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ThumbPrint News

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

Happy Valentine's Day! 

FEBRUARY 2013



Inside This Issue

PAGE **Michigan & Presidents**

4



PAGE **Reap What You Sow**

6



PAGE **Yummy Cookies!**

21



Spotlight on a Small Town - Cass City

By Tyler R. Perry

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

To the casual passerby, Cass City, Michigan, may seem like a typical, small Midwestern town; but its historic buildings, unusually wide streets, and decades-old business district tell a different story. Its colorful history and small-town Americana feel has endeared itself to many people, young and old alike.

It all began in 1854, when an Irish lumberman by the name of Hugh Seed wandered onto a forested area, not far from a beautiful river, called the "Cass". He built himself a log cabin and decided to start doing the job he loved – farming. The land Mr. Seed settled on would one day be called "Cass City".

By 1857, others had settled the area – many immigrants from places such as England, Scotland, Ireland and Germany; and these residents decided to form a township. They called their new township Elkland, because there were many elk in the surrounding wilderness.

Knowing that education was the key to their children's future, the settlers constructed a small log school house on the southwest corner of Main and Seeger Streets, where the Coachlight Pharmacy building stands today. With a school, Cass City felt more like a real town. In 1867, it was officially named Cass City, after the Cass River. It would later be incorporated on April 30, 1883.

One of Cass City's most notable physical attributes is the unusual width of its Main Street. Even today, many of the surrounding small

See CASS CITY, Page 16



A view down Main St., Cass City, Michigan, circa 1910

Beans, Beans, Beans!



By Robert L. Christensen

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

One of the cash crops we grew on our Michigan farm in the 1930s through the 1950s was dry beans. While the "Thumb" area of Michigan was, and still is, noted for the production of white pea or navy beans, in our area we grew

a somewhat more exotic set of varieties. For example, we grew cranberries, yellow eyes, and red kidneys, each name reflecting their appearance. These varieties can be found in the dry bean sections of supermarkets, along with a few more representing ethnic and regional choices.

Beans were grown in rows much like corn. In my first memory we used hand planters that deposited the seeds in hills in the rows. The rows formed a grid with squares approximately two feet by two feet. The spacing between rows was narrower than for corn for reasons not entirely clear to me. One possible reason is that the shading from the plant canopy would help to reduce weed problems and this canopy for beans was smaller than for corn. Weeds need sunlight and air to prosper. Corn would grow to heights of six feet or more and leaves would span three to four feet, while bean plants would be less than two feet in height with a leaf canopy about two feet wide. Cultivation began with a horse-drawn one-row cultivator as soon as the beans were

See BEANS, Page 10

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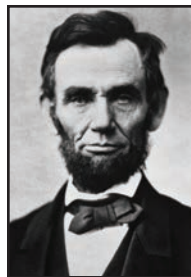
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Although February is probably better known for Valentine's Day and President's Day, the lesser known celebration of National Freedom Day has more impact on the day to day lives of American citizens for what it represents than either of the prior two holidays.

Technically, National Freedom Day is an observance in our country, not a national holiday. Major Richard Robert Wright Sr., a former slave, fought vigilantly for a day of observance in the United States when freedom for all Americans could be celebrated. Wright, after winning his freedom, went on to become a successful businessman and community leader in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Wright chose February 1 as National Freedom Day.



The reason for Wright's choice of dates was that on February 1, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution which abolished slavery forever in the United States. National and local leaders, led by Wright, wrote a bill declaring that date for the observance of National Freedom Day. President Harry Truman signed the bill on



June 30, 1948, making it official.

How should we as Americans observe National Freedom Day? The most important thing we can do is to reflect upon what our freedoms are in this country and how important they are to us and our families. If we are parents or grandparents, we can help our future generations to understand the importance of these freedoms and how historical events have helped us to achieve these freedoms. For each year following the first commemoration on February 1, 1942, wreath-laying has occurred on this day at the Liberty Bell, which symbolizes our freedoms and liberty.

National Freedom Day is also the perfect time to reflect on the fact that millions of people in the world are not free and to consciously choose ways in which each individual can be pro-active in helping change to occur. I, for one, am thankful everyday that I am fortunate enough to be an American.



President Harry Truman signs the bill proclaiming February 1 as National Freedom Day.

Some of the most important freedoms are as follows (each of which could be expounded on in separate articles):

1. Basic Freedoms: Freedom of Religion, Assembly, Press, Petition, Speech
2. Right to bear arms
3. Protection from quartering troops
4. Search and seizure
5. Due process, double jeopardy, self-incrimination, eminent domain
6. Trial by jury and rights of the accused
7. Civil trial by jury
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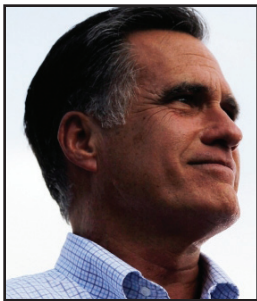
By William Easton

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

The recent defeat of Michigan's native son, Willard Mitt Romney, in the 2012 presidential election means that the Wolverine State still has no one born here who subsequently lived in the White House. Of course, Gerald Ford, the only person to become both vice president and president without being elected, was not born here. He was born Leslie King Jr. in Omaha, Nebraska. Only after his mother remarried Gerald R. Ford in Grand Rapids did the future Wolverine football player change his name and become a twenty five year Michigan congressman.

Mitt Romney's father, George, an auto executive and governor of the state, also had presidential aspirations when he sought the Republican nomination in 1968. He was born in Mexico to American citizen Mormon parents, so George might have faced the "natural born citizen" constitutional challenge confronting Barack Obama. But when the former "war hawk" admitted that he might have been brainwashed about our role in Viet Nam, he was forced to withdraw.

Before the recent Romney loss, the only other native son, Thomas E. Dewey, also a Republican, ran twice – in 1944 and 1948. Born and raised in Owosso, Dewey left for New York City after graduating from



Mitt Romney, defeated in the 2012 Presidential election, was born in Michigan.

the University of Michigan. He attended law school there, married an aspiring opera singer and began practicing law. There he also made a name for himself as a vigorous prosecutor of infamous mobsters, including Legs Diamond and Lucky Luciano. A moderate Republican, Dewey's grandfather had been one of the Party leaders when it began in Jackson, Michigan. He was often opposed by the more conservative Taft led faction of the Party from Ohio. (Sounds like Woody and Bo on the gridiron.) Dewey had the unenviable task of challenging a wartime president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in 1944. However, he was again chosen to run against Harry Truman four years later. Truman, a Missouri senator, who had been an unlikely choice as a running mate, succeeded FDR upon his death in April, 1945. "Give 'Em Hell Harry" made some unpopular decisions and became an underdog incumbent in 1948, making New York Governor Dewey the favorite.

Finally, one of the first Michigan politicians, Lewis Cass, sought the nomination of the Democratic Party in 1848, but lost it to Zachary Taylor. Cass had been Governor of the former Michigan Territory before statehood and held several other important national positions. However, he was not a Michigan native, having arrived from New Hampshire at a young age.

And that's all. No other Michiganders have emerged as serious candidates for the highest office. The native son, Henry Ford, always had his say in politics. He was listened to because he made available his invention, the Model T, at an affordable price to the working man. But Ford's



The Chicago Tribune declared Dewey the winner in this famous photo held high by winner, Harry Truman.

politics were not easy to predict. He was an Isolationist during World War One, even financing a world tour of a "Peace Ship". And, along with Charles Lindbergh, he had strongly opposed our entry into the next war; that is, until he realized the profits potential from converting auto plants into airplane production. Between the wars apparently both parties had explored the possibility of his running in 1924. Although neither had particularly strong ticket prospects, he didn't campaign and wasn't nominated.

If Michigan can't boast of a winning candidate, it can boast, if that's the correct word, of one of the assassins. In fact, with only four presidents having been killed in office, two of their killers had Wolverine connections.

Leon Czolgosz fired two shots at close range into President William McKinley at the Pan -American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, in 1901. A son of immigrants



from Eastern Europe, Leon was born in Michigan in 1873. While there has been some question whether it was in Detroit or the Alpena area, it seems more likely that his parents, Paul and Mary, would have joined other immigrants in "Polacktown" in the northeast part of the city. Later his father and older brothers headed north seeking employment in the lumber and shipping industries. Leon may have attended school until age 16, quite unusual when all were expected to work for the family bread. That was when the family departed to Ohio for other jobs. So, one could say that the assassin's formative years were here. Various explanations have been offered as to why he killed the president: he was unemployed, having taken part in strike activities; he was a self proclaimed Socialist, admirer of the notorious Emma Goldman; an Anarchist; or he simply was insane. The only explanation he is reported as having offered just before he was executed at an Auburn, New York, prison:

"I killed President McKinley because I done my duty. I don't believe in one man having so much services and another man having none."

Insanity was the appropriate claim of the other assassin with Michigan connections,

See MICHIGAN, Page 20

MARITIME TRIVIA

Courtesy of The Marine Art of J. Clary

Russel Strachman correctly answered January's contest for the meaning of "Berserk".
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January's Question: Where did the word "Berserk" come from? **Answer:** The word berserk was coined from a custom of the Vikings, who, to prove their courage in desperate fights, would tear off their shirts of mail, and fight half naked. Hence the term berserk or bare-sark, meaning literally bare of shirt, as sark is the Norse word for shirt.

Maritime Trivia Question #3

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On The Track

Reap What You Sow

Welcome to the new bi-monthly outdoor column! I look forward to sharing my outdoor experiences and I hope that everyone finds this column and subsequent ones as enjoyable to read as it is for me to write.

By Jeremy Yarbrough

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

As a child, I grew up in a rural community, where hunting and fishing were as important to me as food and water. Through trial and tribulations over the years I have evolved into the outdoorsman that I am today. My initial love was chasing Bluetick coonhounds through the misty nights in pursuit of the wily raccoon. Moreover, as family and work obligations started to increase, along with age, sleep became too valuable and thus, I gave up my coonhounds for a bow and arrow.

Most of my stories will revolve around western (Do-It-Yourself) DIY big game bow hunting – which is my obsession, as my wife states. At this point you are probably asking yourself, “What does this title have to do with this story?” An important aspect about western bow hunting, especially if you’re like me - a blue-collar bow hunter - is, “How do I afford to go year after year?” It’s simple: build points. Almost all western states have a point system, which is nothing more than a complicated 50/50 draw. I don’t mean that in the literal sense, but I think you get the basic meaning that the more points you have the better your odds of drawing a tag. Without taking advantage of this option, I would be limited or completely unable to hunt a premium unit due to cost (e.g., Utah, along with other states offers the option to buy landowner tags for premium elk units that typically sell for over \$10,000, plus you still need to buy the tag and get out there). Most of my western trips are under \$2,000...so I can either hunt every five years or every year; that’s an easy decision for me. The application season historically runs from December through June. In 2010, two friends and I drew an archery Iowa whitetail deer tag. We anticipated those tags like a four year old awaits Christmas morning. Since Iowa doesn’t



The author's 11 point scored over 147.

offer landowner tags, the only way for a non-resident to archery hunt in Iowa is to draw a tag...which takes three to four years in the premium zones. In March of that year one of my buddies and I drove to Iowa to scout state land and after talking with some locals and making some connections we landed a piece of private property for \$500 each, which gave us unlimited access to the property the first two weeks of November. Needless to say, I had many sleepless nights until my truck pulled into my hunting spot on that first frosty November morning.

A good outfitter in Iowa charges approximately \$3,500 for a five to seven day whitetail hunt on top of the license cost. Even with my March trip, my total Iowa hunt cost under \$2,500, which included my happily paid taxidermy bill. My friends and I went two out of three on mature bucks and we enjoyed the “land of the giants” for 10 days.

In closing, if western DIY big game bow hunting is one of your aspirations, but the cost has kept you from pursuing your dream – then let 2013 change your bow hunting future; start building points today and “Reap What You Sow.” Till next time - keep the wind in your face and the sun at your back! 🍀

Editor's note: Jeremy Yarbrough is a State Farm Insurance agent and can be contacted at 4080 Huron St., Ste A, P.O. Box 708, North Branch, Michigan, 48461 or by phone at (810) 688-7000 or (810) 688-7100.



Phil Gabrielson's 10 point scored over 138.

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LANDSCAPING THE THUMB

Starting Your Seeds

By Paul Bujak

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Ah...spring is slowly making its way into Michigan. The snow is still here but it's never too early to think spring. In January's edition we wrote about our top flower picks for your garden this upcoming season. This month, we will give you some great tips on getting those seeds started for a perfect spring planting.

Typically, the last frost in Michigan is middle to late April. It is best to start your seeds inside your home at least six weeks before you'll be planting them outside.

Here are some seed starting tips to help you on your way:

• Gather clean containers.

Reuse any containers you have left from last year. Clean all used containers with hot soapy water and rinse with bleach or vinegar to protect against disease. If you need containers, I recommend any container which is two to three inches tall.



• Pick a high quality seed starting mix.

A good mix is essential to provide drainage but also to retain moisture. You can purchase a good mix or you can make your own. Start by blending perlite, vermiculite and peat and 1/4 teaspoon of lime to each gallon of mix to



neutralize the acid of the peat.

• Sow carefully.

Moisten your soil before adding the seeds. Then, sow at the recommended depth listed on back of package. Space your seeds out evenly and then cover to a depth of 1/4 inch of the soil.

• Keep containers in a warm place.

Keep your containers near a heating vent and use fluorescent lights. Seeds tend to germinate in bright areas where it is about 70 degrees. When they have germinated, you can move them away from the vents and lights.

• Watering is the key.

Seedlings must be kept moist in order to germinate. A good watering is essential to good root growth. Don't over water the germinated plants because it may cause wilting.



• Introduce your plants to the big world.

Leave your plants outside for a week during a few different weather conditions. This will help them adapt to the weather before they are planted permanently in your garden.

• Now it is time to plant.

After your plants have had their test in the big world you can begin to transplant them into your garden.

By following these simple steps you will be well on your way to a beautiful garden this spring. Happy planting!



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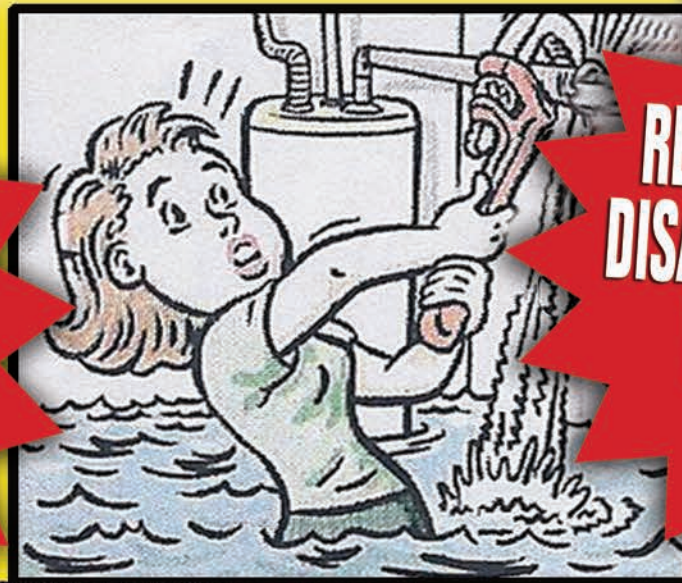
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The Angel Advisor

Living a Heart-Healthy Life-Style

By Jeffrey Johnson

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

February is "American Heart Month"! Considering that heart disease is the number one killer in this country, we might consider making every month American Heart Month. However, what we realistically should glean from this month is how best to live a heart-healthy lifestyle. To that end, this article is focused on some ways to live healthier.

Everyone knows that eating better, exercising and regular physical exams can lead to a longer and healthier life. Yet, so many of us choose to ignore the warnings that most healthcare professionals have been issuing for years (certainly since 1963 when Congress required the President of the USA to proclaim February as American Heart Month). Listed below are several ways in which you can help, not only yourself, but your elderly loved ones (of course, with complete medical approval), in making their hearts healthier:

1. Understand your personal risk factors, i.e. total cholesterol, LDL, HDL and triglyceride levels.
2. Regularly monitor your blood pressure levels.
3. Monitor your sugar levels.
4. Understand the warning signs of heart problems (attacks), i.e., chest pain, left arm pain, dizziness, extreme fatigue, unusual anxiety, etc.
5. Exercise regularly, especially with your doctor's knowledge and permission.
6. Eat properly. This means less fat,

i.e., reduced or no foods with trans-fats or hydrogenated fats. Increase your intake of fiber, i.e., grains, seeds, herbs, legumes, and fruits and vegetables.

7. Have regular doctor visits.
8. Reduce stress in your life.
9. Simplify your life.



As some of you may know, I have heart disease. It includes high blood pressure, arterial fibrillation and an irregular heartbeat. Most of this seems to be genetic in nature; yet, I am certain that not paying attention to my diet and exercise has

contributed to my condition. Fortunately for me, I do believe in seeing doctors regularly, and discovered these deficits in my health early on in life. And, although medications are part of the treatment, eating better and regular exercise seem to work the best at keeping the symptoms away. The above suggestions do work. As we age, most of what we took for granted in our life, changes especially your health. It simply requires more attention and more work. However, that effort is well rewarded with better health and longer life being the main goal. I plan on being around for quite some time into the future, but I know that will take a concerted effort on my part, as well as regular monitoring by my doctors. Those close to me rely on me being here, as do those close to you. Don't let them down, get healthy! 🌱



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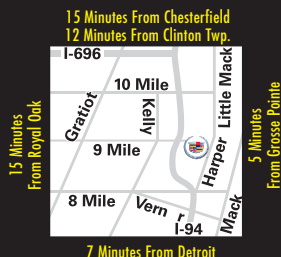
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BEANS, BEANS, BEANS!

Continued from Page 1

out of the ground and about every two weeks thereafter to help the bean plants gain the advantage over the weeds. (This was before the advent of chemical weed killers.) As the crop progressed, hand weeding would also occur. Obviously, these tasks were labor intensive. As I recall, the beans needed to be planted around the first week of June. If planted too late in the season there would be the possibility that an early frost might catch the crop before the beans were mature in the pods.

Rain always seemed to be much more critical for beans than for corn. Rain was important for germination and the soil had to be just warm enough and just moist enough or we would have many gaps between plants in the rows. We would usually need to go through the field a week or so after the first seedlings were out of the ground and hand-plant seeds to fill in the gaps. The desirable plant interval was deemed to be six to ten inches apart. Rain was important throughout the season, but especially important when the young plants were establishing their root system. Rain just before blossom and pod set was important so that the pods would be well filled with beans.

Following pod set rain was needed so the beans in the pods would grow plump. Then at the end of the growing season, you prayed that you would not get too much rain because then the beans and pods under the foliage could mold and rot. Once the beans were pulled and stacked for drying you wanted no rain so they could dry out, the leaves would fall off,

and the pods would become brittle so the beans would thresh more easily. Often the beans were not pulled until after a frost. Then the leaves would fall off naturally, almost within a day.

Pulling beans refers to the first job in harvesting. I can just remember when we pulled them out of the ground by hand, a wearying repetitive task involving bending and pulling the plants and putting them in small piles. Then we acquired a "bean puller". This was a two wheeled horse drawn implement that at first glance looked much like the horse drawn wheeled cultivators, except instead of cultivator teeth it had "sweep" blades. The machine would straddle two rows of beans. Suspended below the frame of the machine were two slanted horizontal blades. These would be lowered into the soil at about a three inch depth and, as the machine was pulled forward, would cut the roots of the bean plant. Above these blades on each side were a set of bars parallel to the blades that would guide and

deposit the severed plants in a single row of uprooted plants behind the machine.

Once the beans had been pulled, they were allowed to dry for a day. This primarily let the soil clinging to the plant roots dry and fall off. Also, more of the leaves would fall, hastening the drying of the stalks and pods. We would then go down the

row with a fork, gathering the dried plants into small piles where they would dry for a few more days before transporting them to the barn for threshing. More commonly, we built stacks in the field for field drying. Dad preferred this method, which entailed building a conical stack approximately six feet in diameter and six to seven feet tall



Cranberry beans growing



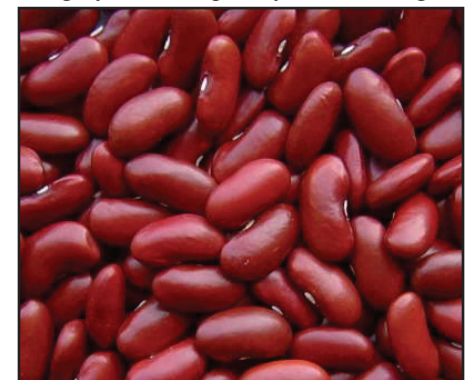
A horse drawn one row cultivator was used in growing beans.

around a central stake (a bean pole) driven onto the ground. The stake provided support for the stack but probably was not needed. We used them because this was the way it was done! It was also desirable to spread some straw on the ground on which to build the stack, in order that the beans would be more protected from soil wetness that could cause mildew or rot of the beans that were in the bottom layer. After this was done the field would be covered with these conical stacks every 20 to 30 feet apart. To repeat, it was necessary that the bean pods be dry and brittle for threshing. Unfortunately, they could also become too dry so that any handling of the dried plants would cause the pods to burst and the beans fall out to be lost to the harvest. Then the word was to "handle with care" and, insofar as possible, to handle them early in the morning when the pods would be a bit less brittle because of the dew.

Late in the fall or early winter the threshing machine would come to the neighborhood. It was now adapted with different screens for beans as compared with the much smaller grains of wheat and oats. Even though temperatures were cooler making for more working comfort, in another respect bean threshing was unpleasant. The beans still had a certain amount of soil, dust and molds adhering to the plants. The beating and shaking taking place inside the threshing machine resulted in clouds of dust. Workers around the machine would soon be covered with the dust. Eyes, and any exposed surfaces, would become dry and itchy. Nasal passages would fill with dust, and undoubtedly, a certain amount would be breathed into the lungs. In those days the closest thing to face masks were the bandanas that could be tied around one's

face, making one look like one of the bandits depicted in the western movies.

The beans, separated from their pods by the flailing and shaking of the first stage of threshing inside the machine, would then proceed through a winnowing and screening process that would separate leaves, stalks and other debris from the resulting product. The leaves, stems and other lighter plant materials would be conveyed to a blower that sent them out a pipe that deposited them in a pile for disposal. (They might also be subsequently used as poor quality feedstuffs for ruminants). One of the screens would direct culls (split beans, under-sized beans, some twigs, and pebbles) off to a bagging chute. The rest of the beans, having passed this stage, went to the main bagging station. The number of bags filled in this latter category would hopefully be much larger



Kidney beans are often used in Louisiana Creole cooking or when making chili. Kidney beans come in different varieties such as Montcalm, Wells Red, Geneva, and New York.

than the bags of splits, under-sized, etc.

A well adjusted and maintained threshing machine and experienced "thresher-man" would minimize the volume of culls, while maintaining



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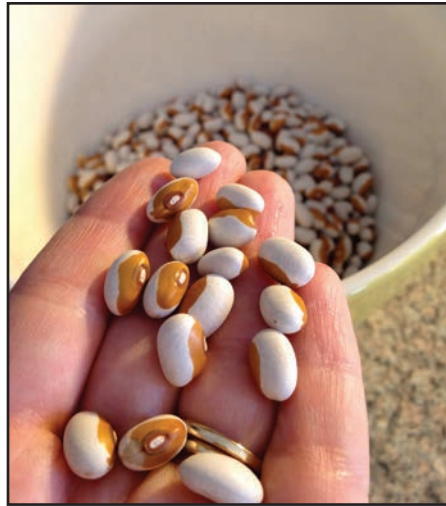

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the quality of the beans for market. An improperly adjusted machine could split a lot of beans, particularly if they were very dry. A properly adjusted machine could send too many perfectly good beans out the cull chute, along with the real culls. Even so, a well adjusted and well operated machine would send a small percentage of good beans out the cull chute. These bags of cull beans had some value as a "winter recreational activity"!

During the winter days and nights Dad would periodically bring a bag of cull beans into the house to be sorted. The family would gather around the dining room table to share in the task of sorting through the contents of these bags. As I recall, for every ten bags of culls there might be one or two bags of whole salvageable beans that could be sold, four to five bags of splits, undersized or discolored beans, and two to three bags of debris, pebbles, and beans that were judged to be inedible. This salvage activity added a few more precious dollars to the farm income.

You may ask, "What did you do with the split and cull beans"? The answer is easy – they got eaten. We humans ate as many as we could bear. Many were boiled and fed to the pigs, but not all at one time because they would get severe gas and bowel problems and pigs are smart enough to suspect the cause. Since beans



Yellow-eye beans are small, off-white beans with a characteristic yellowish-brown "eye" or marking. They are popular in Maine. This variety has a mild flavor that is similar to that of Navy or Great Northern beans, but is considered superior in taste.

contain nutritive value, we would then try mixing in a bit of molasses to sweeten the pot – Ha! Unfortunately, from my point of view, the pigs never ate enough of the cull beans. It was the lot of the humans to use up the supply in so far as possible. We suffered some of the same digestive problems as the pigs. It has taken a long time for me to like baked beans, but I can now bear to eat them a couple of times a year. 🐿️

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See my article on page 18 of this issue!



TRASH TO TREASURE

By Cindy Fockler

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

This month I am going to show you two different projects, both using decoupage and paint. The first project is a curbside treasure. This ugly red dresser was put out for the garbage company to pick up. Other than being an outrageous orange red color, there wasn't a thing wrong with it, the drawers slid in and out just fine, there was no wobble to it and it was solid wood, no particle board at all.

We brought it home about noon on a weekend day and within five hours it was completely transformed into this wonderful looking dresser. All I did was sand some of the paint to roughen it up so the new layer of paint would adhere to it and applied three coats of this robin egg blue paint that I had left over from some prior redo. I also just happened to have some material that matched it perfectly. Since the dresser had these wonderful designs engraved into it, I merely just followed the pattern and cut the material to fit. The outrageous orange red paint was changed to calming robin egg blue. Fabric added with Mod Podge was the finishing touch.

I think adding the fabric with the Mod



Podge added just the right "oomph" that this dresser needed. I love how this curbside discard became a modern keepsake!

The second item that I am sharing with you came to me via the facebook swap pages. I am the first to admit that I am forever picking up these little treasures

and redoing them. My daughter says I am addicted to redoing things. I can't help it. I just see what could be when I look at things.



This paper organizer was painted a deep red/burgundy color. As you can see in the photo I didn't do anything with the interior color at all. The outside of it however, of course I did! I painted it a flat black to start with and then added scrapbook paper to the outside of it. The paper came out of the same pack as the paper I redid a filing cabinet with, so now they coordinate with each other.



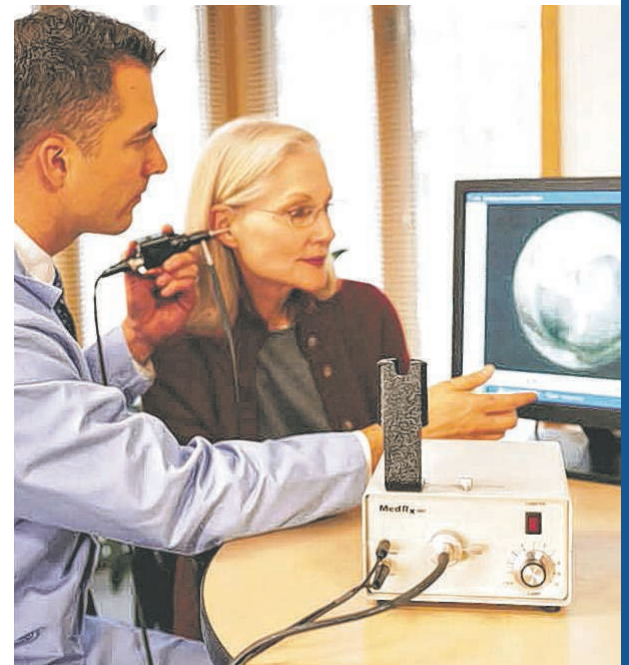
Both of these projects took less than five hours to do. The paper organizer took me two hours from start to finish. The part of the projects that always seems to take me the longest is finding the "right" materials to use. Sometimes that alone can take a week to narrow down and finally decide on one.

Anyone can do this! It's paint, decoupage, paper or fabric. You can transform anything from old and worn into something fresh and modern. It's wonderful also that the old relics that have been redone last so much longer and are such sturdy items – no pressboard or fiberboard - but actual wood. And one of the best things is, if you change your décor or the room you are using the item in, you can always redo it again! Until next time..HAPPY JUNKIN'.

Editor's Note: Cindy Fockler of Croswell, Michigan, has been crafting and repurposing items since she was a child. Her favorite mediums include polymer clay, paint, paper and fabric. Many of her creations are pictured on www.facebook.com/CindysCreativeCrafting or www.cindyscraftstore.blogspot.com.

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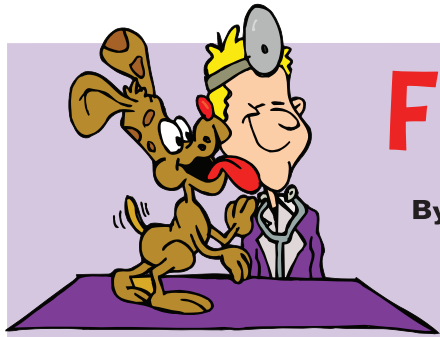
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Feline Hypertension

By Dr. DiBenedetto *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Hypertension in cats has largely been thought to be secondary to other diseases as opposed to primary or idiopathic, meaning there is no known cause that can be determined. This was mainly due to the fact that blood pressure monitoring equipment was not readily available, so only sick cats were having their blood pressure taken. Well, times have changed. Blood pressure monitoring is now widely recognized as being an important part of the wellness care of middle-aged to older cats. High blood pressure can be very dangerous, causing detrimental effects to the eyes, kidneys, heart and brain.

High blood pressure itself has no early warning signs. Many times when we see an older cat with hypertension, the presenting complaint is related to an underlying disease. These symptoms can be vomiting, decreased appetite, increased frequency of drinking and

urinating, general weight loss or episodes of falling over related to heart disease.

When signs do occur, they are sudden and dramatic. Acute blindness is the most common. Another serious situation occurs when there is bleeding in the brain or a stroke-like event. Those symptoms include disorientation, head tilt, trouble walking, or seizures. Hypertension causing blindness or neurologic changes is a medical emergency. A cat's blood pressure is measured similar to the way it is in people. The cuff may be applied to a front leg, back leg, or the tail. The procedure takes just a few minutes and is completely painless for your cat. Because cats are very nervous when in the hospital, a series of readings is taken and then



averaged together. We tend to get increased accuracy when there is time allowed to

relax the cat before taking the readings, by letting a client hold and talk to their cat, or even by repeating the test on a few different days.

When hypertension is diagnosed before serious complications

have occurred, the first step is to address the underlying disease. In some cases correcting or controlling the primary disease can correct the hypertension. In other cases anti-hypertensive medications are needed. A cat's normal blood pressure is less than 150/120. Cats with pressures between 160—180/120 may or may not need medication but would require close monitoring. Any cat with sustained

pressures above 180/120 that are showing any signs of blindness or stroke-like symptoms need to be seen by your veterinarian immediately for treatment.

There are several different types of medications used to treat hypertension. Just like in us, calcium channel blockers, ACE inhibitors and beta-blockers are the drugs of choice. Treatment does, however, require close monitoring due to the fact that the medications are very potent and cats require only very small doses. If the blood pressure is dropped to low, your cat will become very weak and lethargic. Response to treatment is variable depending on the extent of any underlying disease that may be present. 🐾

Editor's note: Dr. DiBenedetto is a veterinarian at Maple Veterinary Hospital located at 2981 Iowa in Troy, Michigan. The hospital website is: www.MapleVeterinaryHospital.com.

Dr. DiBenedetto can be reached at (248) 585-2622 for other pet related questions.



Love Connections

By Renae Hardy
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

February's focus, particularly on Valentine's Day, centers on love. Our tokens of affection take on many forms, with each symbol conveying the same expression, love. Many of these love connections have their origin in mythology, while others date back to former customs or folk lore.

The apple is said to be the fruit of love and its symbolism denotes ecstasy, fertility and abundance, as well as love. In early Greece, a newly wedded couple would share an apple as a symbol of their marriage and hope for a fruitful union. One Gypsy legend says that if a young woman eats half an apple before midnight and the other half after midnight, her true love will appear to her in a dream.

The dove, turtle doves, lovebirds and swans represent love, loyalty and fidelity, with links to the soul and spirit.

The harp shares many mythical connections to the Celts. It represented the bridge of love connecting heaven and earth. The harp's music was believed to be

enchanting, thus invoking love.

Roses communicate many sentiments depending on the color. The first red roses, according to ancient mythology, grew from the blood of Adonis out of his love for Aphrodite (Venus). Red is associated with strong emotions and speaks of passion, beauty, love and romance. An alternative to red when gifting roses would be white. White symbolizes unity and true love. Thornless roses express "love at first sight".

Included among these gifts of the heart, is the heart itself. The heart was once believed to be the seat of all human emotions and the "vein of love" ran directly from the heart to the tip of the third finger on the left hand, which is where we wear our wedding rings today. Heart shaped gifts personify the selfless act of giving everything (with all your heart) to someone you love. Cupid is probably the most popular representative of love. In mythology, Eros (Greek) or Cupid (Roman) is the god of love known for igniting the initial spark of love and attraction between a man and woman. Cupid would use his bow and arrow to strike love into their hearts.

Cupid is often depicted by artists as a chubby cherub even though Cupid was not an actual angel. Angels of love do exist and await our petition to offer their assistance. Matters of the heart can

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of miracles. Including Archangel Michael when one invokes the angels is always advantageous and highly recommended. Call on the angels of love, open to and embrace their blessings.

In the name of love, your heart may follow the tried and true, or you may create something new. However you express yourself, whatever your "love connection", may you always be angel blessed and abundantly loved. 🐾

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. Contact Renae at (586) 949-0112 or (586) 489-8611.



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CASS CITY

Continued from Page 1

towns find themselves cramped for room, maneuvering down narrow streets, jostling for parking spaces on thoroughfares designed in the 19th century for horse-drawn carriages. For his progressive views of city planning, Cass City residents will forever be indebted to Travis Leach – the man responsible for laying out the village.

It was in 1867 that the Seeger family hired Leach to design the streets of Cass City. Mr. Leach told the Seegers that Main and Seeger Streets should be 99 feet wide, which were much larger than any other streets at the time. The Seegers thought it was a waste of land and said that the streets should be narrower, like those of their neighbors. But Travis insisted and said that if his plan for wide streets was not adopted, the Seegers would have to find someone else to design their village. So, the Seegers let him have his way.

It didn't take long for the growing community to recognize the genius of having such wide streets. Drivers were able to turn their carriages around in the street with ease, the streets drained easily, and congestion on busy days of the week was never a problem. Years later, motorists, too, would be thankful for the spacious room allowed for parking their vehicles.

By the 1880s the little burg of Cass City

was a hub of activity and growing by leaps and bounds each year. Fortunately, the devastating Thumb Fire of 1881 spared the village, thanks to the resilient efforts of the community's residents. In 1882, the Pontiac, Oxford, & Port Austin Railroad (later the Pontiac, Oxford, & Northern) came through Cass City. It was an exciting time in the village, as a train meant more people coming to town and more access to the outside world.

The town boasted several businesses at the turn of the 19th century. Blacksmith shops, general stores, hotels, a wagon works, furniture and undertaking ventures, and a host of other businesses lined the streets. Perhaps the most opulent place in town was J.L. Hitchcock's opera house. Built in 1898, the Hitchcock Opera House was housed in the upper two floors of Mr. Hitchcock's general merchandise store and was the cultural hub of the town for several years. Plays, meetings, banquets, concerts, and (until 1927) the graduation exercises of Cass City High School were just a few of the myriad of events hosted in the opera house.

The 20th century was the time of greatest growth for the idyllic, rural community. The early years saw Mike Sheridan open the giant, yet short-lived, New Sheridan Hotel on the site once occupied by the first log school house; a new powerhouse was built in 1914,



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bringing continuous electric service to residents; the Hires Milk Condensory was opened in 1917; and in the summer of 1924, the famous, wide Main Street was paved.

Businesses were not the only things booming in Cass City. By the 1920s, the town had several churches – the Methodist, Presbyterian and Evangelical denominations being the earliest. The Women's Study Club, 4-H Livestock Club and the American Legion were some of the early community organizations.

The Depression years were difficult ones for Cass City, as they were for almost all small communities in the country. The neon lights of the newly-opened Cass Theatre's marquee, however, did offer some glimmer of hope. Opened in 1935, "the Cass" was one of few businesses that opened instead of closed during this time. The successor of the Pastime Theatre, the Cass Theatre was considered to be one of the finest small town movie houses in the state of Michigan. In 1939, however, the theatre building burned to the ground, but just a few months later, a brand new building was completed in classic Art-Deco style. It is this same building that the Cass occupies today, 73 years later.

Nearly four decades after the first major factory came to Cass City, a young business-owner from Fenton, Michigan, decided to move his small factory to the Thumb. His name was Walter Walpole

and his company was Walbro Corporation. Walbro, now one of the world's leaders in carburetor manufacturing, became one of the town's greatest employers. While it has become a global company, Walbro Corporation has not forgotten its humble beginnings and continues to operate out of their Cass City plant.

The 1950s was also the time when Cass City was "placed on the map", but not just because of its ever-increasing industries. No, Cass City's claim to fame was its becoming "Christmas Town USA". What started as a simple holiday contest, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, quickly evolved into a Christmas extravaganza! Lawns were adorned with paper mache figurines of Santa Claus, his elves and reindeer; Christmas music played on loud speakers; the community park came alive with the Gavel Club's "Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tale" characters; and the event wouldn't be complete without the live nativity scene on Lucille Champion's front lawn. People from around the state came to see the festive spectacle each year.

The question has often been asked, "What happened to Christmas Town?" Well, several factors contributed to its demise, primarily the incredible amount of work required for its success and the lack of adequate places to dine and facilities in which to warm up. Attempts have been made to revive the "glory days", but none have proved as successful as the initial



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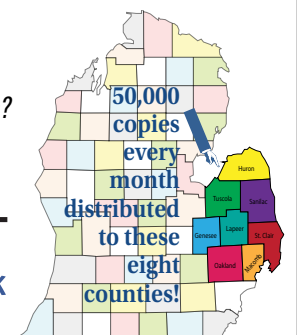
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campaign of the 1950s.

Many notable men and women have called Cass City "home" throughout the years, but perhaps the town's most famous native son is former NASA astronaut, Brewster Shaw. Born and raised in Cass City, the 1963 Cass City High School graduate received degrees from the University of Wisconsin and completed Officer Training School before entering the Air Force in 1969.

In January of 1978, Shaw was selected as an astronaut. His shuttle missions included Spacelap-1, Orbiter Atlantis, and Shuttle Orbiter Columbia. He left the Johnson Space Center in 1989 to assume a new position as Deputy Director of the NASA Headquarters at the Kennedy Space Center. Colonel Shaw retired from NASA in 1995.

Today, Cass City, like its neighbors, is feeling the effect of turbulent economic times; it continues, however, to maintain the quaint, small-town atmosphere it has since its founding. The village boasts a



beautiful recreation park, several sizeable factories, many churches, restaurants, an award-winning library, and a host of business opportunities. The Village of Cass City's slogan still rings true: Come for a day...Stay for a lifetime. 🌱

Editor's Notes: Tyler Perry is a member of the Cass City Area Historical & Genealogy Society. The Society was established in 1977. This was the time of the Bicentennial of the United States and also the publication of Alex Haley's novel Roots. Both of these events, no doubt, stirred up the revival of interest in local history and genealogy.

The primary area of concern for the historical society is the village of Cass City and the townships of Elkland, Novesta, Elmwood, Evergreen and Greenleaf. Membership includes people from those areas along with individuals who live in other parts of the country, but who have a connection either because they have lived here at one time or have ancestors from the area.

Projects completed by the Cass City Area Historical and Genealogy Society:

- Two projects have recently been completed by the Historical Society. The Cass City newspapers from 1881 until the present time and the Elkland and Novesta Cemetery records are now available online.
- Production of a book, *The Cass City Area 1854-1995*, both in soft cover and "limited edition" serial numbered hard cover editions. This book has been reprinted and copies are now available at Rawson Memorial District Library for \$18.00 or by mail order.
- Publication of postcards of local scenes both past and present.
- Production of "Living History" videos made up of interviews of long time residents of the area. These videos are available by checking them out at Rawson Memorial District Library.
- Reproduction of the composite pictures of the graduation classes of the Cass City High School and set them up in a "traveling" display unit.
- Production of the book, *The Way It Was... Volume 2 - The Country Schools of the Cass City Area*. This book is now available for purchase at Rawson Memorial District Library for \$15.00 or by mail order.
- Production of wrapping paper with photos of current and older buildings in Cass City. This may also be purchased at the library.
- Production of the video "Cass City - The first 150 Years." This is available for purchase in DVD or VHS format at the library.
- Production of a book containing the Cass City Area Historical Society newsletters for the last 10 years. This book may be purchased at the library for \$8.00.

The Society is housed and meets at the Rawson Memorial District Library, 6495 Pine St., Cass City, Michigan. The library phone number is (989) 872-4073 and the website is <http://www2.rawson.lib.mi.us>.



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FEB. 25, 2013

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ThumbPrint News Contest

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

In January's edition, we asked our readers to identify the object pictured on the right. No one correctly identified the object as a giraffe weevil or beetle.

The giraffe weevil or beetle (*Trachelophorus giraffe*) is native to



Madagascar. Its name comes from the fact that its extended neck looks much like that of the common giraffe. The neck of the male is typically two to three times the length of that of the female. This species was recently discovered and information about the insect is minimal.



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

JOE KNOWS

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU FEEL
YOUR PROPERTY HAS BEEN
UNJUSTLY TAXED?



By Joseph McKoan

ThumbPrint News Columnist

In order to appeal a residential real property tax assessment, you first have to understand the difference between true cash value, state equalized value, and taxable value. Property taxes are calculated on taxable value. The tax cannot be more than the state equalized value. In order to obtain relief, you must provide adequate information to prove that the taxable value of the property and the state equalized value is in excess of one-half of the true cash value.

So, how does one begin this process? First, get comparables of properties recently sold. Comparable properties should be as close to your respective property as possible both in vicinity and in physical appearance. The board of review will not entertain reasons such as: the economy is in a downturn, the values are dropping etc. You must have proof. Generalized statements, even if accurate, will not be sufficient. If at all possible, get an appraisal from a licensed real estate appraiser.

Second, preparation is second to none. Do not assume anything. Check your property's classification. Review your assessment records located at your local municipality's assessing department.

There may be errors within the public record that can be challenged. Check your local requirements for the March board of review. Different municipalities have different specific requirements. You certainly do not want to the board of review to refuse to hear your arguments due to a technical misgiving. Further, any such failure to satisfy the local requirements may prevent you from appealing to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

Third, if you are dissatisfied with the board of review results, file your appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal by the deadline. For residential properties, your appeal must be filed on or before July 31st of the tax year being appealed. The petition can be found on the state website.

Finally, keep your materials supporting relief organized and concise. The easier it is for the board or tribunal to analyze your position, the better chance you have for a positive result.

As always, unless you are knowledgeable in the area of property tax assessments, it is advisable to seek advice from an individual who is experienced in this area. 🍀

Attorney Joseph McKoan can be contacted by telephone at (810) 794-9379, or email Joe at JMckoan@mckoanlaw.com.



Memiors from The Restless Retiree NEW YEAR'S EVE POSTLUDE

By Gabriel Jones, ThumbPrint News Columnist

What did you do last month for New Year's Eve-go out to a party, to a restaurant, to a dance?

Well... in past years, my wife and I would get together with my brother-in-law and his wife. But a few months ago, he moved to a retirement home up North.

So, we invited our son to go with us to a "top" restaurant to enjoy the great atmosphere and great food. We knew also before we went, that it might be crowded, but that would be OK...

IT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE!!

We drove with great anticipation to the restaurant's location. When we got there it seemed that the parking lot was full. I dropped off my wife and son at the side of the building and looked for a parking place. Surprisingly, a car nearby was pulling out, so I parked quickly and went to join my wife and son.

As I went to join them, I saw a crowd of people in front of the restaurant door. Oh well, I thought, we'll have to wait a little while.

I got to my wife and asked, "Did you put our name on the list?"

She answered, "No, I didn't have a chance to do it. There were too many people in front of me."

All at once, a patron walked up to me and said, "Would you like a monitor?" because he was leaving.

I said, "What's a monitor?"

He answered, "When this monitor rings, then your table is ready."

I said "GREAT! THANK YOU!!!"

He left, and I told my wife that we had a monitor and that we would be served pretty soon.

I then made my way to the "reservation desk" to show them my monitor and asked how long of a wait there would be.

She looked at the number on the monitor, looked on the list and said these "prophetic words",

"You have about an hour and a half wait."

"WHAT!" I SAID. "BUT I HAVE A MONITOR!!!"

Suddenly I noticed that many monitors were waving at me from all directions. We then decided not to wait.

As we turned to leave the restaurant I offered my monitor to someone outside.

They thanked me for the offer, but told me that they were also leaving.

We then left and looked for another restaurant to go to.

I then kidded my wife and said, "We could always go to a fast food restaurant."

But then, she gave me "THE LOOK". I quickly said, "I'm kidding."

We then headed to our local family restaurant and got in very quickly-not crowded at all as it usually is.

"Why?" (Maybe it was because they were all in the waiting crowd at the other restaurant!)

Next time, we'll stay home and order pizza.

Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🍀

9th Annual Christmas Tree Walk

In the December issue of *ThumbPrint News* readers who emailed us at tpncontest@gmail.com were entered into a drawing for two free tickets to the **Ninth Annual History of the Christmas Tree Walk** in Algonac, Michigan. The winner was Vicki Gisting of Chesterfield, Michigan, pictured on the right with her husband.



WORD FIND

"Love is in the Air"

Love is in the air as Valentine's Day approaches. In the word search below, every word that needs to be found contains the word "love"! Words may be vertical, horizontal or diagonal.

G X C L I D L Z X O F C L E J J Q T N G
 J U D L L X Q F B E L O V E D P W F W L
 O J H V R H F C R P F O X G L O V E K B
 Y K A Q V E C L W R L K C V J X T Q V R
 H W T Y Y C O D I N N C X R P J R Q S L
 P C U O W V E X H M E Y G U B E V O L O
 Q L O V E D A X W V R P Q K K N E S J V
 G P I A R M C W O T Q L O B G F S I O E
 B V B O D X V L N U O J P W V D R Z V S
 M L M J W F C L O V E L I E S T K W E E
 E S T F E V H Y E V Q S C Q F Q C U X A
 E H H A R C J B K R E I P F D D I C D T
 R U K L U I I M E G V R T I H D S Z R L
 N C C L L R Z V D L A U L Z L O E H S U
 D J B O D W O G Z V B L O E Y L V I K L
 M R E V O L L O R G P N V G A H O C O F
 G Z R E C H Z K G F S M E L L F L V Y E
 R W X R J N U R Q O B T R O Z L E T E K
 N C M S R E V O L L U P S V Y L T G S R
 K L R J B R P P L W O S Y E Y P R I A T

ALLOVER
 BELOVED
 CLOVE
 CLOVER
 CLOVERLEAF
 FOXGLOVE
 GLOVE
 LOVE
 LOVEABLE
 LOVEBIRD



LOVEBUG
 LOVED
 LOVELIEST
 LOVELY
 LOVERS
 LOVESEAT
 LOVESICK
 PULLOVER
 ROLLOVER
 SPILLOVER





Harry Truman, as a young bridegroom, honeymooned at the Harrington Hotel in Port Huron, Michigan.

MICHIGAN

Continued from Page 4

Charles Guiteau. By all reports, his conduct before, during and after the trial for killing President James Garfield at the Washington, D.C., train station in 1881 demonstrated some long time bizarre behavior. Even though insanity was a novel legal defense at the time, the court allowed it, convicting him anyway. Young Guiteau, who was from Ohio, as were both victims Garfield and McKinley, had traveled to Ann Arbor seeking admission to the university. Failing the admissions test, he attended a public high school, now called Ann Arbor Pioneer, taking remedial courses. Garceau didn't stay long. Instead of returning to Ohio, he joined the Oneida Community, a Utopian group in Central New York State. He remained there several years, although apparently he was not welcomed by the founder John Noyes, who advocated abstinence from sex for all men except himself. Claiming to have a law license from Illinois, Guiteau engaged in long running litigation with the community, now famous for its commercial silverware. One couldn't say that this assassin was influenced by the brief time he spent in the state. No, I suppose one could blame it on his growing up in the Buckeye State!

If I tried to push the assassin connection a bit more, I could say that John Wilkes Booth had appeared on the Detroit stage with his famous Shakespearean performing family during their touring days. Maybe his dislike of Lincoln reflected his southern antagonism toward the Republican Party, which had roots in Jackson, Michigan.

So what does any of this have to do with the Thumb area? Not much, I admit. But the oft reported complaint of Port Huron boosters that no president has ever visited St. Clair County apparently is true. (Harry Truman was a new bridegroom, not

president, when he and Bess honeymooned at the Harrington hotel.) The source of the presidential slight: President Richard Nixon made a campaign tour of three Thumb counties on behalf of James Sparling in April, 1974. Sparling was running for Congress in a special election because his boss, James Harvey, had been appointed federal judge. According to a light hearted *Times Herald* story by columnist, James Donohue, captioned "Richard Nixon's Last Hurrah", Nixon had repeated as fact that he was the first incumbent to travel the area. So, if the president says it is so, it must be (author's opinion, maybe not, coming from this one who was forced to resign a few months later).

Just one more brief reference to a president in Michigan and then we can all await the next favorite son – or daughter. (Granholm's ineligible, but Madonna was born in Michigan.) In 1912, former president,



Theodore Roosevelt, sought a third term as a candidate of the Bull Moose Party. Apparently he thought that he was the wronged victim of some vicious mudslinging. So when the editor of an obscure Marquette County newspaper, *The Iron Ore*, published that he "got drunk not infrequently", Roosevelt sued. After a weeklong jury trial with several character witnesses, he won the libel suit – and was awarded six cents. (So, note to newspaper publishers and editors, be careful how you describe presidents!) 🍀

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What Happened On This Day in History?

By **Diane L. Kodet**
ThumbPrint News Editor



February

1 On this day in 1949, RCA released the first single record ever (45 rpm).

2 On this day in 1932, Al Capone was sent to prison (Atlanta, Georgia).

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

4 On this day in 1887, the Interstate Commerce Act authorized federal regulation of railroads.

5 On this day in 1870, the first motion picture was shown to a theater audience (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania).



6 On this day in 1965, Righteous Brothers' "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'" hit #1 on the charts.

7 On this day in 1940, Walt Disney's second feature-length movie, "Pinocchio," premiered (in New York City).

8 On this day in 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated and chartered by William D. Boyce of Chicago, Illinois.

9 On this day in 1871, the Federal fish protection office was authorized by Congress.

10 On this day in 1846, the Mormons began their march to the west.

11 On this day in 1878, the first United States bicycle club, Boston Bicycle Club, formed.



12 On this day in 1915, the cornerstone was laid for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.

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

14 On this day in 1971, Richard Nixon installed a secret taping system in the White House.

15 On this day in 1768, the first mustard manufactured in America was advertised (in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania).

16 On this day in 1878, the silver dollar became U.S. legal tender.

17 On this day in 1867, the first ship passed through the Suez Canal.

18 On this day in 1968, the 10th Winter Olympic Games closed at Grenoble, France.

19 On this day in 1934, Bob and Dolores Hope married.

20 On this day in 1673, the first recorded wine auction was held (London).



21 On this day in 1878, the first telephone book was issued, with 50 subscribers (New Harbor, Connecticut).

22 On this day in 1854, the Republican Party met for the first time (Michigan).

23 On this day in 1836, the Alamo was besieged by Santa Anna and the entire garrison was eventually killed.

24 On this day in 1921, the first transcontinental flight in 24 hours flying time arrived in Florida.

25 On this day in 1963, the Beatles released their first single in the U.S., "Please Please Me".

26 On this day in 1924, the trial against Hitler in Munich began.

27 On this day in 1827, the first Mardi Gras celebration in New Orleans took place.

28 On this day in 1849, the first boat load of gold rush prospectors arrived in San Francisco from the east coast.



Gravitation is not responsible for people falling in love.

~Albert Einstein

CHOCOLATE TRUFFLE COOKIES

By **Louise Allen**
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

INGREDIENTS:

4 (1 ounce) squares unsweetened chocolate, chopped
1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
6 tablespoons butter
3 eggs
1 cup white sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
1/4 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup semisweet chocolate chips



DIRECTIONS:

1. In the microwave or in a metal bowl over a pan of simmering water, melt unsweetened chocolate, 1 cup of the chocolate chips, and the butter stirring occasionally until smooth. Remove from heat and set aside to cool. In a large bowl, whip eggs and sugar until thick and pale, about 2 minutes. Stir in the vanilla and the chocolate mixture until well mixed. Combine the flour, cocoa, baking powder and salt; gradually stir into the chocolate

mixture. Fold in remaining 1 cup chocolate chips. Cover dough and chill for at least an hour or overnight.

2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. (175 degrees C.). Roll chilled dough into 1 inch balls. Place on ungreased cookie sheets so they are 2 inches apart.

3. Bake for 9 to 11 minutes in the preheated oven. Allow cookies to cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.

This is a very dark, rich chocolate cookie for the true chocoholic. This recipe uses relatively little flour, resulting in dense, fudge-like cookies and is the perfect treat for your favorite Valentine. 🍫



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Thumb Area Activities & Events for February 2013

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

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

Genesee

Flint – February 2, 3, 9 and 10

The Planets, Narrated by Kate Mulgrew, Longway Planetarium, 1310 East Kearsley St., 2:00 p.m. Kate Mulgrew was Captain Janeway of “Star Trek Voyager”. We will take a tour of the planets of our solar system to learn what is currently known about them, including stunning visualizations and some of the latest images from our robotic explorers. The program concludes with a look at our current night sky. Recommended for adults and children 10 and up. \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and youth ages 3 – 11. For more information call (810) 237-3400.

Huron

Bax Axe - February 7

Rotary Winter Wine Fest, Franklin Inn, 1070 E. Huron Ave., 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. For more information call (989) 269-6936.

Lapeer

Almont - February 9

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 will be served during the break. Generous prizes are awarded to the top three points holders. \$15 donation at the door; if a player brings a first time player, both play for \$10 each. For further information call Don at (810) 798-9609.

Macomb

Chesterfield – February 7

A Little Bit of History, Chesterfield Twp. Public Library, 50560 Patricia St., 6:30 p.m. Gene Buel will discuss the Marine City book he wrote with his grandson Scott. A lifelong resident of Marine City, Mr. Buel has been with the Marine City Rotary over 40 years and has been involved with other major Marine City history projects. He and his grandson Scott, who inherited his grandfather's love

of history, also maintain the website *Scenes from the Past*. For more information or to RSVP for our planning purposes call (586) 598-4900.

Richmond – February 8-10

Winter & Ice Festival, downtown area. Enjoy the Taste of Richmond Friday evening, live entertainment, Chili Cook-off, dog sledding display, and vendor and craft show on Saturday and more entertainment on Sunday. Ice sculptures will be on display all weekend long. For detailed information visit www.robn.org or call (586) 727-3266.

New Haven – February 16

Euchre Night, New Haven Lions Hall, 57882 Lutes, doors open at 6:30 p.m., play starts at 7:00 p.m. \$12 per person, plus quarters for euchres. Price includes a light dinner and beverages are available. Prizes are awarded to the top 3 places. Contact Lion Andy at (810) 543-0951 for more information.

Oakland

Waterford - February 8

Valentine Social, Waterford Oaks Activity Center, 2800 Watkins Lake Road, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Individuals with disabilities ages 18+ are invited for an evening of DJ music, dancing, snacks and light refreshments. \$7 per person. Chaperones are free. Must pre-register by calling (248) 424-7081 or email doreys@oakgov.com.

St. Clair

Marine City – All Month Long

February is “Library Lovers Month”, Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker. Show your love for your local library by donating a dollar for a heart to be displayed all month! All proceeds benefit your library programs. Sponsored by Friends of the Marine City Library. For more information call (810) 765-5233.

Marine City – February 2

Fireman's Ball, K of C Hall, 6385 King Rd., 6:00 p.m. – midnight. Dinner served from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Only 350 tickets available. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. For more information call (810) 765-4501 or email chamberoffice@marinecitychamber.net.

Port Huron – February 2, 9, 16 & 23

“Ice Hockey Memories” Winter Exhibit, Knowlton's Ice Museum, 317 Grand River Ave., 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Relive ice hockey history in Port Huron. Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Kids (ages 6 – 10) \$2, under 6 are free. For more information call (810) 987-5441 or visit www.knowltonsicemuseum.org.

[knowltonsicemuseum.org](http://www.knowltonsicemuseum.org).

Port Huron – February 6

“Love Songs from the Heart” with Tom Norager, Salvation Army Citadel, 2000 Court St., 1:00 p.m. Presented by the Port Huron Musicales, the concert is open to the public and all are welcome. A free will contribution is gratefully accepted. If you would like to join us for dessert at 12:30 p.m., please call Marge at (810) 765-9500 or Mary Jo at (810) 329-5866 for reservations. Cost of the dessert will be \$4. The Port Huron Musicales is a member of the National Federation of Music Clubs and supports young musicians with music lesson awards and grants. New members are welcome. Visit our website at www.ThePortHuronMusicales.com.

Kimball – February 8 and 9

Friends of Kimball Library Book Sale, G. Lynn Campbell Library, 1955 N. Allen Rd. Stop by and browse our wonderful selection of used books, tapes and magazines. Everything at discount prices. Proceeds support library programs and projects. For more information call (810) 982-9171.

Port Huron – February 10

Gary Sacco Live Frank Sinatra Show, Quay Street Brew Pub, 330 Quay St., 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. No cover charge. Presented by the Blue Water Jazz Society. Features Scott Gwinnell, along with all the BWJS regulars. For more information call (810) 987-4973 or (810) 300-5079.

Marine City – February 11

Wild Game Dinner, Marine City Lions Club, 545 Ward St., doors open at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m. \$25 per person or 2 for \$40 (100 tickets available). Door prizes, 50/50 and raffles. For tickets call (810) 765-9121 or (810) 434-7250.

Marine City – February 14

Vet's and Sweetheart's Dinner, Riviera Restaurant, 475 South Water Street, 6:00 p.m. All veterans are welcome to attend. Everyone is responsible for their own bill of fare. Sponsored by the Washington Life Center. Call (810) 765-3523 for more information.

Fair Haven – February 15

Euchre Party, St. Peter Lutheran Church, 6745 Palms Rd., registration 6:30 p.m., games start at 7:00 p.m. \$5 donation. Free goodies, coffee and tea. Hot dogs and pop available for a \$1 donation. Cash prizes. For more information call (810) 765-8161.

Algonac – February 21

Ladie's Crafts, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 6:00 p.m. Great

craft ideas for great ladies with teacher, Diane Tercha. Registration required. Class size limited. Call (810) 794-4471 for more information or to register.

Marine City – February 22

Algonac Community Theatre Presents: Old Time Radio Show with the Bickersons, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., \$10 per person (\$15 at the door). The price includes the show, dessert buffet, coffee and tea. Don't wait to purchase tickets, as we usually sell out! Call (810) 765-3523 for more information.

Emmett – February 23

Training and Enrichment for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 10828 Brandon Rd., 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Training is applicable towards re-commissioning for current EMHC's, partial preparation for new EMHC's and enrichment hours. Training provided by Archdiocese of Detroit-Dept. of Parish Life. Register online at www.aod.org/csministry by February 18 or call Kris Campau, Site Coordinator, at (810) 395-2338.

Sauilac

Sandusky – February 9 and 23

Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., 7:00 p.m. -11:00 p.m. Everyone welcome! Bring finger foods (for 9:00 p.m.) and friends. Admission \$5 for members and \$6 for non-members. February 9 will feature Dick Hedrich for a Valentine's Dance and February 23 it will be The Natural Tones. For more information call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250.

Tuscola

Caro – February 23

2013 Caro Polar Plunge, Caro Golf Club, 1080 East Caro Rd., registration at 11:00 a.m., Parade of Costumes at 11:30 a.m., Plunge at 12:00 p.m., Post Plunge Party/Awards at 12:30 p.m. The annual Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge series is known for its zany costumes and courageous participants. After raising funds, these participants dress up in costume and prepare to plunge, ready to jump in and freeze their fur for a good cause. Funds can be raised by collecting donations from friends, family, co-workers and neighbors. Proceeds help support year-round sports training and athletic completion for more than 19,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities in Michigan. To register, visit <http://www.firstgiving.com/polarplunge/caro2013>.



ThumbPrint News Travels to Washington!

ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb of Michigan (over 980 businesses in eight Thumb counties are now drop locations for the newspaper). We have updated our corkboard to include a list of all the locations we have traveled to.

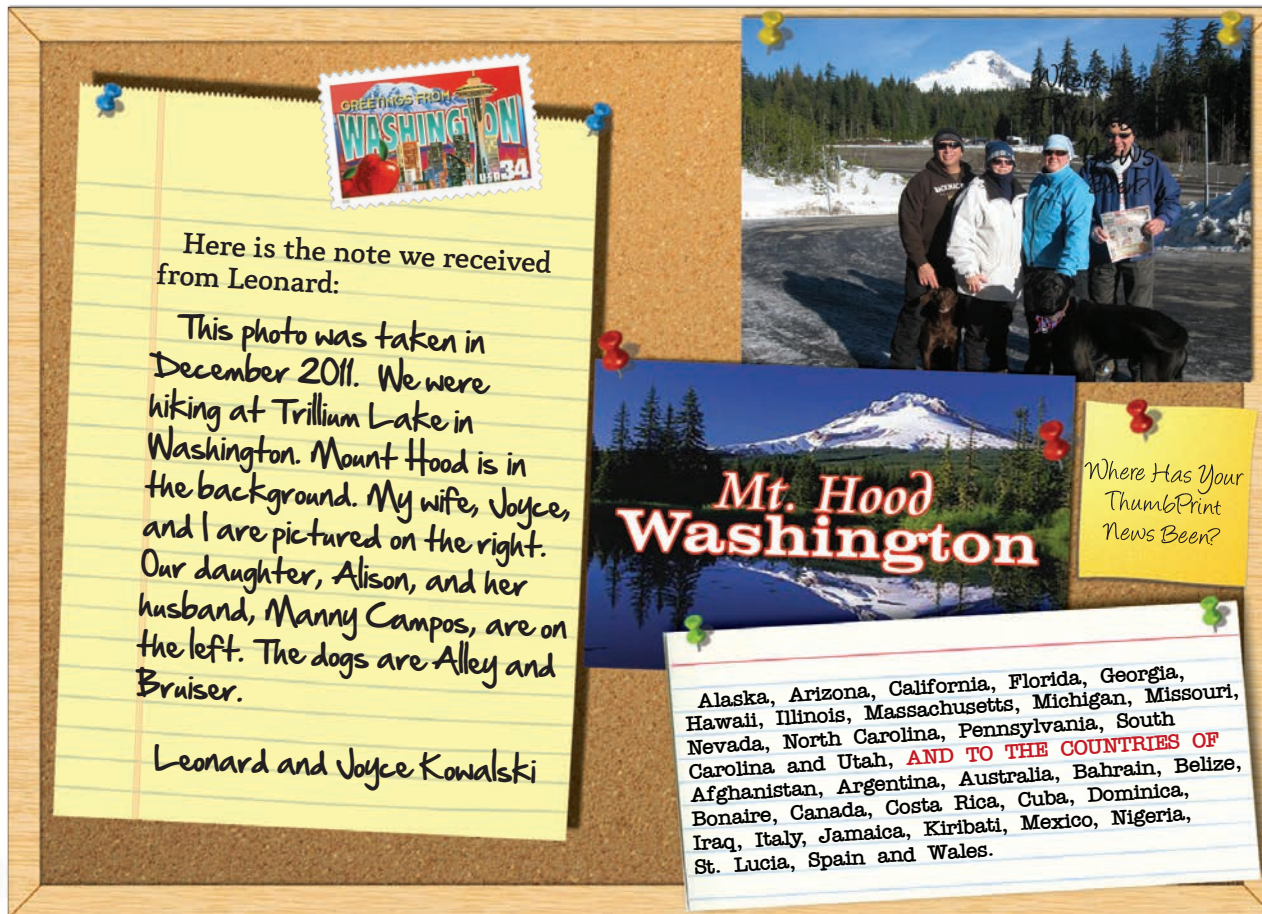
ThumbPrint News was even seen on television on the *Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and at Walt Disney World in Florida with several of the Disney characters!

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

This month's photo shows *ThumbPrint News* traveling to the state of Washington with Leonard and Joyce Kowalski of Marine City, Michigan.

If you are a reader of *ThumbPrint News* and have taken our newspaper with you on a vacation or to an unusual place – or if you have been able to get a famous person or character to be photographed with our paper, you may submit an email and photo to us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net (jpeg format preferred). Please tell us a little about the photo and include your name, address and phone number. Please be patient as you wait for your photo to appear in *ThumbPrint News*.

When it does appear, we will send you a complimentary edition. There are many places where *ThumbPrint News* has not yet been – and lots of famous people to track down. Who will be the next person to help us in our quest? 🐞



Legislators Urge Remington Arms to Relocate; Bring Jobs to Michigan

Pro-gun-rights legislators have invited the Remington Arms Company to become a part of Michigan's reinvention. Sen. Mike Green and Rep. Joel Johnson issued a letter on Wednesday to the company urging them to consider Michigan for the relocation of its Ilion, New York manufacturing operations. "Michigan workers are second to none and because of many bold reforms last session, our state is open for business," said Green, R-Mayville. "We also respect constitutional rights and legal commerce in state law, so in light of New York's recent gun control legislation, we're encouraging this American icon to bring their plants and thousands of jobs to Michigan."

The letter reads, in part: "Michigan's leaders have worked hard over the past two years to reinvent our state. We're proud to be at the forefront of the nation's economic comeback with positive, relentless action and bold reforms of our tax and regulatory structures." When ranked in late 2012, Michigan was named the 12th friendliest tax system in America. Additionally, the state has experienced a ten percent rise in home sales and the creation of at least 65,200 more jobs since the beginning of 2011. "We want Remington to know that Michigan welcomes them and the good paying jobs they offer," said Johnson, R-Clare. "Remington has been a part of

securing American homesteads, including my own, for generations. We would be proud to have this company housed within our state."

Remington Arms Company, founded in 1816, is the oldest company in the United States that still makes its original product, and it is the oldest continuously operating manufacturer in North America. It currently employs more than 1,200 people directly at its Ilion plant and supports an additional 1,500 jobs in the surrounding area.

Earlier this month, New York's governor signed into law a sweeping package of gun-control measures that significantly expand that state's firearms registration requirements and its existing ban on so-called "assault" weapons and other firearms accessories. In addition to "assault" weapons, the new measures may also affect many of the hunting firearms that Remington produces. For more information or to view a copy of the letter, visit www.statesenatormikegreen.com. 🐞

Editor's note: Mike Green is the Michigan Senator for the 31st District and can be contacted at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, Michigan, 48909-7536 or at (866)305-2131 or by emailing senmgreen@sentate.michigan.gov.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Some years ago, a local paper tried to find the origins of "Puttygut", such as in Puttygut Rd. in East China Twp., Michigan. It was speculated that a German farmer had built the road, admired his work, and called it "pretty good" in a heavy German accent. However, the name may originate from a southern German farewell to travelers, which translates into, "May God watch over you." In German, it was "Behuete dich Gott!" When my mother would say it in her Schwabian accent, it was, "B'huet di Gott!" In my view, a religious origin rather than one of self praise is more befitting the 19th century German farmer. Perhaps some of your readers could shed a better light on this mystery.

Walt Schreiner
Marine City

Dear *ThumbPrint News*,

The article by Robert L. Christensen brought back a lot of memories for me as a teen-ager living in the Upper Peninsula in the 50's. Probably the only item not mentioned by the author were the snowshoes which we considered a

necessity for walking in the snow and swamps where we chased the "ghosts of the Cedar Swamps".

I did not live on a farm and lived in a small city where I was raised.

The car we used was a bit larger than cars of the 30's and 40's; the trunk was for snowshoes and guns in cases and the rest of the car space was for hunters and dogs. I recall once when one of the dogs (it got the blame anyway) left a smell in the car that required pulling by the snowbank and evacuating the two-door car with haste.

Another time we were unloading the trunk in the early evening when one of the snowshoe hares we thought was a goner, and was not, decided to run out of the trunk and up the main street of town followed by one of the suddenly not so tired dogs.

Yes, we left a jacket for one of the dogs several times; once my hunting buddy that owned one of the dogs got a call from the county road commission as a driver saw the dog sleeping on his coat and took the works with him in the plow truck. Everyone knew that D---y was missing one of his dogs!

Great times.
John Meyland
Clarkston

2013: Evidence Michigan's Future is Bright

Submitted by Phil Pavlov, Michigan State Senator, District 25

As the gavel hits down for the 97th Legislative session, the possibilities are endless for Michigan and its citizens in 2013. In the last two years the Legislature, partnering with Governor Snyder, has made



Phil Pavlov

unprecedented progress towards reinventing Michigan. A quick glance back at the last decade shows us what we are emerging from. By 2010, Michigan experienced over 14% unemployment, 800,000 jobs lost (over half of all manufacturing jobs lost in the U.S.), plummeting home prices, and family, friends and neighbors moving away.

Today, the landscape of Michigan has been dramatically transformed into a pro-jobs, pro-worker, pro-growth state. Over 120,000 new jobs have been created; we have a balanced state budget; we have a simple, fair, and efficient tax structure; and for the first time in seven years Michigan has gained population. Michigan was also ranked 4th nationally in leading the economic recovery. Here are some steps we have taken in Lansing to put Michigan in this comeback position.

Building a Better Business Climate

Replaced Job-Killing Michigan Business Tax – Ended the double taxation for more than 95,000 small business owners.

Workplace Fairness and Equality – Hardworking Michiganders can now choose whether or not to belong to a union, making Michigan the 24th Freedom to Work state in the nation.

Reformed the Personal Property Tax – Ended the practice of taxing businesses for investment and expansion; did it in a way that protects resources for local police, fire

and schools.

Building a Better Education System

Reformed Teacher Tenure – Changed the system to give teachers tenure based on merit rather than just time on the job; lets schools keep the best teachers in the classroom.

Eliminated the Cap on Charter Schools – Removed the arbitrary limits on public charter schools to expand education choices for students and parents.

Building a Better more Efficient Government

Passed a Balanced Budget in Record Time – Passed a budget that cut spending and required greater accountability and reforms from local governments and school districts; stopped using one-time fixes and gimmicks to balance the budget.

Income Tax Relief – Delivered more than \$100 million in tax relief to hardworking families by accelerating the rollback of the state income tax and increasing the personal exemption.

Passed Emergency Manager Reform – Restored local control and stability by providing local units of government with four different choices in the event of a financial emergency.

Looking ahead, we will continue to work on infrastructure/transportation funding, improvements to our education system, and outdoor integrity legislation, such as my anti-poaching trophy buck bills. There is more work to do, and my resolve to continue implementing important reforms for hardworking Michiganders has never been stronger.

Again, thank you for your continued support. Together we are building a better Michigan. 🐭



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Melanie Duquesnel

How to Protect Yourself from Investment Scams

Did you know that victims of investment fraud tend to be higher income, college educated people, and show more financial literacy than non-victim investors? In fact, two-thirds of investment fraud victims are ages 55-65, male and willing to invest without doing research.

Studies also show that investment scams are on the rise and many baby boomers are becoming more vulnerable to such schemes, as they now manage their own retirement accounts. In 2010, state securities regulators initiated more than 1200 enforcement actions, including criminal complaints and cease-and-desist orders, involving investors ages 50 or older, according to the North American Securities Administrators Association.

That was more than double the 506 cases in 2009.

Since many business owners fall into these demographics, the Better Business Bureau is offering tips on how to check for scams and verify credibility of investment firms. It's essential to take precaution with all investment opportunities.

The BBB has partnered with FINRA's Investor Education Foundation that specializes in investment fraud prevention to offer valuable information to help you sort through your next investment decision



making.

Here are three key strategies you can use if you aren't certain about a specific investment opportunity:

1. End the conversation.

Practice saying "No". Simply tell the person, "I am sorry, I am not interested. Thank you." Or tell anyone who pressures you, "I never make investing decisions without first consulting my ____. I will contact you if I am still interested." Fill in the blank with whomever you choose – your spouse, child, investment professional, attorney or accountant. Knowing your exit strategy in advance makes it easier to leave the conversation, even if the pressure starts rising.

2. Turn the tables and ask questions.

A legitimate investment professional must be properly licensed, and his or her firm must be registered with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or a state securities regulator, depending on the type of business the firm conducts.

3. Investigate the deal and the company.

Be extremely skeptical if the person promoting the deal says, "Don't tell anyone else about this special deal!" A legitimate investment professional won't ask you to keep secrets. You should also check the www.BBB.org website to ensure

that the investment company is legitimate before signing any papers or agreeing to any contracts.

Exercising these three key strategies will help protect you from fraudsters. Remember, the more knowledgeable you are when making investments, the less likely you are to become a victim. When making an investment, there's no urgency to race against the clock – take your time and make an informed decision.

The BBB also offers free training sessions for educational training programs on investment fraud prevention for the communities in Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. The seminars can be delivered to virtually any group interested in learning how to protect their assets, including businesses, chambers of commerce, non-profit organizations, schools, senior centers and more. For more information, please visit: <http://detroit.bbb.org/events-calendar/> or call Doris at 248.799.0305 or email dhendricks@easternmichiganbbb.org.

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

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 (FOGs) 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.
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