

DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR
MAY 16 DAY

SEE PAGE 21

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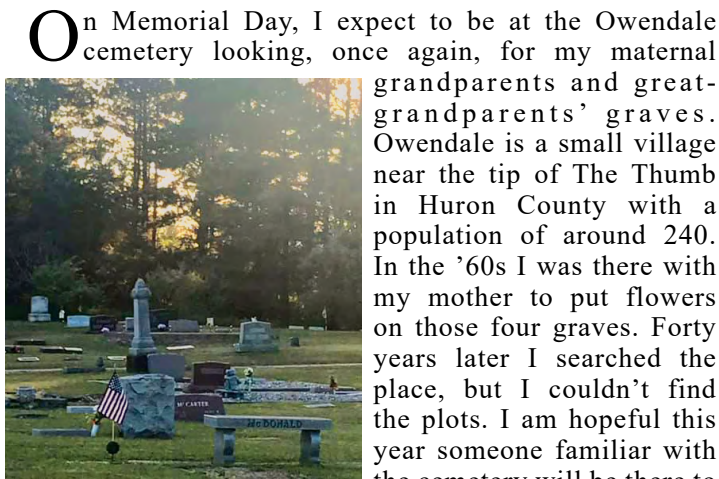
REACHING OUT TO OUR POLICE

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COTTAGE LIVING

Memorial Day Memories

By Arthur Beer
ThumbPrint News
Guest Writer



On Memorial Day, I expect to be at the Owendale cemetery looking, once again, for my maternal grandparents and great-grandparents' graves. Owendale is a small village near the tip of The Thumb in Huron County with a population of around 240. In the '60s I was there with my mother to put flowers on those four graves. Forty years later I searched the place, but I couldn't find the plots. I am hopeful this year someone familiar with the cemetery will be there to guide me. I vaguely remember two stones to the right of the entrance in memory of Charles and Mary MacDonald; and behind them the much older stones of Robert and Agnes Burleigh. I looked and looked (while a couple of my young granddaughters swung on the handle of the old pump), but I couldn't find them. My mother was no longer there to guide me.

In the late 1880s, Robert Burleigh and his wife, Agnes Connell, had a farm just outside of Owendale where they raised four daughters, Barb, Mary, Maggie and Sadie. That's just about all I can tell you about my maternal great-grandparents. The family Bible is lost, the stories

from those long-ago days have been forgotten and the descendants who knew them have died. We have four fading photographs that bear witness to those hardworking quietly heroic pioneers who cleared the land, tilled the soil, raised their children and went to their rest in that quiet, hard-to-find corner of the Thumb.

My mother, named Agnes after her grandmother, had just two stories to tell me from those days. In 1881, her mother, Mary, then just one year old, was carried out of the farmhouse to the nearest ditch by her father, who laid her down in the muddy water and laid on top of her to keep her from being burned by the Great Thumb Fire that swept through the area that August. I suppose her older sister Barbara and their mother were also there, but I never heard that part of the story. One of the saved family photos from the



MICHIGAN HISTORIC SITE

OWENDALE

In 1882, as three new railroads began to lay track in Huron County, two cousins from Saginaw, John C. and John S. Owen, bought land in the Columbia Swamp. The following year, they opened a sawmill to harvest the native oak. John C. Owen hired Quincy Thomas, a civil engineer, to survey a town site in 1887. The streets, alleys and parks were dedicated to the public for their perpetual use, and the village was named Owendale. The sawmill burned in 1896, and the Owendale area turned from lumbering to agriculture.



The Burleigh Farm in the 1890s, left to right: Aunt Sarah Connell, Sadie, Mary, Maggie, Barb, Mother Agnes and Robert Burleigh

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ThumbPrint News

8061 Marsh Road
Clay Township, MI 48001
(810) 794-2300

Email Address:

ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net

Website: www.ThumbPrintNews.com

Editorial Team & Newspaper Staff:

Bethany Wolf

Editorial & Graphic Designer

Laura Irwin

Editorial, Staff Writer & Graphic Designer

E.J. Tipper

Staff Writer

Advertising Team:

Michelle Nash, (810) 488-9765

Scott Zimmer, (586) 524-2562

Teri Barkhouse (Schutz), (586) 453-4508

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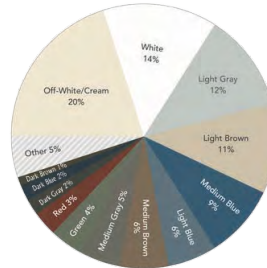
~ POTPOURRI ~

**A Mixture of Things, a Collection,
and an Assortment**

EXTERIOR COLORS What's Popular in 2023

Vinyl and composite siding manufacturer Alside® commissioned a recent poll of more than 1,400 homeowners. This survey reported many would like to lighten up their homes' exteriors. The top five siding colors from the survey were:

- Off-White/Cream 20%
- White 14%
- Light Gray 12%
- Light Brown 11%
- Medium Blue 9%



These selections were followed by Light Blue, Medium Brown, Medium Gray, Green, Red, Dark Gray, Dark Blue and Dark Brown.

Quick Kitchen Update Ideas

Don't have time or resources for a full kitchen upgrade? Here are a few ideas to create a fresher look quickly and inexpensively.



- Paint your cabinets
- Switch out the hardware
- Replace old flooring with vinyl tiles
- Consider open shelving
- Change light fixtures

Baby Boomers Overtake Millennials as Largest Generation of Home Buyers

According to the latest study from the National Association of Realtors® 2023 Generational Trends report, Baby Boomers (ages 58 to 76) have overtaken Millennials (ages 27 to 42) as the largest generation of home buyers. Baby Boomers now make up 39% of home buyers – the most of any generation – an increase from 29% last year.

It's presumed this is due to the Boomers being less affected by the recent housing market roller coaster, their ability to cash in on the equity they had built-

in their homes, and downsizing at retirement. There is also movement due to the desire to live closer to family.

Millennials had been the largest homebuying force from 2014 to 2022. Generation Z (ages 11 to 26) now makes up 4% of buyers, with 30% of Gen Z moving directly from a family member's home into homeownership.

When relocating, all generations are moving farther distances, with younger boomers (ages 58 to 67) moving the greatest distance at a median of 90 miles away.

MARKET MATTERS

Residential real estate inventory remains tight as we progress through our spring market.

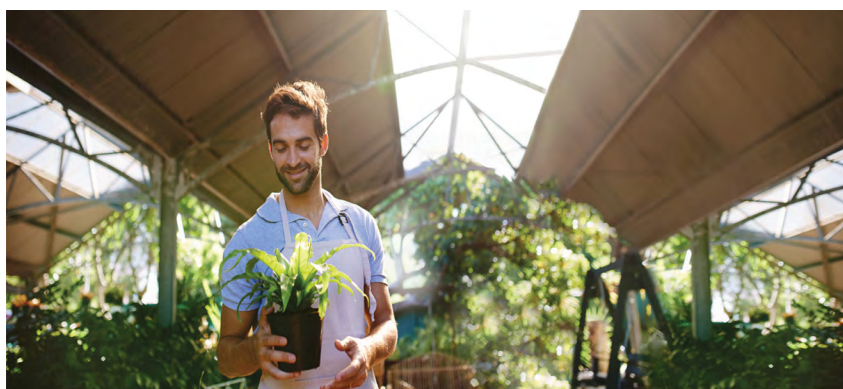
Nationally, home prices fell year-over-year in February for the first time in nearly eleven years. Prices, while softening, have remained more stable in Michigan and recent sales prices have continued in a range of 98-100% of the listing price for the last several months.

Buyer demand is still dampened by economic uncertainties including inflation, employment and higher mortgage costs.

Mortgage rates have come down a bit from their December 2022 peak. As of April 10, the national average 30-year fixed mortgage rate was 6.86% and the 15-year fixed rate was 6.12%. Specific mortgage rates will vary based on factors including credit score, down payment, debt-to-income ratio and loan-to-value ratio.

Lower fixed-rates can be obtained by paying mortgage or discount points up front in exchange for a lower interest rate and resulting in a lower monthly payment. 🏡

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



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INTRODUCING NMT-BAM DAY For Women Who Don't Have an Inner Mom

By Patricia Cosner Kubic, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Mother's Day has always been an odd-duck day for me. And thankfully, I'm not alone in that feeling: nobody wants to feel alone, particularly when having emotions that many people do not understand. I bow down, acknowledging mothers' infinite tasks, many without getting a thank



You can reach Patricia at pkubic@gmail.com.

you. I watch my mom friends, and I honestly don't know how they keep their family trains running. Our individual family bubbles would be so much less without all the things that moms do. When my mom was still on Earth, I hoped she felt treasured on Mother's Day. I loved buying her the fanciest card I could find, wrapping multiple presents, taking her out for lunch, and, most of all, filling up her terracotta porch pots with bright flowers. I specifically bought hardy flowers so they would last until the first frost. From May to October, I hoped she would think about how much I loved her whenever she looked at those vibrant flowers.

But that's as much as Mother's Day means to me. And that's probably how it goes for other women born without the need to reproduce. I spent decades periodically trying to explain what it is like not to have the desire for a child. As it goes, many of my mom friends are not into sports. Me – pretty much every day, I'm checking

the score of a game. So, I ask them what they thought of the Tigers' last game, and they shrug their shoulders and tell me they didn't know there was a game and don't really have any interest in it. I get it. I tell them that is exactly what it is like not wanting a child...I don't think about it; I have no interest, and, of course, I shrug my shoulders. Yes, there is a monumental difference between a ballgame and a child, but sometimes, they look at me as if I have a third eye. Not wanting a child is inconceivable to some of them. And when they don't even try to understand, I feel isolated.

So, on Mother's Day, it feels like the world is going to a party I wasn't invited to. On the one hand, that's okay because I'm not aligned with the reason for the big festivities. On the other hand, it's another reminder of how women like me can feel like a square peg in society's vast array of round holes.

When Mother's Day cards flood the greeting card isles, I wish we had

"Not Meant To Be A Mommy" Day (obviously, the acronym NMT-BAM is necessary). It could be a day to acknowledge this unique dissimilarity; heck, maybe even celebrate it. It could help counteract the strangers who, over the years, have arrogantly told me that I'm missing out on life because I don't want children. Women like me didn't have a choice in this decision – it's how we were born and is unchangeable.

I know the world doesn't need another holiday, another lifestyle to celebrate. But maybe having a private NMT-BAM Day is the thing to do. It could be a day, any day, to take stock in the myriad of ways NMT-BAM's help support their partners, extended families, precious friends, and hopefully, a few stray animals. And on behalf of all those people and animals, let me be the first to thank you for all you do, especially when your wit is absolutely hitting its end, and wish you a Happy NMT-BAM Day whenever you celebrate it. 🌱

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Hearing Loss Prevention and Treatment for Better Hearing & Speech Month

Better Hearing and Speech Month was founded in 1927, by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and on May 21, 1986, hearing impaired President Ronald Reagan designated May as Better Speech and Hearing Month. May gives us all the opportunity to self-reflect and raise awareness about the causes and treatments of hearing loss, speech impediments and communication disorders. These conditions affect everyone. Either we are personally struggling or someone close to us is, and we owe it our ourselves and our loved ones to seek treatment for a better quality of life!

Aging and noise exposure or a combination of both are the two most common causes of hearing loss. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 40 million Americans have noise-induced hearing loss. Noise-induced hearing loss is caused by long-term exposure to sounds that are either too loud or last too long. We can prevent noise-induced hearing loss by limiting our exposure to loud noises and environments. However, because we can't stop the aging process, even if we'd like to, staying in overall great health and limiting our intake of ototoxic medications will help with the longevity of our hearing health. The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders states that approximately one in three people in the United States between the ages of 65 and 74 has hearing loss, and nearly half of those older than 75 have difficulty hearing. When left untreated, hearing loss can lead to worse problems in the future, so prevention and early treatment is critical!

SOME OF THE BEST WAYS TO PREVENT HEARING LOSS ARE:

- Limit your exposure to loud noises, such as music, machinery, etc.
- Wear protective gear, such as earplugs/earmuffs, when in loud environments.
- Avoid taking ototoxic medicine where hearing loss is a possible side effect.

SOME OF THE BEST FORMS OF EARLY TREATMENT ARE:

- Get a thorough hearing examination to evaluate your current status.
- Use assistive medical devices, such as hearing aids, to amplify sounds.
- Continually monitor your hearing health by getting regular checkups.

WAYS TO PREVENT NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS (NIHL)



This May let's make a pledge to first know where we personally stand with our own hearing health and educate ourselves about the warning signs, condition and treatment options for hearing loss. Next, let's reach out to friends and loved ones that we think might be battling with some degree of hearing loss. If someone is constantly asking us to repeat ourselves in conversation or they listen to the TV or radio much louder than normal, these are great indicators that they may have some degree of hearing loss and could benefit from a comprehensive hearing exam to diagnose the problem. Lastly, let's raise awareness in our local communities by participating and sharing events that support the efforts to shine light on hearing loss and related conditions, treatments and solutions.

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

Annual Appointment Checkup May 1 - 31, 2023

Medical professionals report it is important for people age 50 and over to have their hearing evaluated annually. That's why we are sponsoring a **FREE Hearing Screening May 1 - 31, 2023**, to assess your hearing health.



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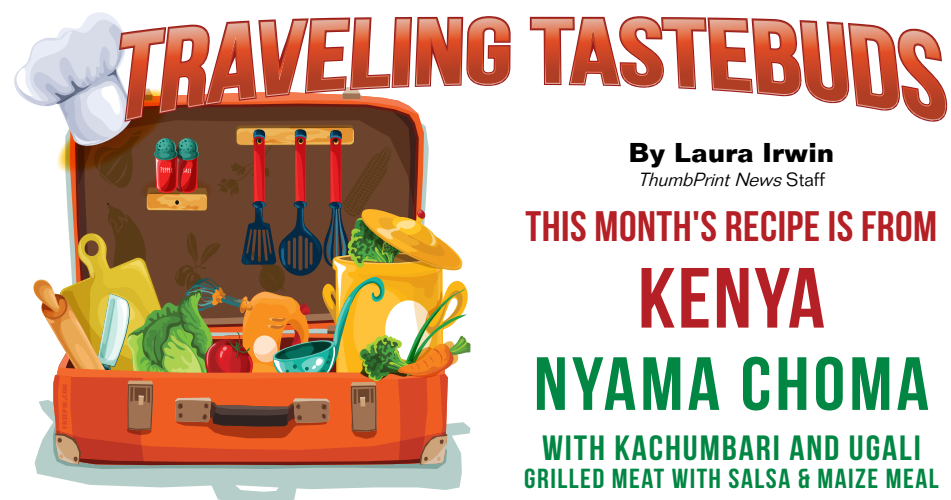
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By Laura Irwin
ThumbPrint News Staff

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE IS FROM
KENYA
NYAMA CHOMA
WITH KACHUMBARI AND UGALI
GRILLED MEAT WITH SALSA & MAIZE MEAL

We are headed to Kenya to try their national dish of grilled meat over an open fire and eaten with your fingers. The name directly translated from Swahili means burnt meat. Pronounced Nai-aa-muh-chow-muh, it originated with the nomadic tribes, specifically the Maasai, who place a high value on their livestock.

Kenyan Quick Facts:

- Kenya is a country in East Africa with a coastline on the Indian Ocean.
- Nairobi is the capital and largest city with a population of 4.39 million.
- Kenya has 22 national parks and 28 reserves managed and maintained by the Kenya Wildlife Service.
- The Great Rift Valley that runs through Kenya from north to south was formed over 25 million years ago by geological tension in the earth's crust. It is over 4,000 miles long and 37 miles wide and is home to several unique habitats for wildlife.
- With only two official languages, Kiswahili (Swahili) and English, you might be surprised to hear there are over 65 languages spoken throughout the country.
- The first woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize was from Kenya; Wangari Muta Haathi won in 2004 for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace.
- Coffee is the country's most valuable export and is so highly valued that most Kenyans do not drink it regularly.
- The Great Wildebeest Migration has no beginning or end point. It is a year-round cycle with no start or finish. The wildebeest, zebra and antelope migrate in a clockwise loop between Kenya and Tanzania.



Maasai villagers



Typical Maasai village



VOCABULARY VOYAGE

Compiled By Laura Irwin, ThumbPrint News Staff

Lietuvių Patarlė Lithuanian Proverb

Namų šeimininkės grožis į sriubą daugiau riebalų neįdės.
(The beauty of a housewife will not put more fat into the soup.)

An Exploration of Universally Relatable Words from Countries Across the Globe

baltas pavydas bal-tas / 'bòl-tas | pav-y-das / 'pav-ē-dās

These words translate to “white envy” meaning being jealous without any negativity or nastiness. You would use this phrase when a good friend is going to do something that makes them very happy while you are stuck working late or doing something less exciting. *Ex: May baltas pavydas be the only type of jealousy you ever feel.*

nepakartojama nep-a-kar-to-jama | ne-pə'kär tòi jə-mä

This word is an adjective used to describe an absolutely perfect situation that will never happen again. It directly translates into “unable to repeat”. *Ex: I find that when I experience nepakartojama it is completely unexpected and therefore all the more perfect because of it.*

pasikaustęs pas-i-kaus-tes | pä-zē'kò stə

A word translating to someone literally “putting horseshoes on themselves.” In other words, a person with a perfect set of skills, talent and luck to be successful. *Ex: When encountering someone with pasikaustes, remember to feel only baltas pavydas, whether you know them or not.*



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

INGREDIENTS**FOR THE NYAMA CHOMA**

- 2 c warm water
- 2 tsp salt
- 2 tbsp minced garlic
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tbsp black pepper
- 6 tbsps vegetable oil
- 2 lbs goat meat (traditional) can also use beef or chicken with adjusted cooking times

FOR THE KACHUMBARI

- 2 c warm water
- ½ tsp salt
- 4 fresh tomatoes
- 2 onions, chopped
- pepper to taste
- chopped fresh cilantro leaves
- 1 tbsps lemon juice

FOR THE UGALI

- 4¼ c water
- 2½ c corn flour (masa flour)

**DIRECTIONS****NYAMA CHOMA****PREPARATION**

1. Wash meat and set aside.
2. Make diagonal cuts on either side of the meat about ¼-½" deep.
3. In a separate bowl, mix the ginger and garlic, lemon juice, pepper and water. Then pour the mixture over the meat to marinate it.
4. Cover the meat and leave for 2 hours or overnight to marinate completely.

COOKING

1. Heat your grill to be very hot.
2. Spread the cooking oil over the meat and place it on the grill.
3. Dissolve the salt in warm water and sprinkle it over the meat while cooking to prevent it from drying out.
4. Allow meat to brown evenly on both sides.
5. Once cooked to medium, sprinkle generously with salty water and wrap them in foil. Make sure the foil is well sealed, with no holes.
6. Charcoal should now be low for the meat to cook slowly without burning.
7. Place meat (wrapped in foil) back on the grill to continue cooking for 45 minutes to 1 hour. The meat will steam inside the foil as it continues to cook and will remain soft and moist.
8. When ready, unwrap, cut into bite-sized pieces for serving.

Author's note: Goat meat is not readily available at stores in my area. I sent my adventurous spouse on the road to a specialty meat market in Sterling Heights to pick it up. He bought it already cut in pieces which did alter our cooking time. We marinated it overnight and grilled it over hot coals. My husband loved it! I, on the other hand, almost gagged. Not my flavor, not my texture! I did notice how tender the meat was and that the spices were very good from the very small, very short-lived time I had it in my mouth. I believe it is an acquired taste and for tastebuds more sophisticated than mine. I didn't do the other recipes, I cheated and made regular cornbread and a tomato-cucumber salad. Much more to my liking. :)

KACHUMBARI

1. Slice the onion and soak it in warm water with ½ teaspoon salt for 20 minutes to reduce bitterness
2. Slice or chop the tomatoes
3. Once the onions are done soaking, drain them, then combine with the tomatoes and pepper, cilantro and lemon juice.

UGALI

1. Place the water in a pot on high heat.
2. Once the water gets warm, add half the amount of cornflour and stir it. Continue to stir until it thickens and becomes porridge. When you start seeing bubbles, cover the pot and leave it to cook for 4 minutes on medium heat.
3. Remove the pot from the heat and add the rest of the cornflour. Stir it. As you mix in the rest of the cornflour it will become harder, almost like play dough, continue to mould it until all the flour is mixed in, and mash all the lumps.
4. Then spread it flat at the bottom of the pot as much as possible, cover, and return to medium heat.
5. After 4 minutes, open and stir it up in order to turn it, and spread it back on the bottom, cover, and put back on the heat. Repeat twice.
6. Mould it in the middle of the pot into a nice round shape, and place on a serving dish.



We're still hoping to receive some international recipes from our readers! Recipes can be submitted to thumbprintnews@comcast.net. We'll be sure to share these recipes in future editions so that we may all take a journey around the world through the recipes that are shared.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

By **Bob Jones**
ThumbPrint News Columnist

The baseball soared mightily over the centerfield wall, a home run, having been struck with a 34-inch ash bat with the Jackie Robinson label on it.

Upon rounding the bases, the runner, a 19-year-old college freshman at the peak of his physical prowess, touched each bag and made a beeline to the final destination – home plate.

After touching the plate, the player watched the billowing orange-brown dust he created swirl over the visitor's dugout, drawing his eyes into the stands above.

His heart leaped as he suddenly came face to face with his grandfather. He had not expected him to be in attendance that day as his health was failing and those who knew him best said he was at death's door.

Broad smiles broke out on both the player's and the elder gentleman's faces at seemingly the same moment.

The young man bounded into the dugout and was now concealed from view by all the fans behind him, his grandfather included.

A chill ran down his arms and goose-bumps broke out. He wept. He would savor his achievement, but only briefly as the third out of the inning was made and he had to return to his defensive position at first base.

After the game, victory in hand, the player and his grandfather hugged and talked baseball. Discussing both the new game and the old, the virtues of the game, the honor and the code of togetherness which brings generations of players and fans together out in neighborhoods, on street corners, and on sanctioned diamonds throughout the world.

The cast of characters, their ages, and varying ethnicities may change, but the game is basic and ever-present.

Peering into the open casket, the young player again wept and the goose-bumps erupted upon his neck and arms once again. The grandfather, a former player, was now at peace in his own field of dreams.

The young man's aunt peered into the casket, then turned to her nephew to speak:

"He would want you to have this – his first baseman's mitt. We all know how you both loved the game. Keep it as a reminder. I remember, too, when the two of you would sit on his front porch and talk baseball well into the night. He would want you to keep playing, be loyal and true to yourself and the game." The player wept again. The game he loved brought him closer to his own family.

The young man grew old but kept his promise to his grandfather to be true to himself and loyal to the game. He always tried to play the game fair and square. He coached his daughter in the skills of the game and she took it to heart.

Now, his daughter has two sons who will eventually be instructed in the games' skills, rituals, and history, and the generations will connect yet again, creating new memories and new promises for each future generation.

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

"What befalls the earth, befalls all the sons and daughters of the earth." – Chief Seattle

Chief Seattle's tombstone in the Suquamish Tribal Cemetery in Suquamish, Washington

Chief Seattle (Si'ahl or Seathl) was a Suquamish and Duwamish chief who lived on the islands of Puget Sound. As a young warrior, he was known for his daring, courage and leadership. He eventually gained control of six local tribes and pursued friendly relations with the white settlers. This quote is an excerpt from his famous speech to the President of the United States, Franklin Pierce, after being requested to sell his peoples' lands.

Died - June 7, 1866

IN AN EMERGENCY: Know before you go



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Redwork Embroidery

An Old Favorite of Yesterday and Today

Redwork embroidery is one of my all-time favorite kinds of sewing to do. There are so many patterns and books available with photos of quilts that were done way back when. Redwork patterns came to the United States before the Civil War. Also prior to the war, cotton was available and there was lots of it. Some general stores sold muslin squares that came preprinted in red ink. They were simple enough for everyone to use. The embroidery floss color that was popular back then was called Turkey red. I always thought it was the sweetest shade of red ever, when I used it for my own projects, it just looked wonderful.

I've always been a fan of the old-fashioned quilting styles, the Log Cabin, Grandmother's Fan, even the Wedding Ring quilts, but I've completed just as many Redwork quilts. One

of my favorites, Sunbonnet Sue done in Redwork turned out just beautiful when finished. There are also lots of farm animal quilts done in Redwork. They are simple and easy to do. Something else that is so nice about working on a Redwork project is that it's so portable. When I visit family, I always like to have a sewing project to work on while I sit and chat, I can have a small tote and I only have to carry the project, my scissors and lots of red floss. It can't get any simpler than that.

Even now, there are companies that sell the stamped cotton which you embroider in Redwork, and also those that sell blocks printed in red that can be embroidered on. They are simple patterns and so much fun to do, that is if you're like me and love Redwork.

Recently, I had the chance to prepare a Redwork quilt that was worn in several places around the edges of a few blocks. However, most of the worn areas were at the top along the binding where it had been used

and pulled up around the body to keep warm. It's always been my feeling that quilts are made and meant to be used, not stored in a cabinet or drawer. This quilt certainly had a lot of use, and it was loved. Which makes me very happy, and I have a feeling that the person who made it was also pretty happy.

Redwork quilts will continue to be one of my favorites, I have another Sunbonnet Sue project waiting for me, I just need to move my sleeping puppy. 🐶

By Theresa Nielsen
ThumbPrint News Columnist





By Rita MacDonald

ThumbPrint News Columnist

Every day I come across all sorts of people. You probably do, too. Sometimes, I just have short two- or three-sentence conversations while standing in line at

the post office, or other times, I'll have longer exchanges while doing a myriad of things throughout the day. I pretty much talk to everyone.

My friend Nancy recently insisted I have a conversation with a friend of hers, telling me what an incredible human being this gentleman was. She specifically wanted him to tell me a particular story that took place many decades ago. So, I called him one night.

Wow!

In a world where it seems that no one cares about anyone but themselves lately, chatting with this man and listening to him re-tell the very story my friend wanted him to share was such a breath of fresh air. And couldn't we all use just a few breaths of fresh air lately in this broken, chaotic, discouraging world?

Yep, I thought you'd agree.

His name is Jim, and he says he's just an ordinary guy.

It was several decades ago, Jim said - 43 years to be exact. He was out enjoying a beautiful summer day in his yard in Chesterfield Township, when he suddenly heard a high-pitched scream. Jim didn't know what was going on, but his intuition kicked in and he knew something was not right. He glanced over his fence and saw that his neighbor was yelling frantically for help, and Jim knew he needed to get to him. This self-proclaimed "ordinary guy" immediately hurdled three fences without effort and realized that one of his neighbors' two-year-old twin boys had fallen into Lake St. Clair. The young boy's father pulled him out of the water by his diaper, but the man was leaning over his son on the ground, unsure of what to do next. At that point, the boy was already blue and no longer breathing. Jim took over and quickly administered life-saving CPR to the little boy, and says he eventually gurgled up some water and opened his eyes. Jim picked up the little boy who was now awake, and the paramedics arrived shortly afterward.

Jim has kept this story and the certificates he received recognizing

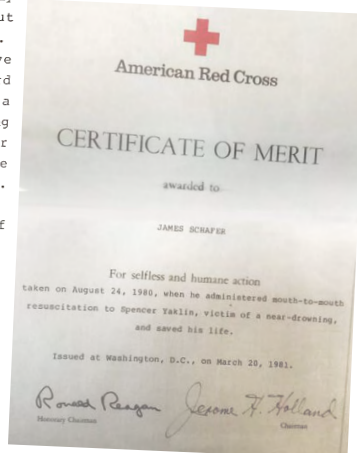
his heroic efforts safely tucked away for many decades. He says he often thinks about the little guy, his brother, and their dad, and hopes they are doing well.

For selfless and humane action
in saving the life of a near-drowning victim

On August 24, 1980, Mr. Schafer, trained in Red Cross advanced first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), was at home when he heard a neighbor's cry for help. Going to the scene, Mr. Schafer found a 2-year-old boy who was unconscious and who appeared to be cyanotic. After determining that the victim was not breathing, Mr. Schafer cleared the victim's airway and began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. He continued his efforts for approximately a minute until the victim began to breathe on his own. Without doubt, the use of first aid by Mr. Schafer saved the victim's life.

For this act of mercy Mr. Schafer has been named to receive the Red Cross Certificate of Merit. This is the highest award given by the American Red Cross to a person who saves or sustains a life by using skills and knowledge learned in a volunteer training program offered by the Red Cross in first aid, small craft or water safety. The Certificate bears the original signatures of the President of the United States, Honorary Chairman, and Jerome H. Holland, Chairman of the American Red Cross.

This action exemplifies the highest ideal of the concern of one human being for another who is in distress.



I later learned that Jim was a dedicated and highly respected firefighter with the Chesterfield Township Fire Department from 1977 to 2012. According to his son, this was only one of many selfless acts during his 37 years of service, including once when he performed CPR on someone walking into church for Mass. Jim's son (also Jim), says his dad "remains humble and always ready to leap into action," even in his retirement years. He attributes the high values and morals instilled in him and his six siblings to his

mom and dad, and he says his dad is truly a "modern-day hero", as well as the very reason he chose to follow in his footsteps and become a firefighter. Thirty-three years later, he still loves his job. "Love what you do, and you will never work a day in your life," Jim said to me, and it has stuck with me since.

Jim had been trained by the American Red Cross in Basic Life Support skills, and he encourages everyone to get training in basic life-saving skills. "You never know when someone is going to need you," he adds. And I couldn't agree more!

**"Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor."
- 1 Corinthians 10:24**

You might think you're just an ordinary guy, Jim - but it seems to me you're quite **EXTRAORDINARY!** Thanks for hurdling those fences and helping your neighbor, and thanks for being such an encouragement and a breath of fresh air to all of us! 🍀

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PESTERING PROBLEMS Terrifying Ticks



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

Have you heard? Lyme disease is on the rise in Michigan, with nearly every county affected! We are now in the peak of tick season, which is generally May through September, when ticks are most active. It's important that you learn a bit more about these disease-spreading pests that are invading yards and houses, before they start attaching themselves to you and your pets alike. With over 650 different species of ticks, it isn't surprising Michigan has four commonly found varieties: the American Dog Tick, Brown Dog Tick, Lone Star Tick and the Blacklegged Tick (also known as a deer tick). Ticks will feed on almost all vertebrates – mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians! Though they cannot fly or jump, they can climb. Ticks will find their host by detecting body heat and carbon monoxide, and will then crawl upwards from close points to the ground until they reach the highest point on the human or animal host.

These pests can be very sneaky, and a bite from one is almost painless and can go unnoticed. When undetected, ticks can stay attached and feed on the host for several days. Once this feeding begins, the spread of diseases from infected ticks to their hosts becomes much more likely. The detection timeline varies with different ticks and diseases. Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) are among the several diseases that can be transmitted by ticks found in Michigan. Lyme disease is caused by a spiral-shaped bacterium, called spirochete. In most cases, to transmit Lyme disease, a deer tick must be attached for 10 to 12 hours. If the tick is found and removed within this timeframe, the risk of infection is greatly reduced. Early symptoms of Lyme disease can include rash, hives, redness of the cheeks and flu-like symptoms. Later symptoms can include headache, stiff neck, arthritis, neurological effects and facial paralysis.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, though not as common in Michigan as Lyme disease, is a bacterial disease that can be quite dangerous, and sometimes fatal, if untreated. In most cases, an infected tick only has to feed for six to 10 hours to start disease transmission. Again, if the tick is found and removed within this timeframe, the risk of infection is low. Early symptoms of RMSF are fever, headaches, nausea, vomiting, stomach or muscle pain or loss of appetite. Two to four days after the fever begins, a rash can also develop. There are antibiotic treatments for this disease available, though RMSF can leave patients with permanent damage to blood vessels.

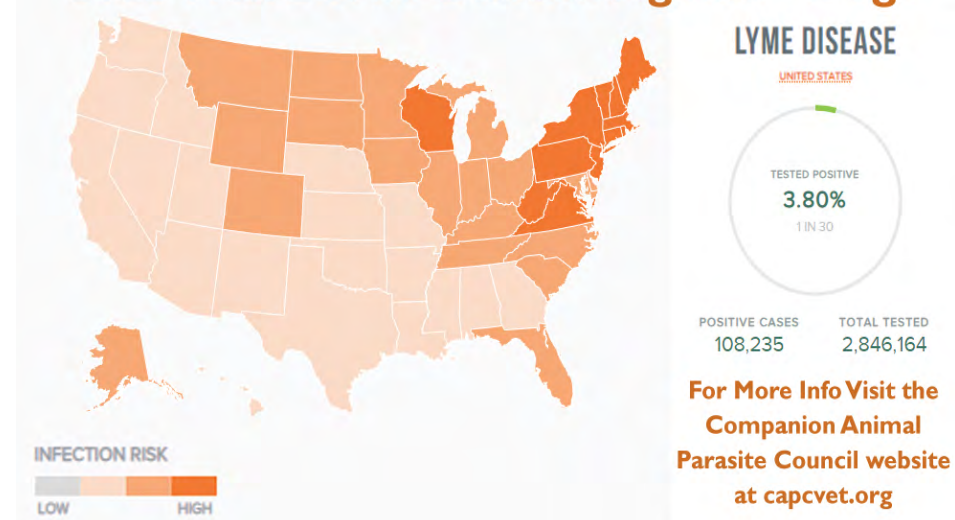
So what can you do? Be aware of where ticks live and be vigilant in checking yourself, family members and pets after spending time in their habitat. Ticks are attracted to grassy areas and areas of thick brush where little sunlight can penetrate. Clearing commonly-used areas like these around your home and other structures on your property can deter ticks from arriving to set up shop. It is also important to keep your grass maintained. If you are headed to wooded areas for an extended period of time, consider wearing light-colored clothing with long sleeves, pants with the hems tucked into socks, closed-toed shoes and use some type of repellent. Before returning indoors, always complete a full-body check to make sure no ticks

have hitched a ride with you. Removing a tick from clothing is not hard to do, but it is important to make sure the tick is dead so that it does not find its way back onto you.

If a tick does attach itself to skin, they become firmly planted and tough to remove. It is crucial that the removal is done correctly, so we recommend contacting a medical professional for instruction. If you have pets, contacting your vet early for advice on tick prevention is what we suggest. Ticks can reproduce at an alarming rate and can lay thousands of eggs. If you have seen or found one tick, chances are there are a lot more nearby. Ticks do not have many natural enemies, allowing them to grow significantly in numbers without being noticed, leading to a severe infestation.

Protect your family and pets by contacting ABC Bees, a division of ABC Home & Commercial Services, today! ABC Bees will evaluate your yard and create a custom program for tick prevention. Due to the nature of insects, there is no such thing as a complete elimination and treatment is recommended on a monthly basis. To achieve the best results, we need to work together to eliminate tick harborage and treat regularly. Also remember that ticks do not disappear with the warm weather like other Michigan pests. Ticks will stay active long after summer is gone and treatment must continue. Don't wait a minute longer to rid your yard of these dangerous pests! Call ABC Bees now to setup an appointment at (810) 794-5678. 🇺🇸

2023 Tick Borne Disease Agents - Dogs



CAPC (Companion Animal Parasite Council) predicts that in 2023, Lyme disease, a potentially fatal disease for pets, is expanding quickly. Transmitted by ticks, Lyme disease is spreading due to the expansion of tick host habitat range, primarily deer and rodents and migratory birds carrying ticks to new areas. Warmer weather and longer seasons for tick reproduction is also a factor. Veterinarians and pet owners should test pets annually and use tick preventatives year-round. A vaccination for Lyme disease should always be considered for pets in high-risk areas.

The geographic prevalence of Lyme disease continues to expand southward and westward. CAPC expects increases beyond last year's forecasts in eastern Kentucky, northeastern Tennessee, western Michigan and Ohio.

High-risk "hot-spots" are again predicted in northern and western lower Michigan, and southern and northeastern Ohio.

High risks of Lyme disease persist in all portions of the Northeast, the upper mid-western states of Wisconsin, Minnesota and the upper peninsula of Michigan. A higher-than-normal risk continues in North Dakota, northeastern South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois and eastern Kentucky.

The southward movement of Lyme disease is also evident in the increasing risk in the Carolinas and Tennessee. These emerging threats validate and emphasize CAPC reminders that pets and pet owners do not have to travel to the traditional endemic areas of the Northeast to encounter substantial Lyme disease risks.

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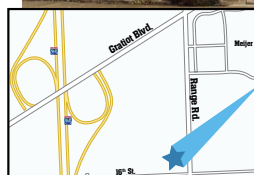
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MEMORIAL DAY, Continued from Page 1



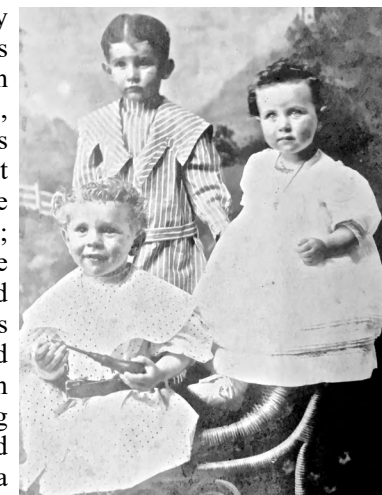
*My mother Agnes and
Grandpa Burleigh, c. 1910*

1890s (seen on the cover of this issue), shows the family standing in front of the farmhouse; so apparently, it was saved from the fire.

The second story my mother shared was from 1910, when she was just four years old. She recalled tiptoeing into her grandfather's room where Robert sat asleep in his chair. She had been told not to disturb him because he was dying. She watched him, holding her breath, and finally whispered, "Grandpa?" His eyes opened and she screamed, running from the room. Beyond that, silence. Can anyone tell me who their parents were, or where they came from?

The next two generations are much more familiar to me because, as a boy during the Second World War, I spent many happy days visiting my relatives in the Thumb. But to me, the four Burleigh girls were already old ladies by then.

My great aunt Barbara, the oldest of the Burleigh daughters, had married Burt Libkuman, and they lived 10 miles southwest in Elkton where Burt and his sons ran the butcher shop. Burt and my grandfather Charles had been lumberjacks together and courted two of the Burleigh girls together. Burt and Barbara's three sons, Burleigh, Rex and Herbert, were my mother's favorite cousins. Uncle Burt had a boat at Bayport in which he took us fishing, and he butchered as many deer as steers or hogs; my memories of visiting his family are always linked to the smells of perch and venison cooking – campfire smells. He was a quietly humorous man – his tanned, lined face looked like a classic Native American profile, and there was always a smile playing at the corners of his mouth. Aunt Barb had a good sense of humor too, as well as a raucous laugh. Their whole family seemed to enjoy life, hunting, fishing, playing cards and practical jokes on each other. Spending time with them was always a fun time.



*The Libkuman boys:
Burleigh (standing on the upper left),
Rex (sitting on the right) and
Herbert (sitting on the lower left)*

The second-oldest Burleigh girl was Mary, my grandmother. Mary was a smart, steady and serious woman. You can read all about Mary and her husband Charles in my article "An Unsung Hero" on page 2 of the September 2022 issue of *ThumbPrint News*.

A couple of years younger than my grandmother was Great Aunt Margaret, always known as Maggie. She was the unmarried one, but she certainly didn't fit the stereotype of an old maid. She was big and buxom, loved jokes, and worked as a milliner in several towns of the Thumb. She lived a flexible life. When my father was working at the Jefferson Beach Amusement Park, she came down to run a hot dog stand for the summer. During the Second World War, she was a housekeeper for a bachelor in Marlette, which her neighbors considered shocking. From 1940 on, when she came to visit, she was always accompanied by a small woman with a limp and a face just short of grotesque, whom everyone called "Smith" – just that. I remember Smith as quiet, a bit shy, but friendly, with a big smile. No one talked about who she was, where she came from, or why she was Aunt Maggie's best friend.

Before Aunt Maggie died, she gave my mother two "crazy quilts" (oddly shaped bits of velvet, satin, embroidered and printed fabrics in wildly contrasting rich colors) which she had made from the scraps of her milliner's work. They were always our favorite bed covers, and many years later, my wife made one of them into a striking ball gown. Aunt Maggie's funeral was the rowdiest I had ever attended. Her sisters and their daughters and daughters-in-law were appropriately solemn; but to their disgust, the men (among them were the Libkuman boys and my dad) were having an old-

fashioned wake, telling hilarious stories about their favorite aunt. My dad told them about the time she drove into our yard just as he was walking out the door with a cup of coffee he had slipped some brandy into. "Taste this," he said to her, and she took a big swig just seconds before my mother rushed up and kissed her. My mother said, "Why Aunt Maggie, you've been drinking!" and Aunt Maggie said to my father, "You sneaky son of a—" and the funeral party burst into laughter and drank to her memory.



The Burleigh girls in their teens:
Sadie, Maggie, Barb, Mary (sitting)

Aunt Sadie was the youngest of the four Burleigh girls. I suppose her name was Sarah, after her mother's sister, but she was always called Sadie. She was small and slender, with a delicate sweet face, and she absolutely radiated warmth and goodness. She had trained to be a teacher but married Roland Soldan, who ran the dairy in North Branch. They had one son, Bob, who was a sailor in the Second World War, and just a few years older than me. During the war, whenever we visited North Branch, I not only got free sodas and sundaes at the dairy, but I got to play with Bob's old toys and talk to Aunt Sadie, who simply adored children.

About four miles east of North Branch was my Uncle Will McDonald's farm. He was my grandfather's younger brother, and by the time I knew him, he had a big dairy farm with a huge barn and a large comfortable farmhouse with every issue of *National Geographic* in glass-fronted bookcases. I remember his wife, my aunt Grace, cooked breakfast, lunch and dinner for family and farmhands on a huge iron range. Uncle Will delivered his milk to Soldan's dairy. Uncle Will was my grandfather's best man, and Aunt Sadie was my grandmother's maid of honor, so they were close, though not directly related. During the war, I always got to spend at least a week each summer at Uncle Will's, playing in the hay loft, riding the tractor and reading *National Geographic* – a large part of my education.

I have no idea why Uncle Will decided to spell his name McDonald, the Irish way, instead of MacDonald like my grandfather, but my grandfather always brought it up whenever Uncle Will twitted him about anything. They always ended up patting each other's backs and laughing. Will and Grace had two sons and each of them had several boys and girls, who came from Detroit and Flint for picnics in the summer. Burleigh, Rex and Herbert Libkumen all had kids too, so I was surrounded by first and second cousins whenever we visited the Thumb. And despite the tensions and shortages that went with the War, I remember clearly that the old folks and the young adults and the kids enjoyed life to the full.

I look back on that time now, and try to recall signs of the tension, anger and misunderstanding that so often seem to bedevil families today – and it simply wasn't there. Everyone worried about Bob being in the Pacific, but they were immensely proud of him. Some were bemused by the presence of Smith, but simply took it for granted that it was Maggie's business. Perhaps there were some who were outright Republicans or Democrats, but it certainly never came up in the conversations about Roosevelt's wartime measures, which were routinely accepted as necessary. We missed sugar and gasoline – but among hunters, fishermen, farmers, dairymen and the bounty of the Thumb, I suppose we were among the most favored in the nation and didn't even realize it.

And that generation went to their rest, honored, missed and mourned. And the next went as well, missed and mourned by children who were somehow not as well-prepared for that ritual of memorial; or even for living life – richly, day by day, as their grandparents had. Thus, while I may or may not be able to find the graves of my loved ones this year, I will still be honoring and remembering them this Memorial Day. 🌿

Editorial note: Arthur is a professor emeritus of the University of Detroit Mercy, a longtime published playwright, director and professional actor; born in Michigan and an amateur historian, living in Warren.

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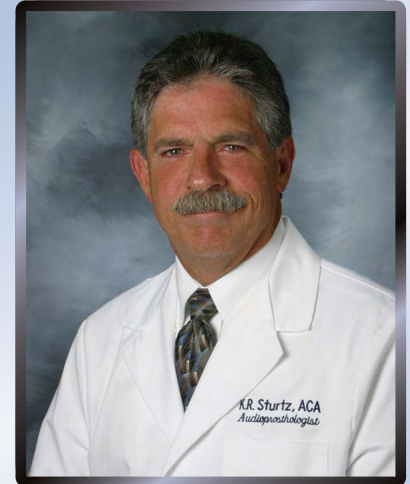
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That I finally know just what to say.*

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REACHING OUT TO OUR POLICE

By David Gillis, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

It seems to me that the news we receive far too often about the law enforcement officers in our nation is negative. It appears, too, that if there is a news story to be had, it relates to what's wrong rather than what's right. Are there many searches for what's good, what's right, and what's positive in the ranks of police officers nationally or even locally?

Too often, the difficult and dangerous work our police officers do goes unnoticed or unrecognized. Many citizens really do not think about what police do each day in their community until they are needed to assist with a problem. There are many reasons to thank our local police departments. Let's consider just a few.

Regardless of the size and location of your community, the work is dangerous. Every day police officers leave their homes and families prepared to serve and protect us from undesirable and dangerous elements within our community. They may have no expectation about what they may encounter or of what actions they may have to take but may have thoughts about different dangerous situations that could end with them being hurt or even killed. All of this in the name of public service and safety. That's probably not a job many people would sign up for, and it is sad that many of us truly ignore the good that police do on a daily basis.

Just to provide an example, would anyone of us ever willingly confront an unruly intoxicated person outside your home or building at 3:00 a.m.? How about a suspected drug addict in your neighborhood or a domestic violence issue next door? We normally do not want to deal with these people, so we call the police. Our law enforcement officers address these situations often and because you called, they respond. Those are not easy circumstances physically or mentally, but they do it so we do not have to.

Certainly, in addition to serving and protecting their community daily, police officers are faced with having to do their work with the knowledge that any miscalculation in judgment or mistake made when quick action is necessary will surely find its way to the media. In the process, people who may never even interact with police officers form negative images of them from the media coverage received.

I have heard occasional comments like, "They're just out to get you." Really? Their job is to protect, not to harm their community. If they are treated with respect, they will reciprocate. Officers, unfortunately, often take abuse from people who do not know them and simply may not like police. Does that sound real? Well, unfortunately, it is. Showing a little respect goes a long way when just speaking with a police officer. You probably received a traffic citation because you were violating the law, not because the officer just felt like giving it to you.

As an important consideration is this: Police officers are human too. They are your neighbors, they live and shop in your community, their children attend school with yours, and they attend the same churches you do. This may be something that is too often overlooked. Possibly it is because of the uniform and the badge, but some people often think that police officers are very different from them. Simply put, however, they are not. They are not infallible and sometimes make mistakes as we all do. That is not a good reason to treat them with contempt or attempt to make their job more difficult.

So why am I focusing on our police officers for this article? Well, I have known many police officers in my life and understand the mental and emotional aspects of the job. I have served in a police volunteer capacity for two different departments in two different states. I have been a police department chaplain and have witnessed the stress that necessarily comes with the territory.

There is certainly more that can be added to this brief essay and many of our readers could easily contribute to it in a very positive manner. It is easy, however, to forget all the hard work and individual, as well as family sacrifices police officers, bring to their jobs on a daily basis. I sincerely encourage that we all, regardless of the community in which we reside, try saying thank you or showing some appreciation the next time we see a police officer. A little respect goes a long way.

As a final note, National Police Week is recognized May 14-20, 2023, and incorporated within that week is the National Peace Officer Memorial Day on May 15. This would be a great time to reach out with a special emphasis on how important they are in our lives and to our communities. 🌻



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DIGITAL SPRING CLEANING

Spring weather is finally here, and as we all start to shake off our winter blues one of the potential things on our to-do lists will be spring cleaning! The start of a new season presents a good opportunity to create a fresh start, but have you thought about decluttering and safeguarding your online presence?

Taking some simple, proactive steps will go a long way in safeguarding against any number of potentially disruptive issues like identity theft, loss of funds or credit card fraud. Take the time to put into practice a few precautionary measures and you will have greater peace of mind – not only this spring but all year round.


Spring is a great time to do a digital spring cleaning, in addition to the spring cleaning some may be doing around their home. It is so important to take the time to update your computer software and make sure your privacy settings on your social media and email accounts are up to date. These types of things are just another means to protect your personal information online.

Better Business Bureau® Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula shares these steps you can take when giving your online presence a good spring cleaning:

- **Lock down your login:** Security is critical to protecting accounts being used for work and for home. Ensure passphrases for each account are lengthy, unique, and safely stored. Enable 2-factor authentication on all accounts that offer it.
- **Update your system and software:** Avoid procrastination! Having the most current software, web browsers and operating systems are some of the easiest and fastest ways to protect your most sensitive assets.
- **Back it up:** Protect your personal and workplace data by making electronic copies – or backups – of your most important files. Use the 3-2-1 rule to help guide you: 3 backup copies, 2 different media types, and 1 offline in a separate location.
- **Clean up your online presence:** When was the last time you used all the apps on your phone or tablet? Do you know what the settings are on all your social media accounts? Check up on all your accounts. Then, control your role by making sure you know who has administrative access to your accounts. Keep all your passwords private.
- **Be careful what you share:** Quizzes on social media are fun and keeping in touch is a necessity these days. However, questions on social media might give away too much information about you, your location or your family.

It's never a bad time to ensure your software and personal information is protected. For more tips on how to protect your online presence, visit bbb.org.

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



Melanie Duquesnel

NOTES FROM OUR READERS

Love your newspaper!!!
 Thank you for all the hard work you put into it!
 William Thompson, Macomb, MI
ThumbPrint News Subscriber

Thank you, William,
 We always appreciate a kind word, as well as all of our wonderful subscribers!
 Please look forward to another year of issues!
ThumbPrint News Staff

Dear Patricia,
 I read your article "A New Type of Love" in our local newspaper and was touched by your deep appreciation for all of the people who helped you. Grief is an emotion that impacts us throughout life. How wonderful to have those who lighten the load. Thank you.
 Sincerely, Claudia

Hi Claudia,
 Thank you so much for taking time to drop me a note...it absolutely means the world to me. My husband and I are still grateful for the compassion those four people showed us. As always, I hope my columns inspire people to spread kindness everywhere they go.

Claudia, thank you, again, for your note and on behalf of everyone at the *ThumbPrint News*, we look forward to offering you more interesting and useful articles in the future. All the best to you this Spring!!

Sincerely, Patricia Cosner Kubic

Dear *ThumbPrint News* Team,
 This is a photo of me with your April 2023 issue that my friend took for me at the Retro Fitness in Rochester.

I love reading all of your great stories. My favorite is the "Pet Photo Challenge" and decided to submit mine and my sister's dogs for this issue. I look forward to seeing her and her best friend! I also enjoyed reading all about National ASL Day and learning some sign language.

Thank you,
 Carolyn Ballard, Rochester Hills, MI

Thank you, Carolyn, for being such a big fan of our paper. We're glad you enjoy reading and learning from it each month. And thank you for sharing the photos of your favorite pets!

ThumbPrint News Staff



THUMBPRINT NEWS PET PHOTO CHALLENGE

Molly and Cooper are back for more!
 Molly belongs to Carolyn Ballard of Rochester Hills, MI. Cooper is her sister Janet's dog. They are best pals.



Molly is an 8-year-old Pitt Mix whose birthday is on 7/7. She is wonderfully sweet and loves ❤️ to see her picture in *ThumbPrint News*. She's getting a little older now and has to wear glasses to read. Her best friend, a French Bulldog named Cooper, is a bit younger at 6 and can still see just fine, despite his paper being upside down! 😊 I would also like to say that Bruno was just adorable last month. We all enjoy your paper, especially, your Pet Photo Challenge. Thank you for this fun column!

YOU CAN VIEW OUR ENTIRE MENAGERIE AT www.bit.ly/tpnpets
 make sure you type the link in with all lowercase letters

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

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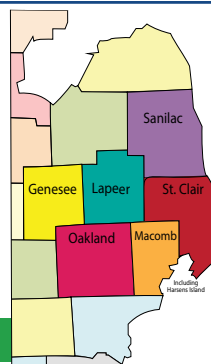
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Senior Pets

Keeping Your Senior Pets Healthy

By Dr. Elizabeth Gray
ThumbPrint News Columnist

A few months ago, my family and I said goodbye to our beloved Henrik. He was with us for 15 years. He began his life with me while I was still in vet school and a newlywed. He was just a tiny little guy, and the perfect birthday present for my husband. When I brought him home 15 years ago, I had no idea what an impact he would have on our growing family. His life was full of love, but unfortunately, his geriatric years also included diabetes and kidney failure.

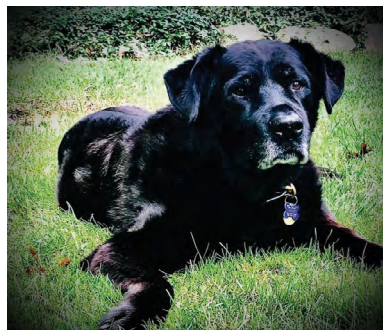


Just like us, pets require more frequent medical care as they age. Because pets age much faster than humans, some geriatric pets can benefit from increasing wellness exams to every six months. This can help detect problems sooner, allowing proper treatment.

Some examples of these common issues include dental disease, arthritis/lameness, eyesight, and lumps or masses.

Dental issues can arise quickly and cause pain. Look for subtle changes in appetite or eating behavior. As most of us know, dental issues can be sensitive or painful. This can make your pet hesitant to drink water or chew properly. Regular dental care, especially for geriatric pets, can help keep your pet's quality of life in a top-notch state.

Arthritis is a major concern for our aging pets. Some signs of arthritis include not jumping up on furniture, not asking to go outside as frequently, or stiffness when rising or laying down. One of the best ways to prevent or combat arthritis is maintaining a proper weight. Less weight means less stress on the joints. There are also several options for supplements to support joint health for both cats and dogs. Ask your vet if one is right for your pet. Over-the-counter options can be beneficial but take care to read the labels. While some formulations may seem less expensive, they may contain a fraction of the active ingredient your pet needs to see the benefits. Sometimes our pets need more than supplements for joint health. There are many options to safely relieve arthritic pain that your vet can help with. From traditional pain medications, such as NSAIDs, to therapeutic laser sessions, there are many ways to help your pet maintain mobility.



Mordy, age 12

Eyesight can become an issue for geriatric pets as well. Issues such as glaucoma and cataracts can arise, especially if your pet's breed is predisposed. Eyesight loss can be difficult to detect, as dogs and especially cats can adapt extremely well to vision loss. If you have any concerns with your pet's vision, ask your vet. When caught early, some causes of sight loss can be managed, extending eyesight for your pet.

Lumps and bumps are a common issue for aging pets. Some lumps are of little concern and can be merely a cosmetic issue. Others, however, can be cancerous. It is best to have any new masses or changes in masses checked out by your veterinarian. If deemed necessary, your vet can take a sample from the mass or remove a suspicious mass completely. Once removed, testing can tell us exactly what the mass is, and if any further treatment is necessary. The earlier a mass is removed the better. Smaller masses mean smaller incisions, lower risk of complications, and shorter anesthesia time. If you find a lump don't wait!

Even if your pet doesn't show any signs of aging, annual wellness bloodwork is a great way to start off your pet's geriatric years. It usually requires only a small sample of blood and gives valuable information about the pet's internal function. This information includes kidney function, liver function and blood sugar, to name just a few. Next time your pet is due for an exam, consider adding this additional testing.

Many disease processes can be treated or managed, especially when

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detected in the early stages. If your pet requires long-term medications, this bloodwork can also help ensure their body can process it properly and minimize unwanted side

As our pets age, their daily needs can change. As you can see by this chart from the AVMA, both dogs and cats are in the equivalent of their "50s" at the age of 7. By 15 years old, pets are well into their "70s".



CAT YEARS	HUMAN YEARS
7	54
10	63
15	78
20	97



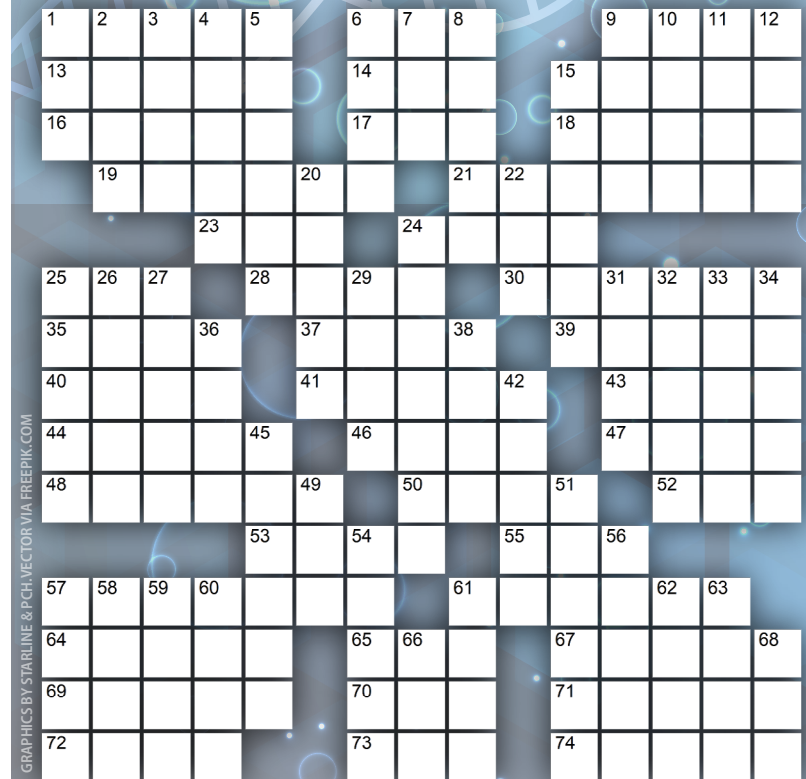
DOG YEARS	HUMAN YEARS (small to very large dogs)*
7	44 to 56
10	56 to 78
15	76 to 115
20	96 to 120

Age: Estimated Human Equivalents for Older Pets

*Small: 0-20 lbs; Medium: 21-50 lbs; Large: 51-90 lbs; Very large: >90 lbs

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

ANATOMY 101 CROSSWORD PUZZLE



GRAPHICS BY STARLINE & PCH VECTOR VIA FREEPK.COM

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ACROSS

1. Emir, alt. sp.
6. Comic book cry
9. *One of 27 in hand
13. Dhaka, formerly
14. Half man, half goat
15. Pressure ulcers, e.g.
16. Type of wrap
17. Old fashioned "before"
18. Do like ivy
19. *Smooth, skeletal or cardiac
21. *"Gray's _____", the textbook
23. Gardener's tool
24. Detected by olfactory system
25. Acronym-named sandwich
28. Sore throat voice
30. Retires from military service
35. Steak option
37. Place at angle
39. Double, in French
40. *Certain apple's namesake
41. Fork poker
43. Heavy metal's Quiet _____
44. *Pelvis bone
46. *Hardened keratin plate
47. Wedding promise?
48. Mandela
50. *Part of eye, not flower
52. Tokyo, formerly

DOWN

53. Alpine transport
55. Cuckoo
57. *Vein to "go for"
61. *Cell body, axon and dendrite
64. Use the other side of pencil
65. Caviar alternative
67. Mafia's top dogs
69. "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft _____"
70. Fuss
71. Modern correspondence
72. Opposite of want
73. Japanese currency
74. Pep gathering

ACROSS

20. Minimum
22. Endorsement
24. Alfresco
25. *It contains cerebellum and parietal lobe
26. Big Dipper shape
27. Hiker's path
29. *Largest organ
31. Fogginess
32. Speak one's mind
33. *AB+ or B-
34. Vigorous fight
36. Outback birds
38. Dam-like structure
42. Snail trail
45. Like certain Crüe
49. Giannis' league
51. Cup holder
54. Orderly arrangement
56. Popular movie genre
57. J in B. J. King
58. Serve as motive
59. Em's and Dorothy's last name
60. CPO, in auto industry
61. Glowing gas
62. Iridescent gem
63. Byproduct of wool combing
66. Percy Bysshe Shelley's poem
68. Canny

Answer Key on page 26

ADVERTISING 101 FROM THUMBPRINT NEWS

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Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object, person or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, go to www.thumbprintnews.com and enter your answer. Of all persons submitting the correct answer by the 12th of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a wonderful surprise gift at the end of the year, and announced in our January 2024 issue! On December 13, 2023, one winner will be drawn out of all the monthly winners and that lucky person will be notified via email.

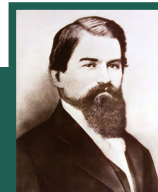
For our April 2023 contest, we asked our readers to identify what is being pictured to the right. Of all of those submitting the correct answer, Madelyn Zamora of Warren, Michigan, was randomly chosen as April's winner. While almost all of the guessers thought this was the center of a sunflower, Madelyn (and a couple others) correctly identified the picture as the center of a Shasta daisy.

Two flowers in one. The flat center of the daisy head is made up of many tiny flowers known as disc flowers (disc florets), which radiate symmetrically from the center of the disc. These disc flowers are the part of the daisy head that produces seeds. The outer row is the ray flowers (ray florets) surround the disc florets.

In 1890, Luther Burbank named them "Shasta," (*Leucanthemum x superbum*) believing the petals were as white as the snow atop nearby Mount Shasta in California, where he was breeding them.

Daisies have been around since 2200 BCE when the ancient Egyptians grew them in their gardens and used them as herbal medicine to slow bleeding, relieve indigestion and soothe coughs. Both the flowers and the leaves are edible and are often used in salads or teas.

The flower symbolizes innocence, purity, loyalty, patience, simplicity, and secrecy. The daisy is the official flower of the month of April.



For our May 2023 contest, we are asking our readers to identify who is pictured to the left and what he is famous for. If you think you know, visit www.thumbprintnews.com to answer. GOOD LUCK!



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June 9
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June 17
The Prince Experience
(18+)



June 24
David Brighton's Space Oddity
The Ultimate David Bowie Experience



<p>1 On this day in 1852, Calamity Jane, American frontierswoman, sharpshooter and storyteller is born.</p> 	<p>2 On this day in 2008, the first film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, <i>Iron Man</i>, is released.</p> 	<p>3 On this day in 1978, the first unsolicited bulk commercial email (spam) is sent by a Digital Equipment Corporation marketing representative to every ARPANET address on the U.S. west coast.</p>	<p>4 On this day in 1959, the first Grammy Awards is held.</p> 	<p>5 On this day in 1260, Kublai Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan, becomes ruler of the Mongol Empire.</p>	<p>6 On this day in 2001, during a trip to Syria, Pope John Paul II becomes the first pope to enter a mosque.</p>
<p>7 On this day in 1952, the concept of the integrated circuit, the basis for all modern computers, is first published by Geoffrey Dummer.</p>	<p>8 On this day in 1835, the first installment of Hans Christian Andersen's <i>Fairy Tales Told for Children</i> is published by C. A. Reitzel in Copenhagen, Denmark.</p>	<p>9 On this day in 1914, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson proclaims Mother's Day "as a public expression of love and reverence for the mothers of our country."</p> 	<p>10 On this day in 1994, Nelson Mandela is sworn in as South Africa's first black president.</p> 	<p>11 On this day in 1893, Henri Desgrange establishes the world's first bicycle world record, traveling 21.95 miles an hour.</p>	<p>13 On this day in 1767, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's first opera <i>Apollo et Hyacinthus</i>, written when he was 11 years old, premieres in Salzburg.</p>
<p>14 On this day in 1998, <i>Seinfeld's</i> final two-part episode "The Finale" airs on NBC to 76.3 million viewers with commercials priced at \$2 million for 30 seconds.</p>	<p>15 On this day in 1492, The Bread and Cheese Revolt, a folk uprising against tax oppression in North Holland, comes to an end when over 200 peasants are killed by German troops.</p>	<p>16 On this day in 1960, Theodore Maiman operates the first optical laser, at Hughes Research Laboratories in Malibu, California.</p>	<p>17 On this day in 1939, the first televised baseball game is broadcast on NBC, with Princeton defeating Columbia 2-1.</p>	<p>18 On this day in 1927, the Grauman's Chinese Theater opens in Hollywood, California.</p> 	<p>20 On this day in 1830, the Baltimore & Ohio Rail Road is the first to publishes their railroad timetable in a newspaper, the <i>Baltimore Patriot</i>.</p>
<p>21 On this day in 1932, Amelia Earhart completes the first transatlantic solo flight by a woman after 17 hours from Newfoundland to Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>22 On this day in 1980, the Japanese video game <i>Pac-Man</i> is played for the first time in Tokyo's Shibuya district.</p> 	<p>23 On this day in 1785, Benjamin Franklin announces his invention of bifocals.</p> 	<p>24 On this day in 1844, Samuel Morse taps out "What hath God wrought" in the world's first telegraph message.</p>	<p>25 On this day in 1977, the first Star Wars film <i>Episode IV - A New Hope</i>, directed by George Lucas and starring Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher and Harrison Ford, premieres.</p>	<p>26 On this day in 1897, <i>Dracula</i> by Irish author Bram Stoker is published by Archibald Constable and Company in London.</p> 
<p>28 On this day in 1934, near Callander, Ontario, the Dionne quintuplets are born to Olivia and Elzire Dionne, later becoming the first quintuplets to survive infancy.</p>	<p>29 On this day in 1886, American pharmacist John Stith Pemberton begins to advertise his patent medicine - Coca-Cola - in Atlanta, Georgia.</p>	<p>30 On this day in 1868, "Decoration Day", later called Memorial Day, is first observed in the U.S.</p> 	<p>31 On this day in 1927, Tigers' first baseman Johnny Neun makes an unassisted triple play, one of only 15 MLB players to do so.</p>	 <p><i>May</i></p> <p>What Happened On This Day in History?</p>	

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The day was founded in 2009 by a young man out of Buffalo, New York, Starr Valentino. He believes that good things happen when people come together as a community to work together to help each other. It is a day to spread joy to those in need as well as to those who make our life happier. He has been recognized by state officials for his nationwide effort to bring kindness to everyone.

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If you have an event in June that you would like listed in the June issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by May 12, 2023. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some of the events that were submitted to us, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

Editorial note: Before traveling beyond your hometown to attend any of these events, please call ahead for any changes in dates or times or for any cancellations.

GENESEE

May 2 – Burton

Flint Genealogical Society Meeting, Burton Senior Center, 3410 S. Grand Traverse, 7:00 p.m. Join us for our monthly meeting! Our speakers this month will be Jim Newman, and the topic is "Lighthouses and Genealogy! Nothing in Common? Really?". There is no charge and all who are interested in genealogy are welcome! For more information visit flintgenealogy.org.

LAPEER

May 6 – Hadley

Clean Up Day at the Mill, Hadley Mill Museum, 3633 S. Hadley Rd., 9:00 a.m. – noon. Calling all volunteers! Come out and help us get the Mill in top shape for our variety of family-oriented programs throughout the summer! We'll be doing all sorts of cleaning and repair projects inside and out, so please stop by and lend a hand. No pre-registration is necessary. The purpose of the Hadley Mill Museum is to remind our community of its heritage and what pioneering forefathers did to make a better world for their children's children. Our first event will be A Grand Old Day in Hadley on June 3, watch for the info in the next issue of *ThumbPrint News*! For more information find the Hadley Township Historical Society on Facebook, at HadleyTownship.org or email HadleyHistorical@gmail.com.

MACOMB

All Month Long All of Macomb County

Woman's Life Chapter 855 Bottles and Cans Drive, helping those in need in our community. Make a difference today by donating. For larger donations, we have a pickup service. Call (810) 392-5136 for pickup or drop off places in Memphis and Richmond.

May 2 – Richmond

Woman's Life Chapter 855 Meeting, Lois Wagner Library, 35200 Division Rd., 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. We are a friendly group of women who enjoy doing charitable acts for those in need in the community. We are looking for new members to help us in our cause. For questions, please call (586) 872-3867.

May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 Memphis

Wednesday Night Bingo, Memphis American Legion Post 566, 34330 Bordman Rd., 5:30 p.m. – 9:15 p.m., games start at 6:30 p.m. Concession stand available, light dinner served at 7:30 p.m. for a small charge. For more information call and leave a message for Mary Beth at (810) 392-3237.

May 4-6 – Memphis

22nd Annual Mother's Day Flower Sale, Holy Family Parish, 79780 Main St., 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. each day. The Knights of Columbus Council 10501 will be holding their annual Mother's Day Flower Sale for three days! Don't miss out on picking out the perfect flowers for Mom! For more information email jwmastej@gmail.com.

May 5 & 19 – Memphis

Fried Chicken Dinner & Fried Cod/Chicken Tender Dinner, Memphis American Legion Post 566, 34330 Bordman Rd., 3:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., for both eat in or pick up (if picking up, you'll need to call ahead and set up a pick-up time). Join us every 1st Friday of the month for our Fried Chicken Dinner and every 3rd Friday of the month for our Fried Cod/Chicken Tender Dinner. Adult dinners are \$15 each and includes 9 oz. of fried chicken, fried cod or chicken tenders, five sides and a dessert! Children (ages 5-12) dinners are \$8 and include 6 oz. of fried chicken, fried cod or chicken tenders and smaller side portions. We guarantee you will not go hungry! We will be taking calls beginning at noon on dinner days. Call early for the best choices on desserts (which are limited!). For more information call and leave a message for Mary Beth at (810) 392-3237.

May 5, 12, 19 & 26 Memphis

Friday Night Euchre, Memphis American Legion Post 566, 34330 Bordman Rd., doors open at 6:30 p.m., start time is 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$10. For more information call and leave a message for Mary Beth at (810) 392-3237.

May 7 – Romeo

"Dazzling Disney" Dinner Concert Presented by The Symphonia

Chorale, St. John Lutheran Church, 246 Benjamin, the concert will begin at 3:00 p.m. with a dinner afterwards. Join us for this performance, directed by Ted McDonald and accompanied by Justin Umbarger, as we celebrate 100 years of Disney! The dinner will be catered by Zio's. Tickets must be ordered in advance. For more information and ticketing email symphoniachorale@gmail.com.

May 7, 14, 21 & 28 New Baltimore

New Baltimore 16th Season Farmers Market Now Open, on Washington St., between Main St. and Front St., 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The market will run every Sunday from May 7th through October 29th (except during the BayRama Festival). Our market accepts the Michigan Bridge Card (SNAP) and participates in Double Up Food Buck (DUF). For more information text (586) 215-7484 or email marketmanager@newbaltimorefarmersmarket.com.

May 9 – Roseville

Talking About Film Noir with John Monaghan, Roseville Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., 2:00 p.m. Join us as we welcome educator and film critic, John Monaghan, as he discusses the origins, style and key titles of Film Noir, the atmosphere-filled crime and detective films of the '40s and '50s. Feel free to share your own favorite titles in this interactive discussion. No registration required. For more information and a full list of library events, visit rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events or call (586) 445-5407.

May 11 – Shelby Twp.

Shelby Garden Club Presentation, Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center, 4101 River Bends Dr., 1:00 p.m. Join us as we host The Monarch Crusader, Brenda Dziedzic. She raises monarch butterflies in her yard and has written books sharing her techniques. This is a free event, though donations for our club's ongoing community programs are appreciated. For more information contact Ivy at (586) 873-3782.

May 13 – Washington

Mother's Day Tea, Octagon House, 57500 Van Dyke, 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please join us in treating the moms, grandmas and special ladies in your life! We'll be serving tea and scones, finger sandwiches, mini quiche and dessert. \$25 per person, \$22 for members and children under 7. Tea service will start promptly at noon. No high chairs. Reservations are required by May 1. We will also be having a basket raffle! For more information call (586) 781-0084 or email info@octagonhouse.org.

May 18 – Roseville

Mystery Book Club: The Thursday Murder Club, Roseville Library, 29777

Gratiot Ave., 6:30 p.m. Calling all sleuths for this new program where we'll discuss crime novels every third Thursday of the month. For this first meeting, we will be discussing *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman. You are welcome to join us even if you have not finished the book. No registration required.

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

May 21 – Ray Twp.

Shakespeare in the Park, Ray Township Municipal Park, 64255 Wolcott Rd., 2:00 p.m. Join as the Ray Township Public Library presents The Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company's Shakespeare 101, funded in part by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council and the Michigan Humanities Council. This hour-long program is perfect for families. It is free and open to the public! We encourage anyone and everyone to attend! We are asking for advance registration to get a head count, but if you don't register, you can still come! Please bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. For more information on this, or other library events, visit raylibrary.org.

May 21 – Utica

Lunch, Performance and a Baseball Game, Jimmy John's Field, 7171 Auburn Rd., noon. Join The Symphonia Chorale for lunch on the patio before they perform the national anthem at the start of the Utica Unicorns vs. Birmingham Bloomfield Beavers game. The game will begin at 1:05 p.m. We're asking people to purchase tickets in advance for this event. For more information and ticketing email symphoniachorale@gmail.com.

May 21 – Washington

Used Book Sale, Octagon House Milkhouse, 57500 Van Dyke, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Come by to see what items you might discover! Donate your used books, puzzles and games (no magazines or CDs) by leaving them in a bag on the Octagon House porch in the designated area from May 14 through 20. The house will be open for self-guided tours with docents on every floor. House tours are \$5 per person. Visiting the book sale is free. For more information call (586) 781-0084 or email info@octagonhouse.org.

May 26 – Romeo

Rhythm Society Orchestra, River of God, 230 E. St. Clair St., 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m. Come enjoy this 15-piece band specializing in true vintage swing music. Their sound is heavily influenced by Count Basie and Harry Jones. There will be on-site dance instruction. Tickets are \$25 until May 25 or \$30 at the door. For ticket purchasing or more information visit rotromeo.com.

OAKLAND

May 3-14 – Bloomfield Hills 2023 Graduate Degree Exhibition of Cranbrook Academy of Art Display, Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., during Museum opening hours. The innovative work from the next generation of architects, artists and designers will be on display. The display will be up until May 14 in the Upper Galleries. For more information on this display or other Museum events, visit cranbrookartmuseum.org or call (248) 645-3320.

May 5, 12, 19 & 26 Oxford

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

May 12 – Rochester Hills “Dazzling Disney” Spring Concert Presented by The Symphonia Chorale, Reuther Middle School, 1430 Auburn Rd., 7:30 p.m. Join us for this performance, directed by Ted McDonald and accompanied by Justin Umbarger, as we celebrate 100 years of Disney! Students from Reuther will be joining us for this concert. Tickets may be purchased at the door. For more information and ticketing email symphoniachorale@gmail.com.

ST. CLAIR

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

May 2 – Algonac

Woman’s Life Chapter 883 Meeting, Maritime Museum, 1117 St. Clair River Dr., 6:00 p.m. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome, and we’re always looking for new members. For more information contact Paula at paulaburgess@comcast.net, (810) 278-4466 or (810) 794-9641.

May 3 – Port Huron

A Country Blues Narrative with Songs from Leonard Gianola, Don Dodge Auditorium behind the Main Library Branch, 200 Grand River Ave., 6:00 p.m. Travel on a journey from the beginning of Blues music told with a timeline narrative and songs. You don’t want to miss this! Registration is required. For more information or a full list of library events, visit stclaircountylibrary.org/events and select your local library or call (810) 794-4471.

May 3 – Port Huron

The St. Clair County Retirees’ Association Meeting, Council on Aging Senior Center, third floor, 600 Grand River Ave., doors open at 11:30 a.m., lunch is served at noon. Our speaker this month will be Thelma Castillo of the Blue Water Chamber of Commerce. Cost is \$5. For more information email scra917@gmail.com.

May 3 – Smiths Creek

St. Clair Kennel Club General Meeting, Pioneer Bar & Restaurant, 5600 Lapeer Rd., 6:00 p.m. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at an area restaurant. Come to see what we’re all about! For more information visit our website stclairkc.org or email stclairkennelclub@gmail.com.

May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 – Marysville

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

May 4 – Port Huron

National Day of Prayer Service, McMorran Plaza, 701 McMorran Blvd., noon – 1:00 p.m. Operation Transformation, along with Blue Water Area Churches, is sponsoring this service with the theme "Pray Fervently in Righteousness and Avail Much" based on James 5:16b. If you can’t make it, you can tune in to 90.7 HopeFM. For more information visit optrans.org or call (810) 966-8660.

May 4-6 – Marine City

Friends of the Marine City Library Book Sale, 300 S. Parker, during library hours. We’ll have all sorts of books! Stop by and see what you can find. \$2 bag days on May 8 and 9. For more information call (810) 765-8487.

May 4, 11, 18 & 25 Marysville

Weekly Bingo that Benefits Blankets with Care, Knight Club, 1195 Gratiot Blvd., 6:20 p.m. start time. (Doors open 2 hours prior.) Join us every Thursday for Bingo, as well as helping us make Blessing Bags for the Homeless and do Acts of Caring for veterans and seniors in

Macomb and St. Clair County. or more information on Blankets with Care visit blanketswithcare.com or call (586) 219-5015.

May 5 – Port Huron

Portraits of Port Huron Exhibit Opening, Port Huron Museums Carnegie Museum, 1115 6th St., 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Join us for this opening event, explore the all new exhibition while enjoying live piano music, light hors d’oeuvres, wine, and nonalcoholic beverages. Included with your ticket is the opportunity to go home with your own caricature drawing, and the chance to explore the entire Carnegie Museum. Cost is \$10. For more information visit phmuseum.org.

May 5 – Smiths Creek

All You Can Eat Fish Fry, American Legion Post 525, 7150 Smiths Creek Rd., 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. First Friday of every month! Cost is \$10 for adults and \$4 for 12 and under. For more information call (810) 367-6351.

May 5-7, 12-14, 19-21 & 26-28 – Marine City

Steel Magnolias Sponsored by Paul Mitchell Schools, Riverbank Theatre, 358 S. Water St., 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 3:00 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets \$35. Join us for this heartwarming show! For more information and to purchase tickets visit riverbanktheatre.com.

May 6 – Marysville

Caring Crafters’ Celebration of Mother’s Day Event, The Knight Club, 1195 Gratiot Blvd., 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Join the Caring Crafters of St. Clair County, MI LLP, for this event that will have 40 local crafters and vendors, you’re sure to find the perfect gift for all of the moms in your life! We’ll have demonstrations by Wendy’s St. Clair Greenhouse & Florist (Basic Floral Design 101 at 1:00 p.m. and Gardening Tips & Tricks for Plant Lovers at 3:00 p.m.). There will also be an area just for the kids (so Mom can shop in peace!) where we are pleased to welcome Mother Goose & Marigold from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., for a storytime with nursery rhymes and coloring. We’ll also be having the kids writing a letter for Mom that she’ll always cherish! Admission is \$1 at the door, kids 10 and under are free. We’ll have concessions available for purchase. For more information find us on Facebook @caringcrafters8422 or email caringcrafterscccmi@gmail.com.

May 7 – Yale

Euchre Night, Fr. Dunn Hall, Sacred Heart Church, 310 N. Main St., doors open 6:00 p.m. Join us for this Sacred Heart Ladies Auxiliary fundraiser Euchre Night! There’s a \$10 buy-in, coffee and water provided, BYO beer and soda and we’ll have snacks available for

purchase. For more information call (810) 543-2920.

May 8-11 – Kimball

Spring Flower Sale, New Life Christian Academy parking lot, 5517 Griswold Rd., 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Monday and 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Looking for an idea for Mother’s Day or maybe just some color to brighten up your home or porch? Look no further! The NLCA Spring Flower Sale has just what you need. Prices ranging from \$18 to \$60. For more information call (810) 367-3770, ext. 100.

May 10 – Fort Gratiot

FREE Skin Cancer Screening, Lake Huron Medical Center North Campus, 4190 24th Ave., #105, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Check your spots and prevent melanoma. Lake Huron Medical Center, in conjunction with the American Academy of Dermatology, invites you to attend a FREE Skin Cancer Screening. Local dermatologists will be on hand to discuss skin cancer concerns and provide a suspicious spot check. Registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information and to register call (810) 216-1455.

May 10 – Port Huron

Blue Water Doll Club Meeting, Council on Aging/Senior Center, 600 Grand River Ave., 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Join us as our members meet the second Wednesday of each month to discuss doll history, maintenance and to display dolls based on that month’s theme. May will focus on small bisque dolls. Visitors and new members are welcome! For more information contact Linda at (810) 765-4663.

May 10 – Port Huron

Community Resource Fair, SC4 College Center Building, 323 Erie St., 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The Housing & Support Workgroup, under the St. Clair County Community Services Coordinating Body, is hosting this annual one-day Fair. It is a one-stop event designed to provide services and supports for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness, at-risk of becoming homeless or experiencing extreme financial difficulty. This in-person event will feature a variety of community resource vendors, mobile food pantry, personal care items and giveaways. Community First Health Centers and the St. Clair County Health Department will also be onsite offering vaccines and testing for attendees. For more information visit CSCBinfo.org and find us on Facebook @SCCCRF.

May 10 – Port Huron

Veterans “PACT ACT” Luncheon, Port Huron Elks Lodge #343, 3292 Beach Rd., 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Port Huron Elks Lodge #343, in conjunction with Lodge #343 Veterans

Committee, Elks National Service Commission, the Detroit VA, St. Clair County Veterans Affairs and the St. Clair County Community Mental Health group will be hosting this event for any and all Veterans, current Military personnel and families. This event is meant to encourage Veterans to apply for new healthcare benefits with expedited enrollment and to initiate claims. There will be a free box lunch, assistance for registration and scheduling appointments, on-site patient evaluations and more! For more information call (810) 982-8531 or email elks343@comcast.net.

May 11 – St. Clair

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

May 13 – Algonac

Clay Days, Clay Township Park, 4768 Pointe Tremble Rd, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Algonac/Clay Historical Society Log Cabin (located next to the Clay Township Offices) will also be open for visitors. For more information call (810) 794-9303.

May 13 – Columbus

Wildflower Walk, Columbus County Park, 1670 Bauman Rd., 10:00 a.m. Join the St. Clair County Parks & Recreation Commission as we have our resident wildflower expert, Mary Kay Weber, show us where to find these treasures. No registration is required. Meet us at the lodge, and be sure to bring your own snacks and water. Sturdy footwear is recommended. For more information email brooke@scrivier.org.

May 15 – Port Huron

Port Huron Elks Lodge #343's 50th Consecutive Blood Drive, Port Huron Elks Lodge #343, 3292 Beach Rd., noon – 6:00 p.m. We have been supporting the American Red Cross since our first blood drive on January 7, 2013, and have collected over 205 gallons of blood. To make an appointment, please call (800) RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go to RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: porthuronelks343. For more information call (810) 982-8531 or email elks343@comcast.net.

May 17, 24 & 31 – Port Huron Veterans Walking Group, Blue Water River Walk, starting at the Tuskgee Airman Memorial just north of the Blue Water Bridge, 9:00 a.m. This group is open to all current and former service members and their families. No

registration or commitment required. We'll be meeting every Wednesday. For more information call (810) 966-3755.

May 20 – St. Clair

Hillside Cemetery Tour, 1450 Goffe St., 11:00 a.m. Be a tourist in your own town! Join the St. Clair County Genealogy & History Society, with the support of St. Clair Historical Museum and the City of St. Clair, as they bring back a local favorite. Take a guided tour as local reenactors highlight notable historic residents of St. Clair's past. Free to all ages, donations suggested. For more information visit scgghs.org or find us on Facebook.

May 21 – Port Huron

AYCE Breakfast, Port Huron Masonic Lodge #58, 927 St., Port Huron, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Join us every third Sunday of the month for our All You Can Eat Breakfast. We'll have choice of eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, potatoes, amazing coffee, as well as juice and water. Cost is \$12 for adults, with a discount for veterans, service members and seniors. For more information call (810) 982-5044.

May 23 – Algonac

Algonac/Clay Township Historical Meeting, Maritime Museum, 1117 St. Clair River Dr., 7:00 p.m. Join us for our monthly meeting where we'll be discussing all things historical! The Ship to Shore Gift Shop will also be open. For more information call (810) 512-8014.

May 24 – Port Huron

Presentation of Blood and Fire: The Unbelievable Real-Life Story of Wrestling's Original Sheik, Don Dodge Auditorium behind the Main Library Branch, 200 Grand River Ave., 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Join us for a discussion and celebration of this 2023 Michigan Notable Book by Brian R. Solomon about this thrilling part of wrestling history and the man behind the Sheik. Registration is required. For more information or a full list of library events, visit stclaircountylibrary.org/events and select your local library or call (810) 794-4471.

May 25 – St. Clair

Cemetery Symbolism, St. Clair Community Center, 308 S. Fourth St., 6:00 p.m. Join the St. Clair County Genealogy & History Society as their president, Vicky Armstrong, presents on the types of cemeteries and the hidden information grave markers may provide. \$5 donation suggested for non-members. For more information visit scgghs.org or find us on Facebook.

SANILAC

May 6 – Port Sanilac Open Mic at the Museum, Sanilac County Historic Village & Museum, 228 South Ridge St. (M25), 4:00 p.m. – 6:00

p.m. Join us as we team up with Quad Productions to bring you an afternoon of free live music one Saturday a month from May through September! Be sure to bring a lawn chair, your cooler and your talent! We have space for 12 performances, and sign up begins at 3:30 p.m. All genres, instruments, ages and abilities are welcome! Individual performers can play two songs, and duos and groups can play three. This event is free, but donations to support the Sanilac County Historical Society are gratefully accepted! For more information or questions visit sanilaccountymuseum.org, follow on Facebook or call (810) 622-9946.

May 12, 19 & 26 – Port Sanilac

Sanilac Famers Market, Sanilac County Historic Village & Museum, 228 South Ridge St. (M25), 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., rain or shine. The Market will be open Fridays from May through October! Buy fresh, buy local! We'll have many vendors for you to visit each week, as well as a fundraising dinner on the last Friday of each month. May 26th will be the first one and we'll have street tacos, desserts and more. For more information or questions email sanilacfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

May 20 – Lexington Blue Water Ramblers Concert & Square Dance, Blue Water Campground, 7291 County Farm Rd., 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Join the Sanilac County Historic Village & Museum for this fun, family-friendly event! It will include a concert, square dance instruction, dancing to live music, and light refreshments. No partner necessary as we'll match up the singles. Beginners are welcome. Tickets \$15, \$5 will be donated to the Blue Water Campground. For more information visit sanilaccountymuseum.org, follow on Facebook or call (810) 622-9946.

May 27 – Peck

Thumb Dance Club & Euchre, Carman Banquet Hall, 5335 Sandusky Rd., 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Please join us for fun, fellowship, live 14-piece band and good fun for only \$5. Please bring a snack to share or a dish to pass. This is a smoke and alcohol-free environment. The dance is a nice place to celebrate a birthday or anniversary with friends and family. We will also be playing euchre! *We are planning a dance on May 13th as well, but do not have a location yet, check in with us as it gets closer!* For more information call (810) 310-2715.



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MARWOOD NURSING AND REHAB RECEIVES TOP FIVE RATING

Newsweek and Statista, a global data research firm, have just released their "2023 America's Best Nursing Homes" list.

475 facilities were recognized and honored in 25 states with Michigan being one of them.


Marwood Nursing and Rehab was rated as one of the top five nursing homes in Michigan and is the only facility included on the list in St. Clair County. In addition, Marwood is also a five-star rated facility for overall rating, quality measure, and staffing according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

"We have a great team at Marwood. Our staff work hard to ensure that the best care and service is provided to our residents. This is a proud moment for all of us," says administrator, Brian Oberly.

Marwood Nursing and Rehab is a 240-bed, nonprofit nursing facility that offers long-term nursing, memory care, and rehabilitation services.

Marwood is located at 1300 Beard Street in Port Huron and is a subsidiary of McLaren Port Huron. To learn more about Marwood Nursing & Rehab visit McLaren.org/Marwood or call (810) 982-9500.

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By Pamela Lynn Hayes, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Beautiful May is here! Michigan does boast of gorgeous summer weather, and I cannot disagree. This month brings us Mother's Day, as well as the holiday weekend summer kickoff Memorial Day! Time for us Patriots to show our love of this awesome country and fly the beautiful American flag and continue to support our freedom and to make sure we step it up to keep our beautiful country free. We can't expect to keep our freedoms in America if we just sit back and do nothing.

The flower for the month of May is my absolute favorite: the Lily of The Valley! Such fragrant delicate little flower bells that I love seeing sprout up around the cottage.

I so look forward to getting the place cleaned up and looking fresh and ready for the summer, but I have to admit that when it is time to begin all the seasonal work, I have to do it in phases to avoid becoming overwhelmed. There is always

so much to do in the springtime outdoors to get ready for the following season. But the end results are always so nice.

Over the winter, several of my friends took weeklong vacations to visit warmer states. I listened to their complaints about the travel and accommodation expenses, the delays, the hassle of booking online and how the whole family had to rearrange their work schedules to fit in the travel time and lose a day of relaxation, and then they needed an extra day to relax before going back to work. They stated that this is why they can only take a vacation once or twice a year.

As they were talking, a thought came to me: how lucky I am that my vacation destination – whether for a long stretch of a weekend or a 10-day stay in the summer – is only a two-hour drive away. And what a beautiful drive it is in the summer and fall!

Some other advantages of having this little getaway are grocery shopping is

minimal, I can grab whatever food items I have at my city home, it's free to stay there, my private beach is only 500 feet away, I don't have to be at a certain place at a certain time. There are no exhausting waits at an airport, I don't have to check in and sit and wait around to board, I'm not searched for contraband when I arrive at my cottage, and I don't have to show ID when I arrive. I don't have to lug around heavy bags and luggage. If I need to get away for even an overnight in a peaceful and comfortable cabin surrounded by nature but still close to neighbors, I can just hop in the car without even packing a bag, whether it is winter or summer. I recently read a great quote that said, "When you love what you have, you have everything you need." Great words to remember. So, I guess I am the lucky one here. Remember to fly that American flag proudly this summer!

Happy Memorial Day *ThumbPrint News* Readers! 🇺🇸

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