of Portugal with a large receiving apparatus concealed beneath the seat. Its hollow arms were elaborately

carved to represent the open mouths of grotesque lions and were arranged to act as receivers through which sound was conveyed via a single tube hidden in the back of the chair. Visitors were required to kneel before the chair and speak directly into the animal heads.



Chair developed for the King of Portugal.

Women's fashions also dictated design and we began to see hearing aids shaped like fans. Some of these fans had a small trumpet attached to the side which the user would put to their ear while it collected the sound. Others actually held a piece of the fan in their mouth or against their teeth to hear!

The 1900s had brought about many technological advances, some of which we never believed possible! The advent of telephone technology led to the electronic age of hearing aids and the personalization of hearing help. Battery supplies necessitated large units and many of you may recall the body aids requiring



Zenith Ravox table model vacuum tube hearing aid, manufactured in 1939. The unit weighed 6 lbs. and measured 6 1/4" by 4 1/4" by 8 1/4" deep. The grill at the front conceals the microphone.

large boxes to be worn on the person. We also need to mention that the vacuum tubes developed at this time could be quite cumbersome to fit into hearing aid devices as well. Some units were even table-sized!

These devices were very beneficial, but thankfully by the 1950s we were able to produce smaller batteries, smaller transistors and thus smaller units. More cosmetically appealing devices were fashioned into eyeglass temple pieces and some were



The Beltone "Slimette" in its original case.

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1946 advertisement for Beltone hearing aids

even disguised as pieces of jewelry.

Now, we have many devices available, from older analog technology to digital technology, all of which can be housed into the smallest of casings. Some implantable devices are available, as well as extended-wear devices. My, how far we have come in a relatively short period of time! 🌱



Acousticon Model 28 (Resonant Case) Carbon Hearing Aid sold in 1927 (picture on left). The Acousticon No. 2B battery (picture on right) that came with the Acousticon Model 28 Carbon Hearing Aid allowed you to select either 1 1/2 or 3 volts depending if you needed more volume for more severe hearing losses or not. It is shown here plugged into the 3 volt terminal.



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SECOND CHANCES

Continued from Page 1

several life threatening surgeries and a variety of related illnesses that have faded into the distant past. My loving wife, Susan, fought the battles by my side and would never allow me to give up. She is the love of my life who insisted that I tell my story.

I have always been an animal lover who feels that I am a part of God's creation. I deeply believe we are the keepers of nature's showcase.

It so happened that several horses came into my life fighting for a better future. They became the focus of all my time,

energy and love as Marengo's Happy Horse Ranch was constructed, ignoring the prognosis from my doctors of the silent killer that loomed just beyond the horizon.

My kidney's failed, three years of kidney dialysis took over, a heart attack,

a Sub-Dural hematoma (blood clot on the brain) that required surgery, then bypass surgery, and finally, after several attempts, a kidney transplant that saved the lives of my two donors, all of which kept me hospitalized for quite a period of time. What would be the next challenge?

Susan would plaster the walls of my

hospital room with pictures of my rescue horses at our Happy Horse Ranch saying how much they missed me. I struggled to answer their call to come home. There were other horses out there that needed my help and God would send me on a path that would rescue myself and more horses.

I have received

letters, phone calls and e-mails from across the country from readers of *Second Chances*. There have been dozens of people who have visited the horses after reading their story.

Groups of special needs children are frequent visitors to the Happy Horse Ranch. The touch of a soft horse's nose

"There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man."

— Sir Winston Churchill



Frank Marengo at the Happy Horse Ranch, a privately funded rescue ranch for abused and neglected horses.

or the feeding of a carrot brings so much joy that seems to lift the burden of disability. It is a very special time for the children, caregivers, the horses, and especially me.

The horses seem to hold some magic which is absorbed into the soul. They instill happiness and a sense of well-being to each and every visitor. Maybe it is because many can relate to the difficult path to happiness the horses endured to their own circumstances.

You will laugh at the antics and shed a tear at the pain. You will be amazed to see how love, faith and horses were instrumental to my recovery. Most of all, I hope that my story will inspire you to fight for yourself if faced with adversity and maybe even fight to help rescue horses.

The magnificent horses will jump from the pages of the book and into your heart amid pangs of hunger, mistrust and fear, as the story of their rescue is told.

I often reflect on whether I rescued the horses or the horses rescued me.

Sir Winston Churchill summed it up best. "There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man." 🍀

Editor's Note:

Second Chances – A Story of Love, Faith and Rescue is available from www.Fredmarengo.com or by phone at (810) 404-3415. All proceeds from the book go to the continuing care of the horses.

Signed copies are available for \$19.95 plus postage. Happy Horse Ranch can be contacted at (810) 359-5994 or (810) 404-3415.

A STORY OF LOVE

By Fredrick G. Marengo

When I wrote *Second Chances*, I never dreamed that my book would reunite two high school sweethearts and put them on a path to happiness. I also never dreamed that within a short few months of this reunion, I would be best man at their wedding.

Mike and Joyce's paths took them in different directions after graduating from high school. Fifty two years later they would locate me through *Second Chances*, and I was able to put them in contact with each other. They were still 3,000 miles apart, but the mileage gap would not get in the way of what was meant to be. Mike was in Washington state and had recently retired as a park ranger. Joyce had remained in Michigan.

Love Trumps All

Mike flew back to Michigan to meet his long lost love. It seemed like they were back to those high school days again. The warmth they felt for each other quickly turned into the love they had shared so many years before.

A friend who volunteers at the Happy Horse Ranch phoned one day to let me know I had visitors at the barn. I walked into the barn listening to my most vocal horse, Bobby (pictured on page 1), whinnying. There, standing in front of his stall were Mike and Joyce. There were hugs, laughter and damp eyes from each of us. The horses whinnied with joy.

The photo of our first rescue horse, Bobby, that adorns the cover of *Second Chances*, was indirectly responsible for reuniting Mike and his first love Joyce. If I had not rescued Bobby, there would not have been a book written. The lost love would have been lost forever.

I was honored to be best man at their wedding ceremony. We all know the best man is required to give a toast to the bride and groom. The following was my toast to Mike and Joyce:

"Mike, Joyce: it has been 19,062 days or 457,488 hours from your last kiss and warm embrace until you found each other again. It has taken time, but the love and magic that you once shared as high school sweethearts at Crosswell-Lexington has come full circle.

God has provided you with a "second chance" on what was meant to be. You are truly blessed.

Also, if you listen carefully, you will be able to hear the thundering of hooves and whinnies of joy from those horses that helped clear the path for you to follow.

God bless you and may good health and happiness abound.

Please join me in a toast to Mike and Joyce – a toast of love."

Everyone loves a happy ending, especially me. 🍀

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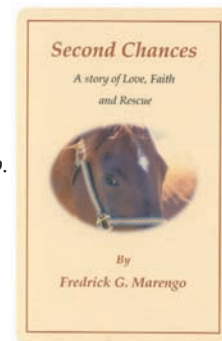
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By Kathryn Seestedt

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

In the November issue of *ThumbPrint News*, there was an interesting column about the history of Marine City, Michigan. *Grandmother's Stories* is a rare book in my collection written in 1889 by Frances Hurlbut. This story will add some human interest to the historical record.

"Grandmother" in this book is Emily Ward, niece of Samuel Ward, who is known as the founder of Marine City, then known as "Yankee Point." Emily's father was Eber Ward and her brother was Eber Brock Ward. The author of *Grandmother's Stories* was a niece of Emily, who benefited from Emily's philosophy of loving concern for family as well as for friends.

Apparently Emily was born with the kind of business sense that was to be helpful to her brother. With her advice, Ebert Brock Ward became a millionaire, with investments in transcontinental railroads, as well as in the shipping industry. He also is remembered for his role in developing the Bessemer process for producing high-quality steel from iron ore.

Emily's mother died when Emily was only nine years old. From then on, she acted as both mother and mentor to the younger members of her extended family.

Here are Emily's own words about that time in her life:

"After Mother died, it seems to me, I always had the cares of a woman upon my shoulders. I felt that I must see to their clothes, both the making and the mending, take care of them when they were sick, and see that they were neat and clean and behaved well.

"In the spring (after Mother's death) Uncle Sam (Ward) and his wife and several families moved from Ohio, to a place on the St. Clair River, where Uncle Sam had bought a large tract of land the year before. It was a beautiful peninsula, with the St. Clair River on one side of it, and a pretty inland stream, Belle River, on the other side."

This peninsula is now called "Catholic Point," which recalls its relationship to Father Gabriel Richard, who was part-owner of this acreage and also to the fact that Holy Cross Parish was established there.

In the fall of 1822, Emily, her father, Eber, and her brother, Eber B., sailed to Yankee Point, aboard her Uncle Sam's



Emily Ward 1809-1891

boat, the *Salem Packet*. Of this trip, Emily said:

"We stopped at Detroit, a little town of fifteen hundred people. When we got to the St. Clair Flats, we were becalmed. Father, Eber B. and the sailors went duck-hunting . . . and we had a great feast as a result of their spoils. When we were fairly out on the St. Clair River . . . we found that it was the widest, cleanest, deepest and most beautiful river that anybody ever saw. There certainly is not so lovely a river in the world as the St. Clair; not the storied Rhine, nor the winding Ocklawaha, nor the palisaded Hudson. None can compare with it in my estimation . . ."

Emily and her father lived at Yankee Point for five years and then went on to be the lighthouse keepers at Bois Blanc Island in upper Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinaw. Her life ended in a lonely Detroit mansion, where her brother, Eber B. Ward, had continued his use of her business advice. 🌱

Editor's Note: Grandmother's Stories by Frances Hurlbut was written in 1889 and was privately printed by the Riverside Press in Cambridge. The original version owned by Kathryn is 162 pages long, with maroon cloth, gilt tulle and decorations. The top edge of the book is also gilt. Your local library may have copies of this book available or may be able to get it for you from another library system in Michigan. Fortunately, for those unable to locate an original version, a reprinted paperback version is available from Amazon.com and may be able to also be ordered from a local bookstore.

Alternative Healing

By Renae Hardy

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Health care's evolution has generated a growing interest in healing alternatives. Many of us already partake in an integrative health care regimen combining a personal blend of conventional medicine with complimentary options such as chiropractic care, dietary supplements, nutritional improvements and more.

Holistic approaches emphasize the importance of the whole, considering the complete person, psychologically as well as physically during treatment. Included in this category is a multitude of beneficial and effective therapies from bodywork and massage to hypnosis and energetic healing. Other non-conventional applications engage our own senses as in aromatherapy (scent), chromo therapy (color), "sound" healing and techniques working with vibration. The positive factor shared within the arena of healing alternatives is their ability to nurture, nourish, promote self-healing and enhance the body's own defenses.

Developing, sustaining, or expanding a health care program is a personal pursuit allowing for appropriate adjustments to satisfy our specific needs as they occur.

Alleviating stress plays a large part in the prevention of future illnesses and poor health conditions.

Ideally, relaxation practices focusing on relieving stress would

be implemented into the program along with the individual's preferred alternatives. Resistant illness or challenging health conditions may have an emotional issue associated with the apparent symptoms. A qualified practitioner can assist in determining a possible association and follow with Reiki, for instance, to help clear the contributing emotional block. Exploring the options is worth the time we invest.

Our health is a priceless commodity.

Alternative healing is supportive and complimentary. Its products, services and devices are not meant to replace medical treatment. Healing alternatives are "tools"

to assist our quest for optimal health. We accessorize our wardrobes to be fashionable. We indulge ourselves with an abundant supply of cosmetics and grooming aids to be beautiful. We owe it to ourselves to treat our health with equal consideration to be well. 🌱

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



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Inspecting Your Home



By Mitchell J. Kuffa Jr.
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Let's talk about little problems that can turn into big problems!

When we inspect houses, it is very common to find small items that initially may seem to be of no consequence. However, if you stop and think about these small items, you realize that neglecting them will allow the condition to worsen and eventually cause larger problems. It is very common to have someone say, "I just want to know about the major things." The following is a list of typical items that might be considered insignificant, but lead to more expensive and/or dangerous situations:

1. Small electrical items such as loose switches, broken plastic plugs, missing cover plates on electrical boxes, fuses that blow regularly, etc., are all things that should not be ignored. Electrical in general can be very dangerous and any irregularity, no matter how insignificant it may seem, should be attended to. I have seen an ill-taped electrical wire splice cause a house fire. Don't play around with electrical and if you are not sure of any irregularity, have a licensed electrician repair it for you.
2. It is very common to find stairways or steps that have irregularities, such as missing assist rails, unequal rises, loose steps, open stringer details (where a small child could fall off the edge), etc. When looking at a set of steps, always think about a child or older person walking up and down that area. Our office regularly gets involved in lawsuits that concern problems in pedestrian traffic patterns (trip and fall).
3. Small leaks are often ignored. If you see any evidence of a plumbing or roof leak, attend to it immediately. These conditions will definitely not get any better and often end up damaging plaster, rotting hidden structural members and eventually encouraging infestation or mold (since they typically like wet areas). In addition, a leaky plumbing condition can consume major amounts of water over a long period of time (which again costs you money).
4. Look for loose items that were not intended to be loose. Toilets rocking on the floor indicate a problem. Wall-hung sinks are supposed to be secured to the wall. Counter tops are to be secured to the cabinets below. Loose doors rub the tracks and loosen hinges. It typically does not take too much effort to secure loose plumbing fixtures, doors, etc. If it was not meant to be loose and is, neglecting it will only allow things to degenerate.
5. Make sure that all of your doors have door bumpers. We constantly see damage to drywall and plaster (due to the fact that the doorknob got pushed through the wall) that could have been prevented with a \$1.50 door bumper.
6. The importance of a clean gutter and downspout system is self explanatory. Dirty gutters can cause "ice damming" on the roof or water over flowing a dirty gutter system right next to the house will definitely eventually start leaking into the basement. Ninety percent of houses do not have extensions of the downspouts and it is imperative that discharged water be directed away from the building. Cleaning the gutters and installing extensions is inexpensive and only labor intensive.
7. Missing caulking, in appropriate areas, allows leaks, energy waste, etc. The basic rule of thumb on the outside of the house is that all doors and windows in brick areas should be caulked and where different construction materials meet (brick to siding, wood to aluminum, etc.). The most important area to caulk inside is around the plumbing fixtures (toilet to floor, sink to countertop, etc.). A little inexpensive caulking can save big repairs later.
8. Don't forget to occasionally stick your head up into your attic space or crawl space if you have one. It is interesting how often these areas are completely neglected. People do not like to explore these hidden cavities of the house, but many times there are holes, leaks, things living within (bugs, raccoons, etc.) that can cause damage if not attended to. "Out of sight, out of mind" can cost you money here. 🐾

Editor's note: Mitchell Kuffa Jr. is a licensed builder who performs private home inspections. All questions or correspondence should be directed to Mitchell by email at InspectionsbyMJK@comcast.net or by phone at (810) 329-4052 or by visiting www.Inspectionsbymjkuffa.com.

What Happened On This Day in History?

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

February

1. On this day in 1898, the first auto insurance policy in the U.S. was issued, by Travelers Insurance Company.

2. On this day in 1882, the Knights of Columbus formed in New Haven, Connecticut.



3. On this day in 1690, the first paper money in America was issued (colony of Massachusetts).

4. On this day in 1998, stamps commemorating Princess Diana went on sale across Britain.



5. On this day in 1817, the first U.S. gas company was incorporated in Baltimore, Maryland (coal gas for street lights).

6. On this day in 1820, the U.S. population was announced at 9,638,453.

7. On this day in 1891, the Great Blizzard of 1891 began.



8. On this day in 1922, radio arrived at the White House.

9. On this day in 1822, the American Indian Society organized.

10. On this day in 1863, P.T. Barnum staged the wedding of Tom Thumb to Mercy Lavinia Warren in New York City.



11. On this day in 1794, the first session of the U.S. Senate opened to the public.

12. On this day in 1906, George Cohan's musical "George Washington," premiered in New York City.

13. On this day in 1837, there was a riot in New York over the high price of flour.

14. On this day in 1889, the first train load of fruit (oranges) left Los Angeles for the east.

15. On this day in 1804, New Jersey became the last northern state to abolish slavery.

16. On this day in 0600, Pope Gregory the Great decreed that saying "God bless you" is the correct response to a sneeze.

17. On this day in 1865, Columbia, South Carolina burned down during the Civil War.



18. On this day in 1839, the Detroit Boat Club formed (and still exists).

19. On this day in 1856, the tin-type camera was patented by Hamilton Smith of Gambier, Ohio.

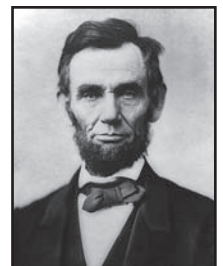


20. On this day in 1811, Austria declared bankruptcy.

21. On this day in 1878, the first telephone book was issued with fifty subscribers (New Harbor, Connecticut).

22. On this day in 1907, the first cabs with taxi meters began operating in London.

23. On this day in 1861, President-elect Lincoln arrived secretly in Washington, D.C. to take office.



24. On this day in 1903, the U.S. signed an agreement acquiring a naval station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

25. On this day in 1859, the insanity plea was first used to prove innocence in a trial.

26. On this day in 1732, the first mass was celebrated in the first American Catholic church in Philadelphia.

27. On this day in 1827, the first Mardi Gras celebration was held in New Orleans.



28. On this day in 1784, John Wesley chartered the Methodist Church.

Floral Design Classes at Foxfire Farm

Foxfire Farm Floral Shop • 8061 Marsh Rd. • Algonac • Michigan 48001
(810) 794-5108 • www.herbsandflowers.net

Starting on January 29, 2011, classes will be offered in floral design for anyone interested in floral design as a hobby or for future employment opportunities. The classes will be offered one to two times per month. Each class can be taken independently of the others, although, for a complete course in floral design, it is suggested that each class be attended in the sequence offered. All classes will be limited to a maximum of 8 people. Any class with less than 4 people pre-registered will be cancelled and any pre-paid registration money returned or applied toward a future class, at the student's option. The cost of each class is \$25 plus any additional optional fees and will be offered on Saturday evenings from 3:00 until 5:00 p.m.

Each class requires pre-registration no later than one week prior to the scheduled class. For the January 29 class, payment is due in by January 22, 2011 to Foxfire Farm Country Store. Alternately, payment can be made by credit card over the phone to (810) 794-5108.

A basic outline of the proposed classes follows. Dates and times for future classes will be posted on our website and will also be emailed out through Foxfire Farm's weekly newsletter. Should you wish to have your email added to receive the weekly newsletters, please call (810) 794-5108 or email your request to: dianekodet@hotmail.com.

Floral Design Curriculum

Class 1 – January 29

Flower and greens identification, cleaning flowers and making bows. Supplies needed are a knife, wire cutters and scissors. If you do not have your own supplies, a kit will be for sale at this class which can be used for future classes as well.

Class 2

Hand-tied arrangements and vased flower arrangements. If you choose to take the arrangement that you make home with you there will be a small additional cost for the flowers used.

Class 3

Making planters, plant identification and care. If you choose to take the planter that you make home with you there will be a small additional cost for the flowers used.

Class 4

Identifying design styles and making round arrangements.

Class 5

Boxing flowers, wiring flowers and using water tubes.

Class 6

Wiring and taping flowers and making a corsage or boutonniere. If you choose to take the arrangement that you make home with you there will be a small additional cost for the flowers used.

Class 7

Setting up and greening a container for a fresh flower arrangement.

Class 8

Greening and putting together a basket arrangement.

Class 9

Round wedding bouquet and identification of wedding bouquets. If you choose to take the arrangement that you make home with you there will be a small additional cost for the flowers used.

Class 10

Setting up containers and making a basic funeral arrangement. If you choose to take the arrangement that you make home with you there will be a small additional cost for the flowers used.

Class 11

Long and low and round centerpieces without a candle. If you choose to take the arrangement that you make home with you there will be a small additional cost for the flowers used.

Class 12

Long and low and round centerpieces with a candle. If you take this arrangement home with you, there will be a small additional charge for the flowers used.

Class 13

Bring in any container or item that you think an arrangement cannot be made in and we will show you how it can! All flowers used in this arrangement will be sold to you at cost and you will be taking this arrangement home with you.

Class 14

Gift and fruit baskets – Bring in your own gourmet foods or buy from us. Choose from our selection of gifts to design your own themed basket.

Class 15

Exotic flower design – Learn how to create expensive looking arrangements using inexpensive flowers.

Class 16

The use of the floral wire services in a flower shop.



St. Clair Library System FREE February Activities

Algonac-Clay Branch • 2011 St. Clair River Drive, Algonac. Open Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fri., Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (810) 794-4471.

- **PAWS To Read** – Monday, Feb. 14 and 28 at 4 p.m. Kids, read to a certified therapy dog! Reading to this four-footed friend improves reading skills and increases self-esteem. Make reading more fun! Registration required.

Burtchville Township • 7097 Second Street, Lakeport. Open Mon., Tues., Thurs. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (810) 385-8550.

- **Kid Kreations** – Saturday, Feb. 12, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Join us for creative winter programs that are unique to each branch! Ages 5-10. Registration required.

Capac • 111 N. Main Street, Capac. Open Mon., Thurs. 12 p.m.-8 p.m.; Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. (810) 395-7000.

- **Eclectic Book Club** – Thursday, Feb. 17 at 6 p.m. Lively book discussion club! Adults. Registration requested.

G. Lynn Campbell/Kimball Twp. • 1995 N. Allen Road, Kimball. Open Mon., Tues., Thurs. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Wed. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (810) 982-9171.

- **Valentines Treats** – Thursday, Feb. 10, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Learn how to make delicious treats for Valentine's Day. Sponsored by the friends of the G. Lynn Campbell/Kimball Branch. Registration required.

Port Huron • 210 McMorran Blvd., Port Huron. Open Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. (810) 987-7323 ext. 132 or 130.

- **Anti-Valentine Party** – Thursday, Feb. 10, 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Are you ready to make catapults out of popsicle sticks, duct tape roses, destroy a piñata and more? Don't miss the fun. Refreshments. Ages 10-18. Registration required.

Marine City • 300 S. Parker Street, Marine City. Open Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (810) 765-5233.

- **Sponge Bob Fun Night** – Thursday, Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for a fun-filled evening with Sponge Bob!

Marysville • 1175 Delaware Road, Marysville. Open Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (810) 364-9493.

- **Sign Language** – Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 4:30-5:30 p.m. Learn the basics of American Sign Language from the Deaf & Hearing Impaired Services staff. Sponsored by the friends of the Marysville Library. Registration required.

Memphis • 34830 Potter Street, Memphis. Open Mon., Thurs. Noon-8 p.m.; Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. (810) 392-2980.

- **Wii Teach!** – Saturday, Feb. 26, 3 p.m.-5 p.m. Kids, teach your parents or grandparents how to play the Wii! Registration requested by Feb. 19.

St. Clair • 310 S. Second Street, St. Clair. Open Mon.-Thurs. 9:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (810) 329-3951.

- **Scrabble** – Mondays at 1 p.m. Try your word skills with other Scrabble fanatics.

Yale • 2 Jones Street, Yale. Open Mon., Tues., Thurs. 9:30-8 p.m.; Wed., Fri., Sat. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. (810) 387-2940.

- **Valentine ceramics** – Tuesday, Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. Join us and paint your own ceramic love bug! Grades 6-Adult. Registration required.

For more February activities in St. Clair County's libraries, visit www.sccclib.mi.us.

**ThumbPrint News
Classified Ads**

Help Wanted

EXPERIENCED FLORIST for high-volume floral shop. Need to be able to make funeral arrangements, corsages, every day arrangements and holiday pieces. Room to grow into a management position. Fax resume to: (810) 794-3299.

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

POND TECHNICIAN: ABC Home & Commercial Services has an opening for a certified pond technician. Must have Aquatic Certification Category 5. Call (810) 794-5678.

LAWN FERTILIZATION TECHNICIAN: Certified in 3A and 3B. Call ABC Home & Commercial Services at (810) 794-5678.

RESTAURANT MANAGER, fast food or traditional. Minimum 10 years experience in management or food prep. Fax resume to: (810) 794-3299.

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4-BEDROOM DOUBLEWIDE on 150 sq. ft. lot. Peck Road between Croswell and Lexington. Nice lot on bike path, close to Lake Huron. \$20,000. (810) 359-7020.

ThumbPrint News Business Directory

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ThumbPrint News Classified Ads

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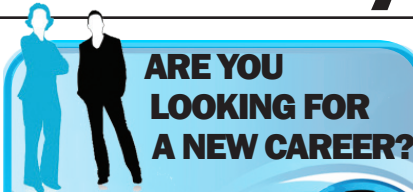
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Signs the Economy is Still Not the Best in Michigan

(Hang in there!)

- 🕒 You get a pre-declined credit card in the mail.
- 🕒 You order a burger at Burger King, and the kid behind the counter asks, "Can you afford fries with that?"
- 🕒 CEO's are now playing miniature golf.
- 🕒 Your bank returns your check marked "Insufficient Funds," and you have to call them and ask if they mean you or them.
- 🕒 Hot Wheels and Matchbox stocks are trading higher than GM.
- 🕒 McDonald's is selling the Quarter Ouncer.
- 🕒 Parents in Beverly Hills and Malibu are firing their nannies and learning their children's names.
- 🕒 Motel 6 won't leave the light on anymore.

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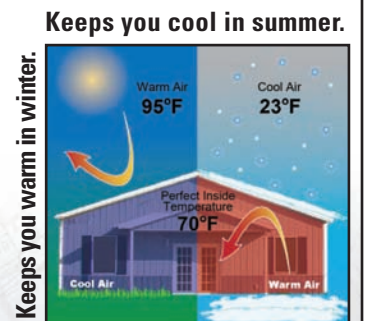
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SPOTLIGHT: Wadhams

Continued from Page 1

below the present day Wadhams Bridge were favorite camping grounds of the Chippewa Indians, especially during the spring of the year when they would set up temporary camps with the purpose of harvesting maple syrup.



Painting of Native Americans making maple syrup

Just after the War of 1812 broke out, one such Indian camp was being used by the families of a Mr. King and Alexander Rodd, the husband of the infamous Old Mother Rodd who became a legend in the Port Huron area as an herbalist and because her reputed age at her death was between 111 and 117. An unfriendly member of a band of Saginaw Indians shot and killed King and Rodd, believing them to be American sympathizers. The wives and children of King and Rodd were captured and taken to the head of Lake Huron. Later they were released.

In 1825, the dark rapids of the Black River became appealing as a possible site to build a mill for use in Michigan's rapidly growing lumber industry. Robert Smart of Scotland, with backing by several Detroit businessmen, built a mill on the site of present day Wadhams. Robert had grown up near the River Clyde in Scotland as a boy and subsequently named the new settlement Clyde Mills.

However, two years later, Robert sold the mill to Ralph Wadhams. Ralph was born in Goshen, Connecticut, in 1798 and had lived in Detroit since 1823, operating a dry goods store on the corner of Jefferson and Woodward. This store was the first brick store in Detroit and coincidentally was owned by Robert Smart. Ralph was looking to expand into the timber business at the time that he purchased the mill from Robert Smart. In 1829, Ralph moved to the settlement near his mill and remained there for the rest of his life.

Ralph Wadhams was well known in the area, later becoming the supervisor of Desmond Township, then of Clyde Township for several years. He also was the postmaster of the Clyde Mills post office for as long as it was in operation.



Ralph Wadhams' home from an 1859 Wall Map

Ralph distinguished himself as a delegate to the convention that framed the first state constitution. Ralph died on March 28, 1877, spending the last part of his life farming and raising cattle in the area.

From 1835 until 1872 the Clyde Mills post office was in operation. Clyde Township was organized in March of 1836 and took its name from the Clyde Mills settlement. It encompassed an area that later was broken up into 20 different townships. (Interestingly enough, Clyde Mills eventually became a part of Kimball Township instead of Clyde Township!)

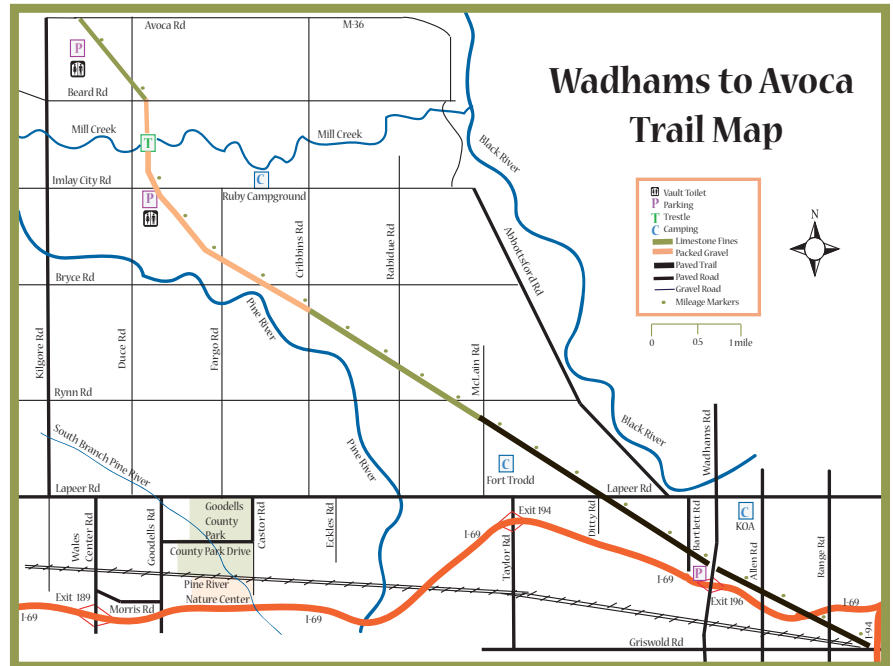
From June 1886 through October 1887 and again from February 1890 until October 1905, the post office in this settlement operated under the present day name of Wadhams, named after Ralph Wadhams.

Today, Wadhams continues to be a developing community, with many recreational opportunities for families. In addition to several fine camping facilities, Wadhams is part of the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation's Wadhams to Avoca Trail, a year-round non-motorized trail utilizing more than 12 miles of a historic rail line formerly owned by the CSX Company. Walkers, hikers, bicyclist and horse riders all can enjoy the scenic beauty along the trail and have a chance to encounter birds and other native Michigan wildlife. Historical markers and half-mile markers line the trail. Portions of the trail are paved. The name of the trail came from the cities that were its initial endpoints. However, today the trail extends from Avoca to the outskirts of Port Huron.

In late summer each year, as a tribute to the rich Native American heritage of this area, Chippewa and Pottowatami Indians hold a powwow in the basin below the Wadhams bridge.



The old railroad bridge on the Wadhams to Avoca Trail.



Wadhams to Avoca Trail, a year-round non-motorized trail utilizing more than 12 miles of a historic rail line formerly owned by the CSX Company

ThumbPrint News Contest

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, email us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Contest" in the subject line. All correct answers received by the 15th of the month will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store at 8061 Marsh Road in Clay Township (you can apply it toward the delivery of a floral arrangement, also). The winner will be announced in the March edition as well as information about the object or place.

In January's edition, we asked our readers to identify where the giant



rooster could be found. No one correctly identified the location as being near M-24 and M-46 just below Caro, Michigan. There are similar roosters in the Thumb area, and we had quite a few guesses naming those areas, but the one in our picture is from the Caro location.

This month we are asking the question, "What is it?" Identify

the object in the photo below. Send an email to thumbprintnews@comcast.net if you think you know the answer. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number in case you are the winner of the random drawing for a gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store. Good luck!



Thumb Area Activities & Events for February 2011

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

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

Genesee County

Flint – February 10

Ask the Lawyer Free Community Seminar, Flint Public Library, 1026 E. Kearsley St., 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Topic is "Small Claims: Top 10 Do's and Don'ts." Presented by the Genesee County Bar Association. Space is limited. Register by calling (810) 232-6000 or online at www.gcbalaw.org.

Huron County

Elkton – February 5

Antique Snowmobile Races, Elkton Motoplex. Event is sponsored by the Elkton Chamber of Commerce. Registration takes place at 3:00 p.m., drivers meeting is at 5:00 p.m. and races begin at 6:00 p.m. There is a \$10 gate fee for adults and \$5 for 6-12 years old. Racing fee for adults is \$20 and \$10 for youth. Call (989) 551-7275.

Caseville – February 18-20

19th Annual Shanty Days Festival. Enjoy three days of family fun throughout Caseville. Activities include, but are not limited to: a photo contest, entertainment, karaoke, dancing, fish sandwiches, ice fishing contests, Cold Butt Euchre, human bowling, broom ball, a polar bear dip, a beer tent and much, much more. Go to www.casevillechamber.net for a full schedule of activities and times.

Lapeer County

Almont – February 12

Almont Lions' Euchre Night, Almont Lions Hall, 222 Water St., doors open at 6:00 p.m., play starts at 7:00 p.m. There will be two sets of five games each with a break in between. Refreshments and lunch served during the break. Generous prizes awarded to top three points

holders. \$15 donation at the door. Euchre Night is held the second Saturday of each month. Call Don at (810) 798-9609.

Macomb County

Richmond – February 3

Civil War Diary Presentation by the Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society, State Police Meeting Road on Division, 7:00 p.m. Featuring the 1864 Civil War diary of William Harrison Marshall who served in the 18th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Hear passages from the diary, see the Springfield 1861 rifle he used, and hear about the Andersonville prison and the steamship *Sultana*. Marshall's grandson will be present to answer questions. (586) 727-7773.

New Baltimore – February 6

Michigan Military Moms, New Baltimore AM Vets, 51285 County Line Rd., 1:00 p.m. The Michigan Military Moms is a support group united by pride and dedicated to our sons and daughters, either serving or who have served, in the United States Military. Visit www.michiganmilitarymoms.org.

Ira – February 7

Benefit Concert, Anchor Bay High School, 6319 County Line Rd., 7:30 p.m. Claudia Schmidt will be mixing songs, stories, wit, wisdom and sense of humor in an entertaining performance for everyone in the family. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and senior citizens and are available at New Baltimore City Hall, at the door on the evening of the show or call (586) 725-8051. Proceeds benefit the Bette Carrothers Vocal Music Scholarship.

Romeo – February 16

Michigan Military Moms, Romeo VFW Hall, 70455 McVicar Road, 6:30 p.m. The Michigan Military Moms is a support group united by pride and dedicated to our sons and daughters, either serving or who have served, in the United States Military. Visit www.michiganmilitarymoms.org.

Oakland County

Bloomfield Hills – February 5

Knit Michigan, Academy of the Sacred Heart, 1250 Kensington Rd. Knit

Michigan is an independent organization dedicated to supporting cancer patients and their families via financial contributions, and by making and donating patient comfort items such as chemo caps and lap blankets. For a nominal entrance fee, visitors can try their hand at spinning, knitting, crocheting, weaving or felt making. Special fiber-related activities are included for young adults, tweens and teens as well as adults. For information or to register, go to www.knitmichigan.com.

St. Clair County

East China – February 2

Low Vision Support Group, St. John River District Hospital, Meeting Room #2, 4100 River Road, 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. For information, call (810) 329-7111.

Algonac – February 3

A Journey through Detroit Tiger's History, McRae's Big River Grille, 9715 St. Clair River Dr., doors open at 5:45 p.m. Fund raiser presented by the Friends of the Algonac-Clay Library. Presenter will be the nationally acclaimed baseball author, Tom Stanton. Tickets are \$14, includes dinner, a non-alcoholic beverage, gratuity and show. Pre-ticket sales only through February 2. Available at the Algonac-Clay Library. (810) 794-4471.

Port Huron – February 4-6

Chilly Fest, Outlaw Snowmobile Drag Races, Desmond Landing, corner of Union and Military Streets. Trials are from noon till 4:00 p.m. Friday. Opening events are noon Saturday and on Sunday, the pro finals are from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. There will be a warming tent with food vendors all day, live bands on Friday and Saturday, free coffee and hot chocolate at Power's Diner all day and an Ice Museum tour at noon. All events are free. For more information and a schedule of events and times call (810) 984-9790 or visit www.downtownporthuron.org.

Smiths Creek – February 4

Fish Fry, American Legion Post 525, 7150 Smiths Creek Road. All you can eat! Adults \$6.50, children \$3. 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (810) 367-3244.

Marine City – February 5

136th Annual Marine City Fireman's Ball, Knights of Columbus Banquet Center, 6385 King Rd. The doors open at 6:00 p.m., dinner is from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. and dancing follows until midnight. Entertainment is by The Groove. The public is welcome. All proceeds go to purchase life saving equipment for the fire department. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door and include cocktails and dinner. Tickets are available from any Marine City Fireman, at the Marine City Fire Hall at 200 S. Parker or call (810) 765-8840.

Marine City – February 8

Musical Variety Program, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary, 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch at 11:30 a.m. Come enjoy a morning of singing and laughter with Riki and Dave Nutting. Please call (810)

765-4724 for your lunch reservation at least 24 hours in advance. For information on the program, call (810) 765-3523.

Casco – February 12

Annual "Snowshoe" Tournament, Adair Bar, 8033 St. Clair Hwy., 12:30 p.m. sign up. Teams will be drawn for partners, pitching begins at 1:00 p.m. A \$5 donation is requested and benefits the Leader Dogs for the Blind. (586) 727-1403.

Port Huron – February 16

Get That Body Moving, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 2601 Electric Avenue. Athletic trainer Gary Minnella will present an engaging program designed to help seniors (age 55 and older) learn entertaining ways to increase exercise and mobility. Free seminar is from 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Baggot Street Café, located within St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. Includes refreshments. Contact Rosemary Hunger, St. Joseph Mercy Senior Services Liaison, at (810) 987-1035.

Kimball – February 19

3rd Annual Rock & Roll Dance, presented by the Marysville Knights of Columbus, corner of Ravenswood and Range Road, 7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Live music by the VooDoo Doctors, food, beverages, door prizes included. Tickets are \$15 (must be 21). (810) 985-4670 or (810) 364-6800. See ad on page 18.

Marine City – February 27

Breakfast Buffet, Knights of Columbus Hall, 6385 King Rd., 8:30 a.m.-noon. Adults are \$6 and children 4 to 10 are \$4. All you can eat breakfast buffet. For information call (810) 765-0259.

Sanilac County

Croswell – February 12

Winter Fest 2011, Riverbend Park, at the end of Nims, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (This park is the home of the famous Swinging Bridge.) Includes snowmobile races, ice fishing, Texas Hold'em tournament, card board sled races and more. Visit www.croswell-mich.com.

Port Sanilac – February 13

Sanilac County Historic Village & Museum Music Mosaic Concert Series, 228 South Ridge Rd., 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Concert will feature Julianne who will sing and perform solo acoustic guitar. Tickets are \$10 for adults and students through high school are \$5. Ages 12 and under are free. Refreshments served during intermission. (810) 622-9946.

Tuscola County

Vassar – February 6

2011 Concert Series, Bullard Sanford Memorial Library, 520 W. Huron Ave., 2:00 p.m. Performance by the Flint Male Chorus. The 36 member chorus will entertain with classic American songs, including show tunes and some barbershop melodies. (989) 823-2171.

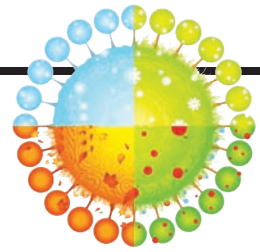
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- Childrens' Carnival
- Entertainment
- Chili Cookoff
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2011 Calendar of Events for Foxfire Farm

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Below you will find the currently scheduled events that will be taking place at Foxfire Farm. Please mark your calendars now for any events you are interested in attending! As each event nears, there will be further information available in the store, in ThumbPrint News and by email. If you are not currently receiving Foxfire Farm's regular emails and would like to, please send a message to that effect to: thumbprintnews@comcast.net. This is the best way to receive all information about the events, including any last minute date changes or cancellations. Foxfire Farm reserves the right to adjust the dates for these events at any time, to add new events, or to cancel any event if necessary. You may also find further information on our website above or by calling the above phone numbers.

APRIL 30 & MAY 1
SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA
 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Get your spring planting off to a fantastic start with huge sales on flats of flowers, hanging baskets, porch pots and loads of perennials. All items will be sale priced **AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON**, instead of at the end, when the selection is limited. We have everything to make your yard the envy of the neighborhood! There will also be sales on **ALL GARDEN RELATED ITEMS** – pots and planters, tools, garden décor, etc. Since Mother's Day is only a week away, this is the chance to find something that mom will really appreciate! We will also be offering refreshments in the store as well as a variety of **FREE** gardening handouts and several activities for the kids to enjoy!

JULY 30
GARDEN PARTY
 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Enjoy a relaxing evening strolling through Foxfire Farm's Botanical Gardens located at 8945 Marsh Rd. in Algonac. Over 3,000 varieties of labeled herbs, flowers, trees and shrubs are divided into 17 different theme gardens. Pathways meander around the gardens and restored farm buildings. There are plenty of areas to sit and relax and enjoy the company of family and friends. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments along with a tour of the 9,500 square foot log home are included as well. The cost for the entire evening is \$25 per person, with advance registration and payment due by July 13. No tickets will be sold on the day of the Garden Party. Event will be held rain or shine – bring umbrellas in case of inclement weather! Tickets are non-refundable but are transferable.

OCTOBER 21, 22 & 23
FALL FESTIVAL & ANNUAL NIGHT FILLED WITH PUMPKIN LIGHT
 Noon-9:30 p.m.

More than 400 decorated and painted pumpkins will be lit inside a warm greenhouse for the viewing pleasure of everyone in the family! Cost is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages 2-12. Children under two are free. All pumpkins and Halloween decorations will be clearance priced for last minute shoppers! We are also combining our Fall Fest with the Pumpkin Lighting. There will be additional activities for the kids to enjoy, such as a bouncy house, the kiddiepillar ride, games, a straw maze and more! Fall Fest activities are each priced separately. Food and refreshments will also be available for purchase.

DECEMBER 16-23
8th Annual History of the Christmas Tree Walk
 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Nightly

More than 50 Christmas trees, decorated with ornaments from the 1850s until the present, will be displayed inside a 9,500 sq. foot log home! Discounts given for advance ticket purchase! Discount tickets go on sale July 1, 2011 at Foxfire Farm Country Store and Floral Shop. Tickets purchased in advance are \$10 per adult and \$5 per child and are good for any night the Walk is open. Tickets are non-refundable but are transferable. Tickets can also be purchased by calling (810) 794-5108. Starting December 1, the price of tickets increases to \$12 per adult and \$6 per child. Santa Claus will be at the home on December 16, 17 and 23.

Physician HealthCare Network
Urgent Care Centers

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Marysville Clinic	3350 Gratiot	Marysville	(810) 364-4000
North Clinic	4190 24th Avenue	Ft. Gratiot	(810) 989-7770
Lexington Clinic	5730 Main Street	Lexington	(810) 359-2605
Ira Township	10127 MC Highway	Ira Township	(586) 716-1371

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*Foxfire Farm Country Store is an official recycle station for Ink & More. Save BIG on your ink cartridge purchases by buying recycled ink cartridges here! We also accept used cartridges for recycling. 8061 Marsh Road, Clay Township.

FROM THE EDITOR

Continued from Page 2

*The strings were tied, it was freshly washed, and maybe even pressed.
 For Grandma, it was everyday to choose one when she dressed.
 The simple apron that it was, you would never think about;
 the things she used it for, that made it look worn out.
 She may have used it to hold some wildflowers that she'd found.
 Or to hide a crying child's face when a stranger came around.
 Imagine all the little tears that were wiped with just that cloth.
 Or it became a potholder to serve some chicken broth.
 She probably carried kindling to stoke the kitchen fire.
 To hold a load of laundry, or to wipe the clothesline wire.
 When canning all her vegetables, it was used to wipe her brow.
 You never know, she might have used it to shoo flies from the cow.
 She might have carried eggs in from the chicken coop outside.
 Whatever chore she used it for, she did them all with pride.
 When Grandma went to heaven, God said she now could rest.
 I'm sure the apron that she chose, was her Sunday best.*

I especially like the last two lines of Tina's poem. Thank you, Lisa, for sharing with us, too. It seems like the love that surrounded Grandmother's apron, is a perfect remembrance for February, the month of Valentine's Day, the month of love.

DIANE KODET
 Editor, *ThumbPrint News*

Sudoku		ThumbPrint News Sudoku						
3				4		6	7	5
					5			2
		9		1	6	8		
9				6	7	1		
		8	5	2				7
		6	8	7		4		
2			6					
7	4	5		9				6

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square. Good Luck!

Clearing up Confusion about the Housing Market in the Thumb Today

By Scott Anderson
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

From the questions people ask me as a realtor, I can see there is a lot of confusion about the housing market in the Thumb nowadays. Let's clear up some of the confusion and talk about things like: what it means to be "under water" (and whether it matters), what is a "short sale," are foreclosures a good deal for a buyer, what is a "HUD home," etc. We'll cover some of these questions in this month's column, and some next month. Meanwhile, if you have specific questions, my e-mail address is at the end of this article, and I plan to answer the most popular questions in future columns.

Under Water

First of all, let's clear up something that has a lot of people needlessly worrying. People tell me all the time, "I think I'm under water on my house; what do I do?" To be "under water" just means you owe more on the house than you could probably get from selling it. This is a recent thing in the housing market, but it's been true in new car sales forever. Just about everybody who bought a new car owes more on the car than it's worth. But nobody worries about it with a car! It's

just how car loans work, and always have.

Since homes usually have become more valuable over time, this hasn't been common for homeowners, but with the great economic troubles of the past few years, homes have lost value and so people find themselves under water on a home.

The secret for most people in this situation is: don't worry about it! The only time it matters that you're under water is if you are selling your home or trying to borrow against it. If you plan to keep living in your home, then the market value doesn't mean anything at all. Hopefully, the market picks up again, and by the time you do plan to sell, your home is worth enough to cover the loans. If you do need to sell a house and you're under water, keep reading.

Short Sale

The next term some folks aren't clear on is a "short sale." Quite a few of the homes on the market today are in this position. A "short sale" is just a sale where the seller is under water and can't make up the difference with the bank. (If the seller can make up the difference – that is, brings money to the closing – then to the buyer it's just an ordinary sale.)

From a seller's position, a short sale is desirable as an alternative to foreclosure: it's less adversarial and doesn't have as much of a negative effect on their credit. From a buyer's position, short sales can be a bargain, and that's balanced by the fact that short sales can be time consuming compared to other home purchases. The bank is a third party in the transaction, typically has some extra paperwork, and can actually reject the sale outright or try to change the terms.

Why would the bank allow a seller to sell the house for less than it's worth? Doesn't the bank lose money? Well, yes, the bank is being repaid only a portion of what is owed, although in many cases they reserve the right to go after the seller for the deficiency later on. From the bank's point of view, they will allow a short sale if they think that's their best outcome, given the situation. Foreclosures are

both costly and time consuming for the bank, so a short sale often is the better outcome.

Next time we'll look at foreclosures from the buyer's perspective, HUD and other government-owned homes, and I'll have answers to your questions! If you have a question about the housing market, what your home is worth, or any other questions concerning real estate, send an e-mail to scott.anderson@kw.com (note the dot between the first and last name). I'll respond to your questions individually, and I'll answer a few interesting questions in this space next time (doctored up to preserve confidentiality, of course). 🍀



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Where Has Your *ThumbPrint News* Been?

ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb (over 560 businesses in eight Thumb counties are now drop locations for the newspaper), but *ThumbPrint News* has been seen on television, in Bonaire, Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Georgia, California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Alaska and in Nova Scotia, Canada!

This month, Spc. Jamie Bolf of Clinton Township sent us a photo taken of him enjoying news from home in the *ThumbPrint News* while stationed in Taji, Iraq. Jaime is Crew Chief on this UH-60M Blackhawk Helicopter in B. Co. 1-147th AVN out of Grand Ledge, Michigan. He has been stationed in Taji, Iraq, since September, 2010, and is scheduled to come home this summer. His father and stepmother, John Bolf and Patricia Meldrum-Bolf, live in Algonac and have been sending *ThumbPrint News* to him since he has been there. "It's nice to get a taste of home and what's going on there while I am away," says Jamie.

If you are a reader of *ThumbPrint News* and have taken our newspaper with you on a vacation or to an unusual place – or have done something unique with it, you may submit an email and photo to us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net. (The photo should be in jpeg format.) Please tell us a little about the photo and include your name, address and phone number in case we have further questions.

At the end of 2011, our staff will choose the grand prize winner to receive a wonderful prize from *ThumbPrint News*. 🍀



ThumbPrint News would like to thank Jamie and his unit for their service to our country!

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IRS Tax Filing Delay

By Cindy Redmann
Tax Consultant

I am sure by now everyone has heard that Congress extended the tax breaks for another two years, 2011-2012. So we can rest assured that no one's taxes are going up, at least for the next two years. That brings a sigh of relief, especially for those of us still trying to recover from the dismal economy!

But you might not have heard this news. The "2010 Tax Relief Act" extended three provisions that had expired on December 31, 2009: the choice to deduct sales tax versus state income tax on schedule A, the above-the-line deduction for higher education tuition up to \$4,000, and the above-the-line deduction for educators with classroom expenses up to \$250. Because Congress enacted the laws so late in the year, the IRS needs additional time to change tax forms and program its computers. So the IRS is telling anyone who falls into these three categories – taxpayers who itemize deductions on schedule A, those claiming the Higher Education Tuition and Fees Deduction, and taxpayers claiming Educator Expense

Deduction – that they will have to wait until mid-to-late February to file their return. It doesn't matter whether you e-file or paper file. The IRS urges taxpayers to use e-file instead of paper tax forms to minimize confusion over the recent tax changes and ensure accurate tax returns. Updated information will be posted on IRS.gov.

On a happier note, the IRS has extended the tax filing deadline until Monday, April 18, since Emancipation Day falls on Friday, April 15.

All of this hoopla over income taxes makes for much confusion! Between Congress' shuffling shenanigans and all the IRS tax forms, you don't know which hoop to jump through first! ABC TaxSlayers is here to help you by answering any questions you may have and making sure your tax return is filed correctly. Please call 810-794-5678 for an appointment with one of our consultants.

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Up To 8 Ton
30 Yard Can

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Up To 8 Ton
40 Yard Can

\$525

HOBBY CORNER: Soy Candles

Continued from Page 7

burning of the candle. If it bothers you, you can add a little more melted wax to the center once the candle has hardened.

9. Once the wax has hardened, the wick can be trimmed to about 3/4 of an inch.

10. Your candle is now ready to burn and enjoy – or to give away as a gift. If you are going to give them away or are going to sell them, you can become creative in ways to label the candles and to decorate the lids.



Creatively decorated jars with soy candles are great for gift-giving.

Why are Soy Candles Better than Paraffin Candles?

The calming and refreshing fragrances of soy wax candles are safe for your family as they contain no carcinogens and are non-toxic, therefore creating better indoor air quality in your home. Burning paraffin candles has been shown to create problems for people with asthma and other respiratory problems.

Soy candles melt at a lower temperature than paraffin, so there is far less danger of getting burned from wax that has spilled. If you get spilled soy wax on a hard surface, it is easily cleaned up with warm soapy water.

If the wicks on your soy candles are properly trimmed, soy candles produce little or no soot when burned. Soy wax candles hold color and scent better than paraffin candles.

If saving money is important to you, then you will be happy to know that soy wax candles burn 30 to 50 percent longer than traditional candles. Soy wax candles are also comparable in price to paraffin wax candles; therefore you are not paying more for a better product.

Buying soy candles is also a benefit to others because they are biodegradable and are MADE IN THE USA, which helps support American farmers who grow the soybeans from which the soy wax is made. There is also no animal fat used in the making of soy wax. Soy wax is a renewable resource, where petroleum is not.

Sources for Soy Candle Making Supplies

- Foxfire Farm Country Store, 8061 Marsh Rd. in Algonac, (810) 794-5108. This store carries soy wax in bags and also in 50 pound boxes. The prices for the wax greatly beat purchasing online and having to pay the shipping costs, especially if purchasing wax in larger quantities! Additionally, many other soy candle making supplies are available, including soy fragrances, dyes, votive and tea light containers, canning jars and some wicks.



Complete online resources for everything needed to make soy candles.

- Moonglow Candle Making and Body Care Supplies – www.moonglowcandles.net
- Northstar Country Candle Company – www.northstar3c.com

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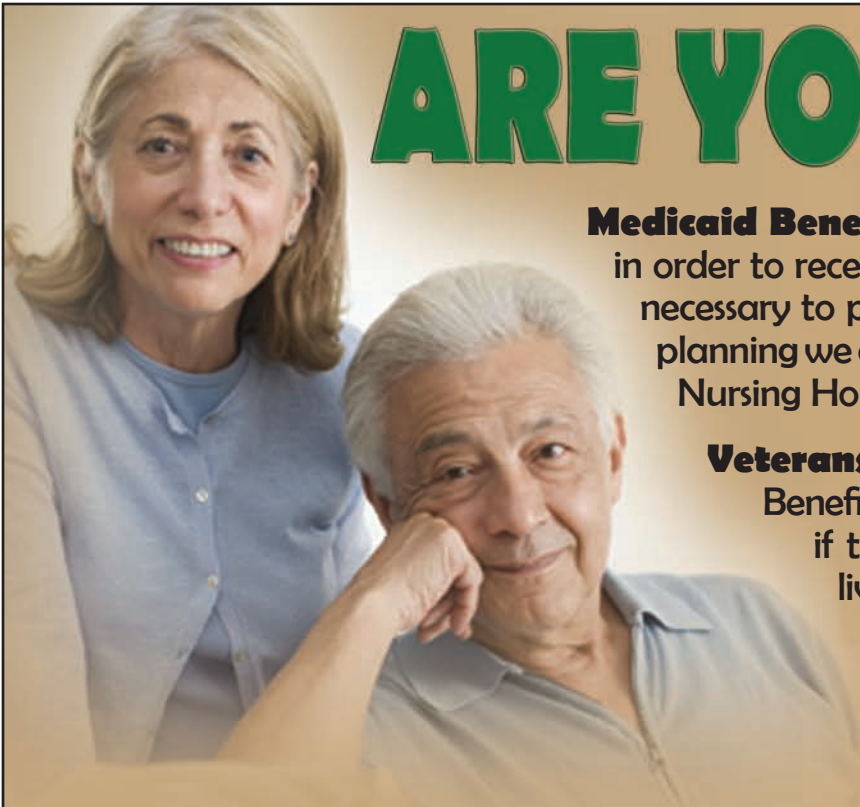
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