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 An imprint of places and people at work and play in the Thumb of Michigan
CELEBRATING OUR INDEPENDENCE ON JULY 4TH JULY 2014

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Spotlight on Sandusky: Fire and Water Cause Tough Start

By David Odziana
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer and Reporter

Despite the fact that Sandusky is well established today, things looked much different when development of the city began slowly in the 1840s. A story of a group of pioneers who took a trip to Sandusky in 1842 reported that they had trouble navigating through the undeveloped land. Once they made it to Fort Gratiot, they were forced to take only the necessities with them and leave the rest of their belongings behind. The trip was about 24 miles, which had to be made on foot because the only form of roads at the time were trails through the woods made by the Indians. The area was portrayed as low lying land, which was described as “irreclaimable waste and not fit for cultivation in any quarter” by government surveyors. During this time, the land was very heavily wooded and only home to a couple small Indian populations and one cabin, which



Sandusky courthouse built in 1879 burned down 1915
 was built by Arthur Carson, who is believed to be one of Sandusky’s first settlers. Even when road construction began, the conditions were

See SANDUSKY, Page 18

THE FINAL CHAPTER OF THE NEW HAVEN ELEVATOR



By Sue Dudgeon
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

The New Haven Farmer’s Elevator closed its door for the last time in November of 2013. I think the documentation of its last twenty years is important to the story of farming in northern Macomb County. I can record those years for you. I worked there from 1995 to 2010. Rod Hurley was the manager in 1995. He was hired six months before me to replace Richard Petitpren upon his retirement. The Petitpren family, Richard, Clarence, Mary and Lisa, had run the Elevator for over 30 years. Richard Petitpren and Martin Schramm were the major stock holders of the grainery. Martin Schramm was also the current President of the Board of Directors. In its current financial position, a few slow months or a major repair could have closed the doors. Rod Hurley was the

See NEW HAVEN, Page 11



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This is the month that we celebrate Independence Day, a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, which declared our independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain, now officially known as the United Kingdom. We also alternately know this holiday as the Fourth of July because we celebrate Independence Day on July 4. However, there are those who would argue that it should be celebrated on July 2. An even smaller percentage would opt for August 2 to be the appropriate day.



So, while we are celebrating Independence Day in our usual ways (fireworks, picnics, boating, parades, dedications, bonfires and more) and as we try to remember the real reason we are celebrating, it would also be fun to find out a little bit more about this controversial holiday!

In June of 1776, representatives of the 13 colonies who were then fighting in the revolutionary struggle contemplated a document drafted by Thomas Jefferson that would declare their independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain. It was actually July 2, 1776, when the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence (representatives of 12 of the 13 colonies

gave their approval). However, the actual document was dated July 4, 1776, the date reportedly that the document was signed.

John Adams believed that July 2 was the correct date on which to celebrate the birth of American independence because that was the date that the Continental Congress voted in favor of it. He even wrote to his wife Abigail on the date of that famous vote that "July 2 will be celebrated by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival" and that the celebration should include "Pomp and Parade... Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other." He was so adamant in his convictions that he reportedly in later years turned down invitations to appear at July 4th events in protest! Ironically, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826 – the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

Philadelphia has the distinction of holding the first annual commemoration of independence on July 4, 1777, even though the war was still ongoing. In 1778, George Washington ordered double rations of rum to all of his soldiers to mark the anniversary. (As a side note, my fourth great grandfather, Austin Smith, served under George Washington during the Revolutionary War. Perhaps it is appropriate that my drink of choice, if I choose to partake, is rum!) It was Massachusetts in 1781 that became the first state to make July 4th an official state holiday. Although a tradition of patriotic celebration on July 4 followed each year

after the signing, a new sense of patriotism emerged after the War of 1812, when the United States again faced Great Britain. In 1870, the U.S. Congress made July 4 a federal holiday. However, in 1941, the provision was expanded to grant a paid holiday to all federal employees.

So, while there are some who think July 4th is the appropriate day to celebrate, there are others like John Adams who thought the date of the actual vote, July 2, should be the official holiday. And then again there are historians who have long disputed if July 4 is even the actual date when the document was signed by the majority of the signers. Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin all later wrote that they signed it on July 4, but most historians have concluded that the Declaration of Independence was actually signed a month after the vote by the majority of the signers, on August 2, 1776.

I guess in the future if enough proof convinces the multitude of the voters to change Independence Day to August 2, I would be ok with that because the true meaning of this day would remain the same. But I guess it wouldn't be appropriate to call the holiday the Fourth of July anymore, would it?

Whatever you are doing this Independence Day, enjoy the day with your family and friends, stay safe, and remember to ponder on just how important this holiday really is to all of us in this great country of ours! I, ironically, will be celebrating the Fourth of July in the United States with some very close friends of mine who are visiting from the United Kingdom! Ironic, but actually perfect. It shows just how far citizens of both countries have come!

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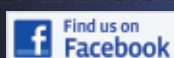
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Hello, Thumb Birds! If you are already a member of our group, you should have already received by email or snail mail, an invitation to our 2nd Thumb Bird Event, which will be taking place on August 9, 2014, in Algonac, Michigan. If you are a Thumb Bird and did not receive the invitation, please contact Diane at thumbprintnews@comcast.net or call (810) 794-2300 as soon as possible.

If you have not yet joined our Thumb Bird group and would like to do so, the only requirements are that you live or have lived in the Thumb of Michigan and that you now spend part or all of the year in Florida. Email us your name and addresses in both Michigan and Florida, your phone number, and an email address where we can contact you. The purpose of this group is to share ideas, places to visit, restaurants, etc. that have to do with our Florida experiences

and to occasionally get together in both Florida and Michigan to talk about all things Michigan and Florida. Email your information to thumbprintnews@comcast.net . We will welcome you to the group and send you an invitation to our 2nd Thumb Bird get-together in Michigan, as well as our 3rd get-together next year in Florida.

Editor's Note: I received this request from Marie and since I am not familiar with central Florida, I am hoping someone out there can help her out. If you have suggestions, email them to thumbprintnews@comcast.net and I will forward them on to Marie. Here is what she wrote:

"I need your input. I am short selling my home of 7 years in Michigan and need to work and live (rent only) in central Florida (no tornadoes!) - "55 community", cheap rent (I am only 55 - no social security). Are there jobs there? Thanks for the help. I don't know anyone." Can anyone offer suggestions to Marie?



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STEEL WHEELS and GRAVEL ROADS

By Robert L. Christensen

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

I was a farm boy in Michigan in the 1930s and 1940s. That period encompassed the Great Depression and WWII. Most country roads were not paved and their surfaces were gravel, with stones ranging in size from peas to golf balls. In summer dry spells cars would raise clouds of dust as they drove by our farm. There would also be an accompanying rattle and chatter as the stones were kicked up by the tires into the fender wells of the car. "Chatterbumps" would show up as corrugations across the width of the road which would worsen with traffic. In the spring clay mud-holes and worse would appear with the frost heaves. The chatterbumps were moderated when the road grader came through about once a month. In some respects the winters were better because the snow would pack into an icy but smoother surface. (Of course, two feet of snow would make passage by car impossible until the road was plowed.) The snow plows would make the road surface smoother, but also more icy, since the plows would be set high enough to not to dig into the road surface. Climbing an icy hill required skill and nerve.

In the 1940s with WWII, many consumer goods were rationed. One of the scarce resources was rubber and tires for vehicles. Tires would be used until there was little or no tread left. Everyone had tire patching kits and most men knew how to repair a puncture. When a part of a tire would become so thin as to threaten to "blow out", a "boot" could be inserted that added an additional layer to the inside of the tire. Tires that still seemed solid enough to be worthwhile might be retreaded. This was a process that welded a new layer of rubber tread on the outer surface of the tire. This process is still in use today and many

truck tires are retreads (pieces of them are often seen along the highway!)

On the farm an essential piece of equipment was the farm wagon. My father had a heavy duty horse drawn farm wagon with steel wheels that was in use almost daily throughout the 1930s and the 1940s. Since we had two farms separated by a mile of gravel road, this horse-drawn wagon was an important tool to use in transporting supplies and products between the two farms. Since the wagon had no springs or shock absorbers and the wheels also had no flex as they ran over the road stones, the 20 minute trek down the road was both a noisy and uncomfortable ride. Dad lusted for a rubber tired wagon, but none were available until after 1945. When we finally got one in the late 1940s, about the same time we got a tractor, it was one converted from a steel wheeled wagon by cutting the spokes and welding wheels for tires on them. The change was wonderful! The only disadvantage accrued to my mother. With the steel wheeled wagon, she always had warning that Dad was coming home from the other farm, because she could hear the noise the steel wheels made on the gravel road. Then she was able to have the meal on the table by the time the horses were unharnessed and stabled and Dad arrived at the house. I don't think he ever appreciated that as a disadvantage! 🍌



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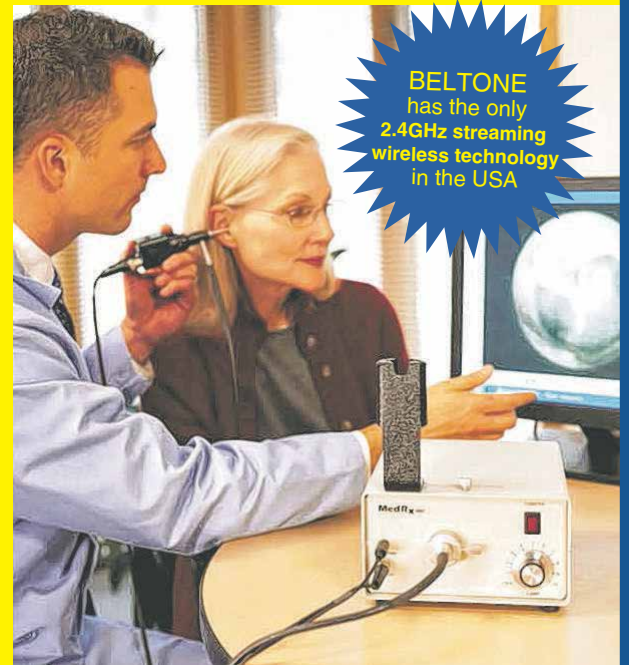


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ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb of Michigan, but readers have also taken *ThumbPrint News* with them to many different states and countries.

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WHERE'S MY STUFF?

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

Recently, while browsing through some things in a little box kept in the back of a drawer, I came across my Boy Scout "Tenderfoot" identification card received somewhere in the mid-1950s. With it in the small cardboard container were five World War II Victory Stamps, a wood handle pen knife given to me by my grandfather, the maze colored tassel from my high school graduation cap, and my military "dog-tags." That was it.

As I sat there staring into the box I began to wonder what had happened to my other "stuff" over all these years. Certainly I possessed more than I now held in my hand.

What happened to my baseball cards collected from bubble gum packs? I know I had a 1955 Al Kaline card, the year he was named "Rookie of the



Year." That collection of photo cards with statistics on the reverse included Harvey Kuene, Ted Williams, Stan Musial, Joe DiMaggio, Yogi Berra and many others. I know I didn't give them away, but where are they now?

Glancing at the small BSA pocket card I remembered the worn *Boy Scout Handbook* I had carefully studied. Within it was a wealth of advice and guidance, some of which I still cling to. I remembered the directions for the oath, law, motto, salute and much more.

I recalled my father taking me to Finsterwald's men's clothing store in downtown Marine City to be fitted for my Scout uniform and how proud I was to wear it to the next meeting. I thought about all the camping gear I had, including the great knife and hatchet my grandmother just knew I should have, but my mother was hesitant to allow me to play with. Where is that stuff now?

My journey down memory lane took me to the years

I played Little Babe Ruth League baseball on the hard clay diamond at the Lions Field. Those six years of athletic greatest, at least as I visualize it in my mind, provided numerous gloves, bats and other paraphernalia. Where are my Dodger and Red Sox caps? All is gone.

As an avid reader I have far too many books resting on shelves. I have given many away over time, but never those I cherished for whatever reason. However, I am not able to find my copy of Jack London's *Call of the Wild* or *Yank Brown*, Halfback, which was my father's and given to me by my grandmother. Surely I would not have given those away. Who has them now?

Upon entering my teenage years I became a collector of records. For those younger people who may be reading this essay on lost stuff, I'm referring to those 7-inch 45 rpm vinyl disks that contained two songs – one on one side and the other on the reverse. Whenever I had 50-cents in my pocket you could find me downtown purchasing more music. I had songs by Elvis Presley, Pat Boone, Guy Mitchel, The Everly Brothers, Buddy Knox, Fats Domino, the Platters and many more. Wouldn't that be



a great collection to have today? Sure it would, but I don't. What ever happened to my records?

I won't go on because I'm getting somewhat depressed thinking about all the stuff either lost in time or stored in someone else's time-capsule. Besides, this is beginning to look like George Carlin's classic routine about the importance of "stuff" in our lives. At least now I place a greater serious value to what he was saying in jest.

Actually, after thinking about it, I know what has happened to my "stuff." I lost interest in it and my mother gave it away or, in the case of my baseball cards, threw them away. Over the years I have moved to various locations throughout the country and, in the process, decided not to take some possessions with me. If the truth be

known I just did not place as much importance on my "stuff" then as I might now many decades later.

Probably what is more important now is that I still have my memory and, because of that, still have my "stuff." I guess that has much greater value than a small box of memorabilia. 🍀

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Fairies

By Rennae Hardy

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Be it vacation or stay-cation, summer is "Fun-in-the-Sun" recreation time. Calling on our inner child and engaging in the spirit of play takes dominance. We go outside, embrace nature's beauty and welcome the resurgence of our child-like wonder. Summer magic has cast its spell, and to the enchanted ... believing is seeing, near as I can tell.

During the 'tween time of dusk and dawn is best for encountering nature's spirits, the wee folk, or the fairies. Guardians of the Earth, the fairies protect all animals, bodies of water, our air, the soil and its minerals. Fairies are elemental beings, often referenced as "Elementals" and are classified by assigning them to one of the four elements: earth, air, fire or water. Earth fairies would include: dwarves, elves, ballybogs, gnomes and the oakmen. Water fairies would include: selkies, kelpies, alven, ashrays, undines, the pooka and merpeople (mermaids). Air

fairies would include: pixies, sprites, will o' the wisps, spriggans and sylphs. Fire fairies would include: salamanders, drakes, djinn, akamu and spunkies. Fairies travel alone or in troops and fall into one of two courts, the Seelie (desirable/good) and the Unseelie (undesirable/naughty). Our European ancestors knew the fairies and left them special gifts. Fairy legends exist in almost every culture. For those who believe, summer reveals a charmed side of Earth where frolic and play never felt better. So, the next time you're visited by dragonflies while fishing, or winked at while watching fireflies in the moonlight, remember, believing is seeing, near as I can tell. 🍀





By Pamela Grey-Pugliese

ThumbPrint News Columnist

It's so awesome to be spending more time outdoors now, and if you own a seasonal home up north, it may seem like more of your time is spent planning those weekends and summer vacations than taking full advantage of the beautiful Michigan summer weather.

Once up north, the weekend evenings can be a little exhausting after a day of sun and fun at your place. I feel that getting up there is half the fun! The drive north lends itself to a sigh of relief once I get about an hour away from my cottage destination and when Lake Huron comes into view, I really start to relax and leave behind the craziness of life in the city, if not only for a few days.

Once the weather broke a few months ago, my conversations and thoughts turned more to focusing on the time I will be spending with family and friends in Michigan's Thumb. I now gravitate my conversations toward others that are kindred spirits with me: other people who also own seasonal cabins or cottages (or as I was once called by the locals, a "resorter"). Dictionary.com defines the term kindred spirits as:

"having the same belief, attitude or feeling with another person; being associated by origin, nature or qualities."

My conversations with other fellow resorters, whether they travel to the Thumb or other areas in northern Michigan, sound something like, "Are you guys going up this weekend?" Or, "Have you guys had much rain at your place?" "Did you get your boat in the water yet?" and after a

long busy week, "I can't wait to get up north to relax!"

It's nice to discuss home improvements and swap phone numbers of local contractors with my fellow resorters and to look at their cottage pictures to see what work they have done or see how fun their past weekend was!

This month is the celebration of freedom, the freedom to be Americans and cherish how fortunate we are to be able to enjoy and live in a state as beautiful as Michigan, surrounded by great lakes and nature. Remember to fly your American flag proudly and take in the beauty of the summer months at your city home or at your cottage. Embrace your fellow resorters, neighbors and kindred spirits with open arms! Enjoy the summer and the beauty that Michigan offers, no matter where your cottage is located! I guess I like to say it's an "up north thing" with me and if others don't have my like mindset, they just wouldn't understand! Have a safe and happy month of July! 🍀

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Maritime Trivia Question #13

What meal was named
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The New Math of Relationship

By John Vincent Senkus

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Relationship is typically defined as “The way in which two or more concepts, objects, or people are connected.” It’s no wonder so many look at intimate partnership from the perspective of TWO. But long before relations develop between two lovers—the self-relationship that is carried in by each partner has been long withstanding. It’s this inner dynamic that is the very most fundamental and important relationship of all. In fact, it is precisely the quality of this “self-connection” that is one of the primary factors determining how successful an intimate venture will or won’t be. For we can never truly have a better relationship with another, than the one we have with our self.

From afar, we all appear to be almost identical. It is only the much closer view that begins to distinguish us. And the deeper into ourselves we see, the clearer and more distinct we become. However, this soulful clarity can only develop by following our inner voice—and this voice is expressed through a series of stepping-stones known as needs. Needs reflect our possibilities, whether we are consciously aware of them or not. They fuel our growth and represent the “evolutionary” process that takes place within the span of our lifetime. Abraham H. Maslow (1908 – 1970) identified and ranked the progression of needs in his book, *Motivation and Personality*, first published in 1954. Because of his emphasis on potentiality, Maslow became a world-renowned psychologist who significantly changed the way psychology was perceived and applied. His order of needs development is as follows:

Physiological Needs - Food, Water, Physical Activity, Sleep, Sex, Mental and Sensory Stimulation. These are the most basic of all needs, and must be satisfied so that our bodily systems can function properly. So not to perish, we need to breathe, drink water, and obtain nourishment. If we lack sensory and mental stimulation, we would be living our lives in a haze. We need to engage our intellectual capacities and five senses so that we can interact within the world around us. Don’t overlook the critical importance of this starting level. It is difficult to focus on further needs when we are hungry, in pain, dulled, depressed, or consumed with addictive, obsessive, and compulsive behaviors.

Safety and Security Needs - Certainty, Structure, Order, Freedom from Fear, Stability, Income, A Place to Live. This is where a roof over our heads, employment/earnings, insurance, and routine come into play. Even making our home comfortable and cozy qualifies (nothing like a favorite cushy chair to help us feel secure and escape the stresses of the day). The basic society tenets of law and order are also included as they promote and provide for our safety. In part, philosophical and spiritual beliefs can be interpreted in the same manner. They help us organize our world into a more coherent and meaningful whole. If this level is constantly shifting and keeping us off balance, there won’t be much energy or focus left for developing higher needs.

Belonging and Love Needs - Giving and Receiving Love and Affection, Emotions, Intimacy, Relationships, Family, Friends, Companionship. Motivation in this level is finding our place within a close loving relationship, family structure, friends, work or social group—where we can feel a sense of belonging and being needed. Intimacy allows us to recognize and convey the deepest thoughts, emotions, and desires within our innermost self. These all build emotional roots and confidence so we can continue growing toward the potential within us. Without love and belonging, we can feel like outcasts, leading to issues with proper adjustment, psychological growth, and continued needs development.

Self-Respect and Esteem Needs - Competence, Confidence, Dignity, Achievement, Recognition, Appreciation. In our growth path, when we feel worthwhile and capable of mastering life’s tasks and challenges, we are more likely to develop confidence. Self-respect is grounded in integrity, personal strength, mastery and independence. Esteem we get from others, and is based in acceptance, attention and reputation. When appreciated for our abilities, we develop self-worth because our competence is recognized and valued. If these needs cannot be adequately satisfied, we foster feelings of inferiority and weakness. These negative self-perceptions can trigger discouragement and frustration, leading to self-defeating habits and diminished needs advancement.

Self-Actualization and Transcendent Needs - Realizing Our Potential. By raising self-awareness and transforming

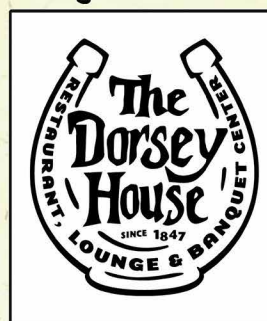
limiting thoughts and behaviors, our capabilities can begin to match our possibilities. Since these parameters are intensely personal, they cannot be neatly categorized as in the other levels; but a strong desire to better oneself and become fully what one is capable of being is an overriding characteristic. Self-actualization does not imply a particular high level of performance. Being good at something doesn’t necessarily mean we are self-actualized. The best scientist, athlete, corporate CEO, artist, “news-worthy” individual, or any other person with raised accolades can be eons from actualization-

while a humble “worldly-poor” man could be at its pinnacle. Overall, it is much more our intentions and how we do something, rather than in what we do. This heightened awareness is what brings to light our one-of-a-kind tapestry. Remember, that which is intrinsically ours must be expressed ... otherwise, we fall short of our meant purpose.

Thanks for reading! Please send any questions to landequal3@gmail.com.

This was a brief glimpse into the look of needs and their progression. In our next column, we will examine the Belonging and Love Needs in more detail. 🌱

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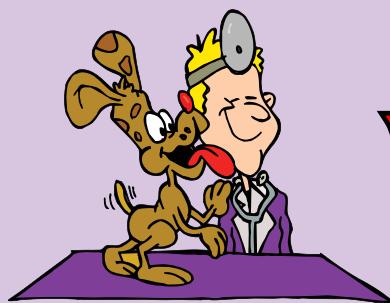
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How to Vacation with Your Pet!

By Dr. DiBenedetto *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

According to the U.S. Travel Association, there has been an upward trend with Americans vacationing with their pets over the past several years. Many hotels and attractions around the country are eager to cater to this growing culture; however some vacations are harder to take with your pet than others. For example, very few cruise ships allow pets on board and if you're planning on visiting a state or national park, there are a number of restrictions regarding domestic animals due to the potential dangers from wildlife.

Anytime you set out traveling with your pet you want to make sure they are healthy and up to date on all vaccinations. Depending on where you're going, always make sure your pet has protection against parasites such as heartworms, fleas and ticks as well.

One of the most important considerations about traveling with your pet is how accustomed he or she may be to the type of travel you will be doing. For instance, is your pet comfortable in a car or RV or in a carrier on a plane? If not, you need to decide what steps can be taken ahead of time to help them become more comfortable? For example, short frequent trips in a car may help your pet acclimate to being in the car for longer distances or getting your pet used to being in a carrier could ease the stress of air travel. On longer car trips you should plan to make frequent stops to stretch, play and potty. Remember, you should never leave your pet in a car. Did you know that on an 85 degree day it can reach 110 degrees in a car with the windows cracked open in about 10 minutes? You should always plan ahead and make sure you contact the

airlines you'll be taking in advance. Each airline has its own policies on size and style of kennels and carriers allowed on the planes.

Once you know your destination and how you will get there, the next step is packing for your pet. Of course the basics will be needed, including food, water, bowls, treats, poop bags and a leash. If your pet is on any medications make sure you pack enough for the trip plus a few extra days just in case. One of the most important things to consider for your pet is identification. Make sure your pet wears a well-fitting collar with a current ID tag. Even if your dog or cat does not wear a collar or tags at home, it is critical should you become separated during your travels.

Make sure the ID has a phone number where you can be reached during your travels – ideally, a cell phone number. A microchip is always a good idea as well. For your pet's comfort, always bring along some things that are familiar. A favorite bed or blanket or a

cozy sleeping kennel are ideal.

Keep in mind that your pet shouldn't disturb anyone else who's vacationing. Be extra careful to clean up after your pet and keep them under control on a leash at all times. By planning ahead and following these few simple rules you and your pets can enjoy a fun filled vacation together. 🐾

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

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NEW HAVEN

Continued from Page 1

saving grace of the Elevator. He was aggressive, he had ideas and he was hard working. His efforts slowly began to show by increased customer count and profits.

During 1996 the home construction business was booming. City dwellers and suburbanites were making their exodus to any ten acre parcel they could call a farm. Everyone wanted chickens, a couple horses, or some goats behind their house with a barn. The front of their homes still needed a nice manicured lawn. Rod Hurley saw this and stocked pallets of a good Michigan State certified lawn seed mix, the proper fertilizer, weed killers and everything else the novice hobby farmer needed to create a beautiful home. Rod also stocked everything for the small barn or coop. He visited the big horse boarding barns and dairy barns. There was a time when the New Haven Elevator fed and serviced 80 percent of Macomb and St. Clair Counties.

Martin Schramm peacefully passed away on a sunny morning sitting on his front porch while reading the newspaper. Wilbur Kuchenmeister became the new President of the Board of Directors. Wilbur and Rod shared the same vision for the Elevator. The Elevator had never accepted credit cards before this time. Once credit cards were accepted, sales increased even more. The Elevator took another upward turn.

Coffee, donuts, the newspaper, salted peanuts and good information - that's what you could expect when you walked through the front door. And a helping hand when you needed one. Our commitment went beyond the front door and never ended at 5:00 P.M.

Rod hired good people. Danny Heimke was a local farmer and hog breeder. He stayed with the Elevator until it closed. Richard Lawless was a champion dog breeder and handler. Emily Jackson was a great 4-H member and barrel racer. Kathy Matthews was a 4-H leader and local farmer. She and Danny were the last two employees when the Elevator closed. I can't fail to mention Grumpy Ole Jon Lollar who drove the delivery trucks and operated the grain mill. He worked for the Elevator for over twenty years. He earned his nickname and smiled every time someone called him, "Grumpy Ole Jon." That mill couldn't run without him.

During its heyday the Elevator employed (by memory) 15 daily full and part time people. On its last day it employed Kathy Matthews full time and Danny Heimke part time.

Then there was me. I was the horse liaison/advisor and local chatter box. By Rod bringing this group of people together, along with his expertise, all

the bases of agriculture and animals were covered. What one person didn't know, the other did and we learned from each other. We had the respect of the community.

A second location was opened in Kimball, Michigan. It was managed by Brian Loren. It was strictly retail.

In 2002, Wilbur Kuchenmeister passed away. That was a very sad day for the Elevator and the community. He was a well respected and much loved man.



In June of 2004 in the early morning I received a phone call from my neighbor, Marty Hartway, who is on the Richmond/Lenox volunteer fire department. "The Elevator is on fire. Meet me there. Now!" Still in chore clothes and barn boots, I grabbed my keys, jumped in my truck and arrived just as the New Haven fire department did. It didn't look too bad, but there was an awful smell. It was contained to the store. None of the wooden out buildings which were built between 1900 to 1960 was threatened. If it had been the old buildings, it would have been an irreparable disaster. The entire interior of the store was destroyed. A fireman asked me what area of the store were the chemicals kept and of what nature were they. I told him and then asked him if I could just go in the store long enough to get the cat, Cosby. For some reason, I thought he could have survived. He didn't.

We had 300 pheasant chicks in a brooder. It was determined that the electrical cord failed and there was a surge that smoldered into the wall, creating the fire. Ironically, at the close of the day, the old cat Cosby, who never left the store, not even in nice weather when the doors were propped open, ran out the front door at closing time. He hid under a truck and had to be carried back inside that night. I swear he knew.

Rod rented a trailer and we operated cash and carry, feed only, for three months while the inside of the store was being restored. However, this was an integral time in the feed business. Tractor Supply

Company was just opening on Gratiot and 26 Mile Road and Richmond Farm and Family at Gratiot and 31 Mile Rd. They had feed, hardware, clothing and boots. They had everything we had and more. They were on the main drag of Gratiot, not tucked away along the railroad tracks as all mills were. In addition, there was a rumor that we were closed, burnt down.

The decision to build a drive-thru barn was made. The concept was that customers would never have to get out of their cars. It was convenient in bad weather but not conducive for shopping. This time period was the beginning of the decline of the New Haven Farmer's Elevator. Rod Hurley left the Elevator after ten years of employment. Dennis Swithart was briefly the next manager.

The Elevator had been a Purina Dealer forever. That meant, if you wanted a Purina feed or ingredient for your custom feed, you had to buy it from us. If you wanted to carry a Purina product in your retail store, you had to buy it from us. Neither T.S.C. nor Richmond Farm and Family could carry Purina feeds unless they bought it from us. Purina feeds are considered a premium product. In 2009, Purina lifted that exclusivity. Now we had nothing to offer that the big box stores didn't have, except ourselves and that didn't seem to be enough anymore.

The Kimball location was closed and Brian Loren became the new manager.

He tried diligently to revive the Elevator. Responsible fiscal decisions needed to be made. Brian and I left our positions in 2010 for other employment. Leaving the Elevator was a very hard decision for me and broke my heart.

James Wissman was the President after Wilbur's passing until the end. Charles Bohm, who was a director but not an officer, did everything within his means to keep the Elevator alive. You can't fault the effort this man put into saving the Elevator.

On a cold day in January, 2014, I sat in my truck on the corner of Havenridge Rd. and Division Street and watched the auction. I couldn't go in and see everyone. It was too sad.

The Elevator was bought by the Holsbeke Construction Co.

The New Haven Farmers Elevator was incorporated in 1911, but operated as a farmer's co-op an undetermined amount of time before that making it well over 100 years old. It survived the Great Depression, the Great Recession, several wars, two fires, an earthquake, Monsanto and ConAgra. Everything succumbs to the circle of life.

The closing of the Elevator was no one's fault. It is a statement of the changing ways of our society.

New Haven Elevator, you served this community well. Thank you. 🍄



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What Happened on This Day in History?

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

- On this day in 1776, the first vote on the Declaration of Independence took place.
- On this day in 1776, Continental Congress resolved "these United Colonies are and of right ought to be Free and Independent States".
- On this day in 1775, Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- On this day in 1832, "America" was first sung publicly.
- On this day in 1841, Thomas Cook opened the first travel agency.
- On this day in 1885, the first inoculation (for rabies) of a human being was administered by Louis Pasteur.
- On this day in 1948, the Cleveland Indians signed Leroy "Satchel" Paige.
- On this day in 1835, the Liberty Bell cracked (again). 
- On this day in 1872, the doughnut cutter was patented by John Blondel of Thomaston, Maine.
- On this day in 1910, Chicago White Sox Comiskey Park opened and visiting Browns won 2-0.
- On this day in 1969, the Rolling Stones released "Honky Tonk Woman".
- On this day in 1862, Congress authorized the Medal of Honor.
- On this day in 1934, Babe Ruth hit homerun #700 against Detroit. 
- On this day in 1976, Jimmy Carter won the Democratic Presidential nomination in New York.
- On this day in 1991, U.S. troops left northern Iraq.
- On this day in 1956, the Detroit Tigers and Briggs Stadium sold for a then record \$5.5 million. 
- On this day in 1954, construction began on Disneyland. 
- On this day in 1986, videotapes were released showing *Titanic's* sunken remains.
- On this day in 1961, the first in-flight movie was shown (TWA).
- On this day in 1942, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps began basic training at Fort Des Moines.
- On this day in 1930, the U.S. Veterans Administration was established.
- On this day in 1942, gasoline rationing began in the U.S. during WWII. 
- On this day in 1967, race riots claiming 43 lives erupted in Detroit.
- On this day in 1952, President Truman settled a 53-day steel strike.
- On this day in 1981, *Voyager 2* encountered Saturn.
- On this day in 1971, *Apollo 15* was launched to the Moon. 
- On this day in 1586, Sir Walter Raleigh brought the first tobacco to England from Virginia.
- On this day in 1900, hamburger was created by Louis Lassing in Connecticut. 
- On this day in 1858, the first commercial treaty between the U.S. and Japan was signed.
- On this day in 1928, George Eastman demonstrated the first color movie.
- On this day in 1953, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare was created.

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ThumbPrint News Contest

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, go to www.thumbprintnews.com and enter your answer. Of all persons submitting correct answers by the 15th of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a wonderful surprise gift at the end of this year! On December 31, 2014, one winner will be drawn and the lucky person will be notified.




In the June 2014 edition, we asked our readers to identify what this object was: All of those submitting the correct answer were entered into a random drawing and, unfortunately, only one person can be the winner for the month. Veronica Lynch identified the above object as an antique cream separator. Veronica will be entered into our year end drawing for a wonderful surprise gift. For our July contest we are asking the



question, "What is it?" Identify what the object is that is pictured above and for what it is used. Remember – go to www.thumbprintnews.com if you know the answer. Good luck! 🍀

Editor's note: This photo was provided by Bob Graichen of New Baltimore, Michigan, who emailed it to me. In his email he asked:

*Diane, do you know what this is? A friend of mine brought it to a history lecture in New Baltimore a year ago. She did not know what it is. Maybe you could use it in *ThumbPrint News* for your readers to identify. How about it, readers – do you know what the above object is?*



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I'm HEAR



By Liv Anne Lern

Dear Liv,

I'm currently employed by a rather prestigious company whom often entertains clients, as well as our many visiting associates from around the nation. Part of my job entails making hotel and dining arrangements for these visitors, and in some situations, requires my direct interaction, i.e., taking a particular client to dinner or a show.

About a month ago, I was informed that one of our foreign affiliates would be coming to town in order to close a very important deal. As standard practice, I made all of the necessary preparations, and went about my business as usual. Upon her arrival to our building, I kindly escorted her to the appropriate conference room in which to conduct her business. At the day's end, my boss approached me to inquire if I was available that evening to accompany this dignitary to a dinner and dance for some continued business, mixed with a bit of relaxation. Of course I was happy to oblige.

That night, moments before I arrived at her hotel, she called me to state that she was running late, and asked if I would come up to her room. I really didn't feel comfortable doing this; however, she said that she had to gather some documents and so forth that she needed to take along to show my boss, so I reluctantly went to her room. When I arrived at her door, it was ajar. I knocked, she said to come in, and so I did. This particular hotel room was a suite, and the client was in the other room on the telephone. As I stood waiting, I couldn't help notice her laptop sitting directly in front of me, opened to an email reply from another company – our top competitor. I know I shouldn't have, but I did; I read it. The email in short appeared to detail information that could prove very damaging to my company. I say "appeared", as I didn't look at it for very long, and I'll have to admit, I'm not 100% sure of everything it said, as there was quite a bit of information listed. Then in a matter of seconds, the client came around the corner, rushed to her computer, and nervously slammed it shut. She turned to look for any signs that may have indicated I had seen the email; however, I played it

cool. We went to the dinner as planned. I pretended as if nothing had happened, and dropped her off back at the hotel shortly before midnight. The client left the next day, but the deal, as of two weeks ago, has yet to be signed. So what should I do? Should I tell my boss I accidentally saw this email? And if I do, I'm not even 100% sure of its contents. Will I get in trouble? Should I just keep my mouth shut? What if the information I saw could help my company? I'd like to be helpful, but I don't want to lose my job. What would be my best plan of action?

Do or Die

Wow! Do or Die,

You have quite an interesting tale. When I first started reading your story, and I got to the "come up to my hotel room" part, I pretty much thought this was going to go in an obvious direction. I have to tell ya, I wasn't expecting the unexpected email incident!

Here are my suggestions. Although you've mentioned that you don't have the email memorized, and you're not 100% sure of what all of the contents said, you DID see an email reply (which indicates that this client had previous contact) from your company's competitor, and you got the general idea from the email that it was damaging to your company. That being said, I would have to take the risk of telling the boss.

I would ask to speak with your boss privately, as you don't want anyone else taking this scenario and turning into something it's not, in case it turns out to be of no particular value.

Start out by explaining to your boss that you didn't snoop to find the email, and that you're not trying to be a snitch. Briefly go over how the incident occurred, and how you dealt with it.

Tell your boss what you believe the email contained; however, be SURE to express that you may have not gotten all of the details correct. If you remember something specific, then say it. Don't exaggerate or try to fill in gaps about what you "might think it said". You're not trying to be a hero here; you're just making your

boss aware of a potential situation.

Even though you felt guilty for looking at the email, please communicate to your boss how the client's reaction itself put you on guard. Her immediate return to the room, the desperate closing of the laptop, and then watching for your reaction, all provided you with a feeling of guilt on her part.

Your boss may ask you why you didn't come forward with this sooner. I can only surmise that it's because you were waiting for the deal to go through. After the couple of weeks had passed and there was no announcement regarding the deal, you felt it was necessary. Just tell your boss the

truth.

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Live and Learn

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snapshots



OF SANDUSKY

ThumbPrint News has recently started a new section called Snapshots. Every month a feature in our paper is Spotlight, which tells the history of a selected township or city in our coverage area.

Along with these stories comes the opportunity for small businesses in the chosen city or township to make the adjacent areas aware of what the area has to offer. Next month's Spotlight will be on the city of Caro. If you are a business owner in the Caro area and would like to be included in this advertising opportunity, please **contact ThumbPrint News at (810) 794-2300**.



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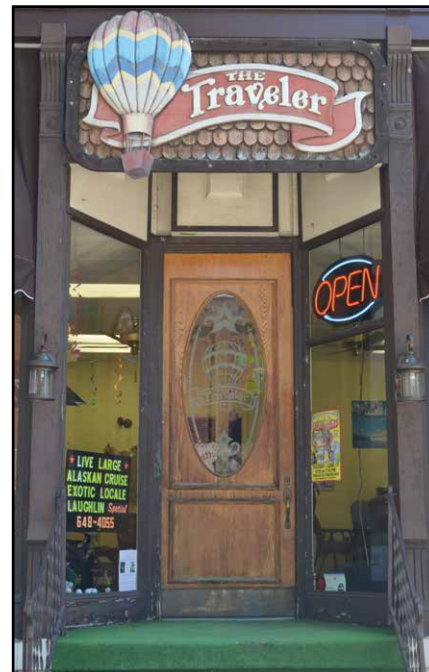
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SANDUSKY

Continued from Page 1

horrible because the logs used were laid transversely, meaning they were crossing over each other. As word of mouth spread about the treacherous Sandusky roads, the majority of people did all their trading in nearby Lexington because county buildings and businesses were already there.

In 1869, a resolution to fix the county seat was proposed by William Dawson and the next year real estate dealer Hubbard and King of Detroit donated 20 acres for Sandusky to use to build a county building.

Although the early stages of moving the county seat for Sanilac County from Lexington to Sandusky started in the late 1860s, the idea wasn't accepted until 1877 and didn't become official until 1880.

D.W. Hammond, the founder of the *Marlette Leader*, visited the city in 1880 and described the land as "being underwater for 10 to 20 miles in any direction". When Hammond was three miles away from town, he had to abandon his horses and travel on foot through the swamps to reach Sandusky.

As a result of the construction of the county buildings and roads, job creation began to increase. In order to keep up with all the new jobs, the development of hotels began in order to house laborers.

At this time, many came over from Ontario due to political unrest and the



New Sandusky Courthouse built 1916 by Covey Construction Co.

allure of jobs in the lumber mills in Sandusky enticed them to make the move. A majority of these new settlers were of Irish, English and Scottish origin.

It is believed that Wildman Mills, a lumberman and large landowner in the area, asked for the town to be named Sandusky in 1879 because the land reminded him of Sandusky, Ohio, which was named by his father and was also

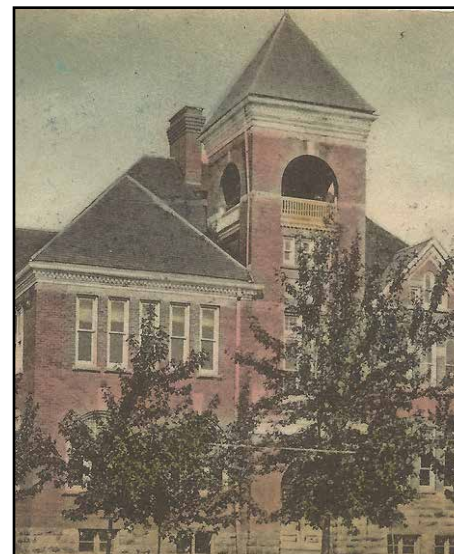
where he grew up.

Sandusky was incorporated as a village in 1885 and then was changed to Sanilac Centre in 1889 due to its location in the middle of Sanilac County. Shortly after the name change, it was switched back to Sandusky in 1905 and incorporated as a city.

Schools

Sandusky's first school came in the late 1870s and was built where the Municipal Building stands today. Unfortunately, the school burned down a few weeks before the Great Fire of 1881.

A new school wasn't built until 1898 because of the tough economic times. In the mean time, the ground floor of the Robert's Hotel was used for primary students in the area. The new school was constructed with two floors, an attic and a basement. All grades were taught by five teachers and had an average attendance of 250 students per day.



Sandusky High School 1908

The high attendance was most likely not by choice, but instead the result of a law instated around 1894, requiring children between the ages of six and 14 to spend at least three months in school every year.

Schoolhouses typically only taught children up to the eighth grade. At that time, many surrounding towns didn't have high schools, so children were sent to stay in an area with a school to ensure they graduated.

The curriculum for schooling was different than it is today, dividing the year into four terms of 10 weeks each. School took 11 years to complete and Sandusky's first graduating class was in 1900.

For an unknown reason, the local newspaper reported that around 1909 nearly the whole teaching roster was replaced, which could have had something to do with the teacher to student ratio being 50-to-1. Another possible reason for the high turnover rate could have been that once a woman got married, her teaching career was usually over.

The standard model of a school came into existence in 1913. In order for a school to be considered standard, it had to have good size and form, proper lighting and heating, proper ventilation, proper seating, as well as good teachers and toilets.

Dr. L.E. Warner, a pharmacist who originally started The Practical Institute of Pharmacy in Marlette around 1912, moved his school to Sandusky a few years later. In order to become a pharmacist during those days, a person must work in a pharmacy for four years and then they would qualify to take the written exam from the State Board of Pharmacy. If a person took a special pharmacy course, the process could be shortened to 11 weeks.

An addition came to the main schoolhouse in 1930 and included 12 rooms, an auditorium and a gymnasium. The school was torn down in 2004.

The Sandusky School offered a variety of courses, which included agriculture, college prep, engineering, commercial courses for business, as well as many sports, drama, public speaking and other extra-curricular classes.

A sports rivalry that still continues today between the Sandusky and Croswell football teams began in 1931. The tradition of the winning team taking the "keg" trophy, donated by Robert Turrell, home with them for the rest of the year started with Croswell winning the first two years. Sandusky received its first rivalry victory and the rights to the keg in 1933 with an 81-6 win over Croswell.

A college came to the area in the early 1930s, which taught students to become teachers, but the school is believed to have gone out of business once a freshman college came to Sandusky.

Teachers hit another rough patch in

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Sandusky Pere Marquette Railroad

1932 when wages were cut and staff was reduced. At this time, teachers were no longer given a yearly contract, but instead were hired on a monthly basis.

This continued for the next couple of years until the state began relieving the situation by giving aid to schools. This helped until 1939 when the state backed out of their arrangement, forcing teachers to go payless for several weeks.

A freshman college was established in Sandusky, as well as Marlette, Brown City, Crosswell and Deckerville in 1934. Sixty students enrolled the first year with seven courses offered. Despite the high student interest, the college closed the next year due to administration issues.

Fire Department

With fire being a nuisance for the area throughout the early years of development, fire control quickly became a concern for all.

The first fire warden was selected in 1893 and all firemen were volunteers. The original equipment used was a bucket brigade, using hand drawn water from the numerous fire wells throughout the city.

The warden's responsibilities included inspecting stoves, furnaces, heating apparatuses and devices located in dwellings and structures once a year.

Although the firemen didn't receive pay at the time, failure to obey the fire warden could have resulted in a \$1 fine and one day in jail if the fine wasn't paid.

The hand powered fire fighting ended

around 1900 and was replaced by a horse drawn fire unit that was in use through World War I. A picture of this unit hangs in Sandusky's Fire Department today.

Firemen finally received pay for their efforts starting in 1915. They received \$1 every night they attended practice and \$2 for every fire they fought.

Fire struck the city again in 1915 when the Sanilac County Courthouse went up in flames with damages estimated at \$50,000. Luckily important county documents were saved thanks to the habit of placing all documents in the vault at the end of each day.

Since the insurance coverage for the courthouse was only \$21,500, a new bond of \$80,000 was voted on to construct a new courthouse. Women were allowed to vote on this proposal and development began in July 1915, for a price of \$78,000 completed by the Covell Company.

During the 1920s, the city purchased its first Model T Ford fire truck, which continued to serve the city for 17 years until a General fire truck replaced the Model T.

Less than 24 hours after the new fire truck was purchased, it was used to fight its first house fire. Despite the new equipment, the firemen experienced many issues because residents parked their cars near the home, which cost the department valuable time driving around the block until they could get the truck into position.

Another problem during the truck's first fire was residents driving over the water hoses, which hindered the water pressure and their efforts to get the fire under control as fast as possible.

Another General fire truck was added to the brigade in 1947 and the city began adding fire protection to the surrounding townships.

Modern Amenities

One of Sandusky's

first forms of entertainment came in the early 1900s in the form of a theater and was owned by Fred Wagner. Moviegoers could see a silent film for a fee of 15-cents and were also able to watch the latest boxing match when they were available. It is believed the theater was located on the second floor of what is now Sandtown Florist Shop.

Rural mail delivery, which started with a cutter sleigh due to the snowy roads, began in 1905 and paid \$60 a month. Mail delivery didn't start using a motorized vehicle until nearly a decade later.

Due to the wet conditions of the area, the roads were muddy during the warm months and ice and snow covered the rest of the year, making mail distribution difficult.

Mailmen received a small form of relief in 1909. A new law was passed requiring mailboxes to be placed in an area so the postman didn't have to leave the road or his horse, drive in deep ditches, on or across railroad tracks or in any other dangerous place.

Modern amenities, such as sewers, water systems and electricity began in its early stages with a bond proposal that passed unanimously in 1911. A bond for \$4,500 was accepted to update the existing inadequate lighting system a month later.

Lighting during the day and night came to the city in 1915 when \$3,500 was raised to purchase a 250-horse power engine.

Sandusky didn't receive its first library until 1917 and it was very short lived. A local ladies' association donated books, which were kept in the city office and were only allowed to be checked out by a select group of women. Although the library didn't last long, the books did, remaining in the city office even after the library went under.

A new push for a public library in the city came about in 1934, but once again died off very fast due to a dispute over funding.

The Child Study Club, which began in 1936, was very dedicated to bringing a library to the area. The group successfully received a millage vote to cover operational costs and obtained shelving, books and magazines for the building.

Telephone service was updated in 1939, costing the Bell Telephone Company \$45,000. Now, instead of having to crank the phone to alert the operator, users only had to lift the phone from the hook to get an operator.

The present day post office was built in 1939 and gave residents a great sense of pride. However, not everyone was thrilled with the new construction because of the seemingly high price tag of \$70,000. Many argued the State Police Post building, built a few years earlier, only cost \$18,000.

Transportation

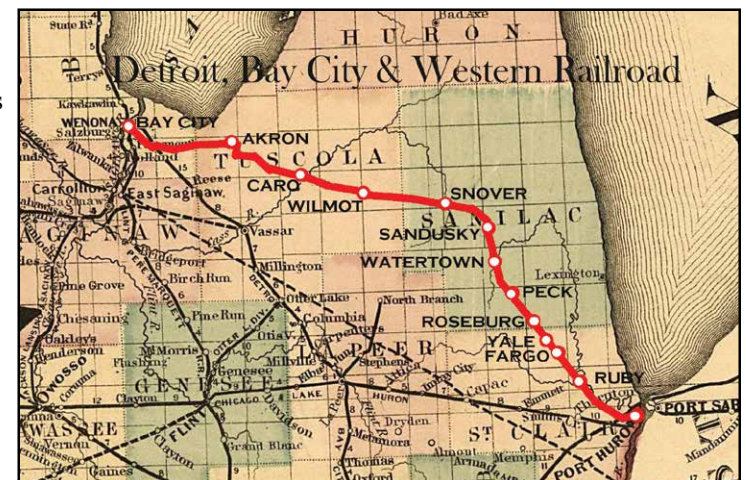
Sandusky Motor Company got its start in 1910 as the area's first car dealership. During that time, the most popular vehicles were the Maxwell Runabout, which cost \$825 and the \$900 Ford Touring car.



1910 Maxwell Runabout

Twenty people in Sandusky owned cars by May of 1911. One dangerous problem with cars at the time was the durability of tires, which were not made to last. This often resulted in blowouts, causing many cars to flip over or end up in the ditch.

Sandusky's railroads debuted in 1911, when Pere Marquette rolled into the area from Carsonville. A few years later, the Handy Brothers from Bay City built a railroad coming in from the north. The lines official name was the Detroit, Bay City and Western Railroad, but was better known as the Handy Brothers' Railroad.



Depot in Sandusky circa 1920

After about 12 years of service, the railroad became a financial catastrophe forcing them to declare bankruptcy.

Throughout the late 1920s, hay and sugar beets were delivered all around the country from Sandusky. By the 1930s so many people owned cars that passenger services were unneeded and the trains were only used to haul goods.

Dr. Timothy Thomson



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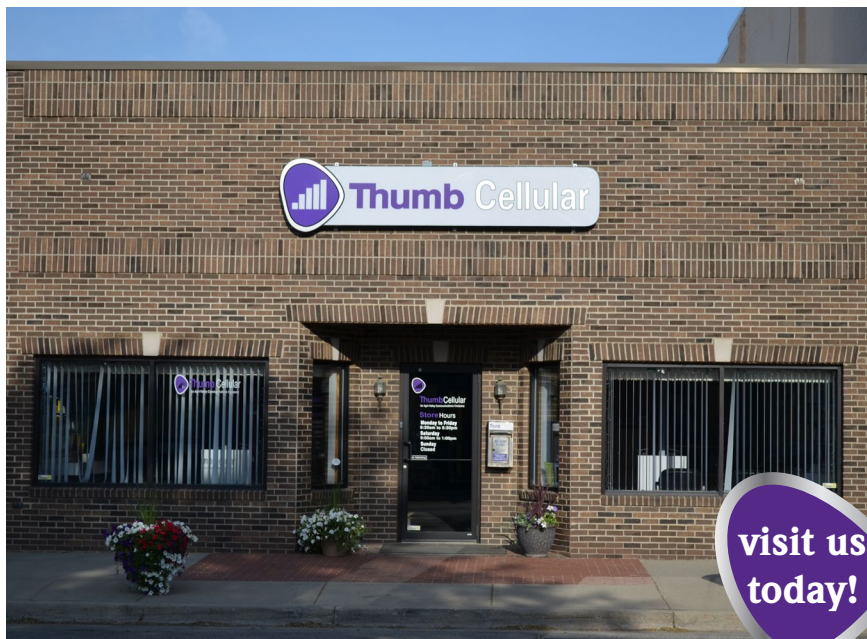
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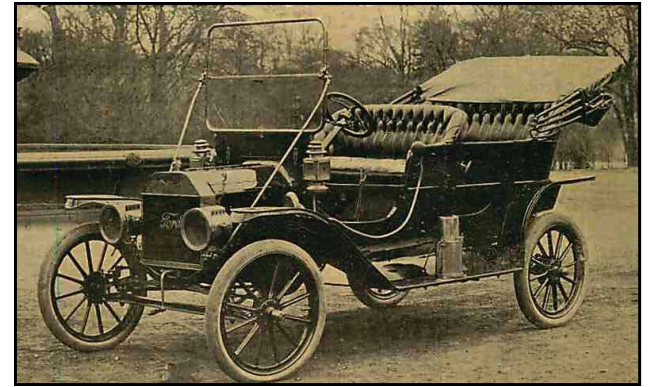
SANDUSKY

Continued from Page 19

By 1950, the railway was condensed down and only traveled from Sandusky to Caro. Three years later, that line was also closed.

Bus service began in 1937, with two busses that brought students into Sandusky from Snover and Port Sanilac.

The next year, the fleet increased to five busses.



Diseases

Tuberculosis was a very prevalent and deadly disease causing a great deal of concern. On April 24, 1910, Tuberculosis Sunday was held in nearly every church in the country, including Sandusky. The service explained prevention and cure for the disease and literature was also circulated after the service explaining the topics covered.

Other diseases besides tuberculosis had people in a state of fear. In 1935, Sandusky and Brown City schools closed their doors for a few days due to two cases of polio, in the area. The fear of the contagious disease was so high no one wanted to take a chance of starting an epidemic.

Some of the other common diseases of the time included scarlet fever, smallpox and diphtheria. Teachers were required to frequent seminars, which explained the importance of sanitary habits.

An annual President's Ball was held for a number of years starting in 1936. The ball was held to honor President Franklin Roosevelt's birthday, as well as raise money for infantile paralysis or polio and took place in over 5,000 towns nationwide. Although President Roosevelt portrayed himself as a recovered man at the time, we now know that he developed polio in 1921.

Five hundred people attended the first presidential ball in Sandusky, which raised \$200. Seventy percent of the money raised remained in the community, while the remaining 30 percent was donated to a polio rehabilitation center.

President Roosevelt started the National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis in 1938, which is more familiarly known today as the March of Dimes.

Prohibition and the Depression

Around the turn of the century, the push for prohibition became a focus for many. In 1908 "local option" came into the county, which gave each individual county the right to decide whether or not it would allow the sale of liquor in its city limits. After local option was voted on, the state became a mix of dry and wet counties, with Sandusky being one that supported prohibition.

With the arrival of vehicles, drunk

driving became a deadly problem with collisions happening regularly and because license restrictions didn't exist at the time, 12 and 13 year-old boys were often allowed to drive their mothers and sisters. The road was a dangerous place during this time period.

Although the city was technically a dry county, residents were still able to get their liquor by having it shipped in. Their carts and buggies were taken to the depot, where they would pick up their beverages and cover them in order to hide the illegal shipment.

The 18th Amendment was repealed in 1933 and a year later, the Sandusky City Council voted on whether or not to allow the sale of alcohol. At the time, there had yet to be any requests from local businesses to sell liquor, but a newspaper survey showed that the people desired the sale to become legal again.

By the end of the 1930s, two businesses sold liquor in Sandusky.

While the majority of the country was suffering immensely during the 1930s due to the Great Depression, Sandusky wasn't hit as hard as many places and the State Band of Sandusky was able to remain secure throughout the tough economic times.

The Works Project Administration (WPA), Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) and the National Recovery Administration (NRA) were present in the area and aided Sandusky by supplying jobs and keeping the local economy going.

Merchants in the area created a Prosperity Campaign in 1931 to help keep the economy as strong as possible. A ticket was given out for every 50-cent purchase made. Those tickets were collected and at the end of 10 weeks a drawing was made to win \$100 in golf. People traveled to Sandusky from all around the county to shop and be present for the drawing.

Growth

The first store came about when Charles Corbishley and Thomas Doyle began to build in 1879.

Population also increased starting in the 1880s. In 1879, Sandusky's population was a mere 200 residents, but a few short years



later, that number increased to 800.

The first social club was the Knights of the Maccabees, which was established in 1881 and offered a \$1,000 insurance policy to members. The Ladies of the Maccabees, their women counterpart, was established a few years later.

Moore & Carter Lumber Company came into Sandusky in 1904 and was located across the street from where it currently resides. The business was started with a team of horses and four partners, who included Peter Carter, his son Pete, as well as Allyn and Algie Moore.

One of the main churches in the area, the St. Joseph's Catholic Church, came into existence around the 1870s, but worshippers had to travel a great distance in order to attend mass. For the first decade of its service, churchgoers were forced to make the 28-mile expedition to Port Sanilac to worship at St. Mary's.

Tired of the long journey, people started gathering in each other's homes with a reverend conducting the mass, which continued for many years because a church building didn't come about for quite a while.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church became part of the city in 1923 when its own church was built in Sandusky. The building is still in existence today and is used as a dental office on Morse Street.

With the population on the rise in the 1930s, sports became an activity that a lot of neighboring cities participated in, especially baseball. Sandusky had an athletic club composed of 20 male athletes, who played other teams in the area.

Sandusky's population at the time was 1298 residents, which was up 70 from the 1920 census. By the end of the 30s, that number increased to nearly 1500.

Apparently, these frequent baseball games were pardoned from the city ordinance instated in 1909, banning the

throwing of any flying objects, including snowballs and baseballs.

Besides sports, many residents enjoyed joining reading or literary clubs, which were very popular during that time.

A boom in club development also came in the 1930s, with many still around today.

The first Boy Scout troop came into existence for Sandusky in 1930 and was sponsored by the Sandusky Exchange Club. A birdcage-building contest was held, in which the top three builders split the prizes totaling \$15. The birdcages were sold in order to purchase uniforms.

Five years later, the city got another Boy Scout troop, as well as its first Campfire Girl troop sponsored by the VFW.

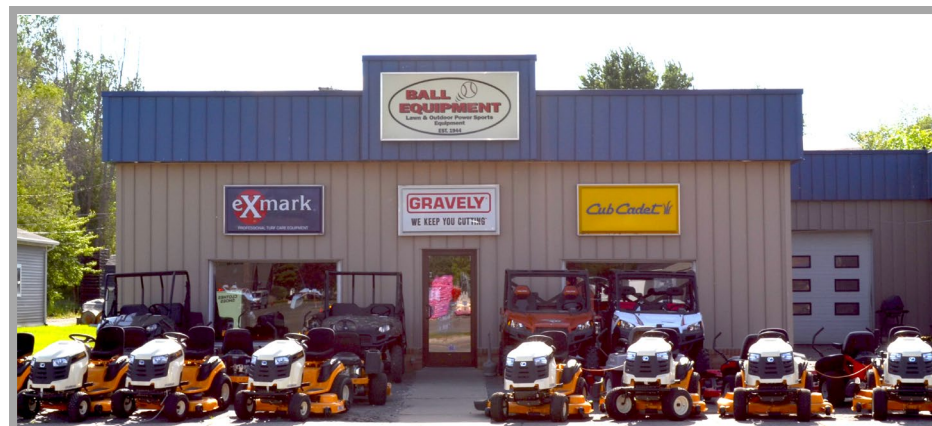
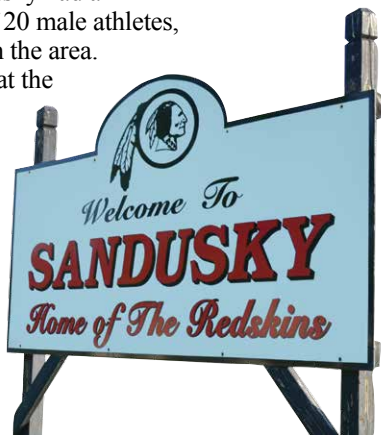
A representative from the Lions Club International traveled to Sandusky in hopes of recruiting 20 new members to start a new local chapter. This recruit attempt was easily met and near the end of the 1930s, the Lions Club started in Sandusky and is still in existence today.

Even during its first year in existence, the club did a great deal for the people in the community. In December, they sponsored a Christmas party for the whole city, which was held in the high school auditorium. The celebration included a Christmas tree, stories, an appearance from Santa Claus, free candy and peanuts and even free gifts for needy children and families.

A building boom came to the area starting in 1940 in the form of businesses and homes.

Some of today's big businesses opened their doors in Sandusky at the time as well. A Kroger opened for business in the early 1940s with Ball Equipment coming a few years later when Emerson and Doris Ball started selling farming equipment.

Today, Sandusky's population totals more than 2,600 residents. 🌱



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Introducing David

By **Bethany Wolf**

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Last month *ThumbPrint News* welcomed David Odziana to the staff as a field reporter. In this issue, we would like to let you get to know him a little bit.

The twenty-three year old reporter is the son of Michael and Pam Odziana of Goodells, Michigan. David's father is a carpenter, and his mother works at the Corporate Headquarters for DMC as a Clinical Auditor for the Clinical Research Office. He has one brother, Michael, who is two years older. "We're closer now that he moved out," David said; the two of them spend a lot of time together golfing. In 2015, both of them will be getting married, David to his high school sweetheart, Sammi Kowatch. They have been dating since 2007 and love going on vacation whenever they can. However when they can't get away, they love being out in the sun together.

Besides spending time with his loved ones, David loves doing yard work. He spent five years working at D&B Plants in Richmond. Of all the plants that he's familiar with, he said that the Weigela Sonic Bloom® is his favorite.

When asked about his biggest accomplishment, David answered reaching Eagle Scout status. In the future, he may be writing stories on scouting. I asked if he could recall anything that might not make it into a story. He told me about a trip to Lost Lake Boy Scout Summer Camp where they got to practice target shooting and venture through some hidden

passageways in the large lodge. With a little research, David discovered the lodge used to belong to Harry Bennett, head of security for the Ford Motor Company. The Boy Scouts of America turned the estate into a camp in the mid-1960s; they ran it until 2012. He said that he would like to go back to the property at some point because he was so young the first time.

Beyond all of that, higher education has been a large part of David's life since he graduated from Memphis High School in 2009. He began the journey at St. Clair County Community College, then transferred to Saginaw Valley State University before finishing at Oakland University with a degree in journalism. Another large accomplishment in David's life was "finally graduating college," which he did this past April. Along with shifting where he studied, David changed majors a couple

times as well. Initially, he started studying exercise science and nursing. Eventually, switching to journalism felt like a natural choice for him given he's always enjoyed writing and English classes. During interviews and while writing, David likes to find a new angle that will help shed a unique light onto the subject.

One of my favorite questions to ask is if there is a quote you live by, and I loved David's answer: "When writing the story of your life, don't let anyone else hold the pen." (Harley Davidson). David said he's enjoyed working at *ThumbPrint News* so far, and knows that wherever the future takes him, he'll be the one holding the pen. 🍀



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

We have another photo for you: Starville School circa 1925. We are looking for any information about the school and/or identifications we can get.

Thanks,

Pat Runyon
Cottrellville Historical Society

P.S.: In April you printed a photo for us of Robert's Landing and we got a call from a Robert's family member and she will be helping us with Robert's Landing history.

Dear Editor,

My name is Elmer Rivard from New Baltimore, Michigan, and I am a WWII veteran. We had 10 kids in the family. I never remembered my mother; she passed away having my younger brother. Your piece in the paper brought tears to my eyes. Nice Mother's Day piece.

Thank you,

Elmer

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed David Gillis's article in *ThumbPrint News* about his fond memories of old radio programs. I have similar memories. I was born in 1942

and wasn't allowed to stay up to hear the "scary" shows, such as "Inner Sanctum", "The Whistler", or any of the detective ones.

Imagine my delight when I received a catalogue from Radio Spirits, a company that has re-issued hundreds of old programs on CD's. I discovered many programs that I had never hear of as they were broadcast only on the East or West Coast. Their address and phone number is:

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HOUSE FOR LIFE

By Paul Welch

ThumbPrint News Columnist

With the warm weather here, we all want to get outside and enjoy it. It is a wonderful time to get things done outside as well. Don't forget that there is important maintenance that should be done inside the home. Indoor plumbing is something we all enjoy having. Drain pipes are important because they get rid of things we don't want hanging around. When they work like they are supposed to, we are happy and all is right with the world. When they become sluggish or clogged, it will put a real damper on our day. Fortunately there are solutions for this problem.

What's Down There?- It is important to know the difference between a clog in the kitchen drain and a clog in the bathroom. As many of you know, kitchen sink clogs are primarily grease and food bits that build up over time, while bathroom drains get clogged with hair and soap. This is an important distinction because there are different drain cleaners with different ingredients. The best way to solve your problem is to choose the right drain cleaner for the job.

What's It Made Of? - The three common ingredients that you may find in drain cleaner are sodium hydroxide (lye), potassium hydroxide, and sodium hypochlorite (chlorine). All you need to know is that this caustic cocktail is designed to break down clogs and get your drain working again.

Unfortunately not all drain cleaners work the same. Your most common ones will work on kitchen drains' clogs. When choosing one for the bathroom drain, choose one that is designed for hair clogs. If you are pouring it through standing water, you want a thicker formula that won't be diluted by the water. The key to using all of them is to follow the directions - pour, wait, flush, repeat.

If the regular drain cleaners aren't working for you, there are drain cleaners that are concentrated sulfuric acid. This is the strongest possible drain cleaner and should be used with caution. It will work on almost any type of drain problem, but can be dangerous if not used properly.

I'm Still Clogged - If you have tried drain cleaners and you still have slow or blocked drains, you likely have a problem further down the pipe. It is time to break

out the snake. Drain snakes can reach clogs that are too far down for drain cleaners to be effective. Simply feed the snake down the drain and spin it when it stops moving. Feed it through as far as you can and pull it back. That should be enough to take care of the problem.

Toilet Talk - Few things are worse than when you flush the toilet and it starts to fill up instead of flush. You immediately start asking it to not overflow onto the floor. The first thing we all try is a plunger and it works in many cases. If the plunger won't work, assess the situation before trying a drain cleaner that says it works on toilets. Toilets don't work the same as other drains.

Everything that you put in a toilet stays in the bowl until you flush. Then water fills the bowl causing it to flush through. If a toilet still drains slowly, a drain cleaner that works in toilets will likely work. If it is completely clogged, no amount of drain cleaner will get it working again. It will just sit in the bowl with the water until the toilet will flush again. You need to use a drain snake called a "closet auger" or "toilet auger" to get it unclogged. Simply feed it through as far as it will go, turning it when it gets stuck.

Getting to the Root of the Problem - Sometimes the drain pipes in your yard will get filled with roots from plants such as trees. With all that yummy biological waste for them, a few roots are likely to end up in there. Unfortunately, this will cause all your drains to be sluggish. To solve this problem, use a product that contains copper sulfate in a drain cleaner opening closest to the main drain line leaving the house. That will kill the roots clogging the line. A faster way is to use a power auger with a tip for cutting through roots.

Prevention vs. Cure - The best way to prevent drain clogs is to run drain cleaner through them once a month. It will break down any buildup that could become a clog later on. Also, be careful of what you put down the drain. Don't try to flush items that aren't designed to be flushed. Only put food down the drain if you have a garbage disposal and even then, be careful. Nothing will clog a disposal worse than a large amount of pasta.

Hopefully this advice helps keep your pipes flowing and problem free. Remember that it is important to know when to throw in the towel and call a professional. It is easy to get in too deep because you don't want to call a plumber. Do-it-yourself is good, but sometimes someone else should be called in. Have a safe and happy Fourth of July. If you have any questions or comments, email me at thumbprintnews@comcast.net and I will reply in a timely manner. 🐿️

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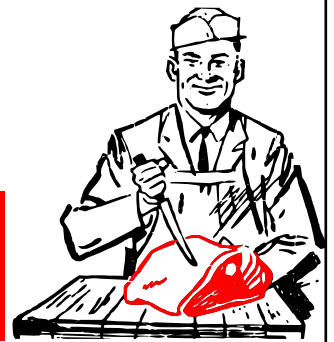
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THUMB AREA

Activites & Events Calendar

July 2014

If you have an event in August that you would like listed in the August issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by July 12, 2014. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some of the events that were submitted to us, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

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

Genesee

No July events were submitted for Genesee County this month. If you would like to see your county represented in August, be sure to submit August events by July 12 to thumbprintnews@comcast.net.

Huron

No July events were submitted for Huron County this month. If you would like to see your county represented in August, be sure to submit August events by July 12 to thumbprintnews@comcast.net!

Lapeer

Lapeer - July 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 Summer Concert Series, courthouse lawn, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Rain or shine (rain location is Cavellis). Bring your lawn chairs for this free event. Different bands and entertainers will perform each week. For more information visit downtownlapeer.com.

Lapeer - July 6, 13, 20 & 27 Flea Market, Lapeer Center Building, 425 County St., 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Up to 50 booths inside and outside selling a huge variety of items. Free admission. For information on space rentals call (810) 347-7915.

Lapeer - July 7, 14, 21 & 28 Lapeer Cruise Nights, downtown on Nepessing St., 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Tons of free parking. 50/50 drawing with proceeds donated to The Refuge of Lapeer County. Music by B & C DJ & Sound. For more information visit downtownlapeer.com.

Imlay City - July 25 & 26 34th Annual Blueberry Festival. Events include a car show, a 5K Blueberry Stomp, arts and crafts vendors, and more. For more information call the Imlay City Chamber of Commerce at (810) 724-1361 or visit www.imlaycityblueberry.com.

Macomb

Clinton Township - July 9 Estate Planning Workshop, Fern Hill Golf Course, 17600 Clinton River Rd., 10:30 a.m. Who will be the beneficiary of your life savings? Will it be Probate Court or your family? Come to this free informative workshop sponsored by Estate Planning Professionals of Macomb, Michigan. For more information or to RSVP call Laura at (586) 604-7112.

Chesterfield - July 12 and 13 WWII Re-enactors Encampment, Chesterfield Historical Village, 47275 Sugarbush, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. There will be public demonstrations of authentic WWII combat, encampment life and

vehicle displays. Cost \$1 per adult or \$2 for a family. Food and drinks available for purchase on site. For more information call Roy or Eileen at (586) 749-3713.

Memphis - July 12 Spaghetti Dinner and Euchre Tournament, Memphis Lions Hall, 34758 Pratt Rd., 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., dinner, 7:00 p.m. euchre. Dinner cost is \$7 (7 years and up), \$3 (6 years and under). \$1 refreshments, \$10 for euchre. Everyone is welcome. All proceeds benefit the Memphis Lions Organization for reroofing the pavilion. For more information email bebronson@frontier.com.

New Baltimore - July 25 & 26 The New Baltimore Lions Club Relay for Life 3rd Annual Yard Sale, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. For more information call Florence at (586) 725-4690.

Oakland

No July events were submitted for Oakland County this month. If you would like to see your county represented in August, be sure to submit August events by July 12 to thumbprintnews@comcast.net!

St. Clair

Algonac - July 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 Puppeteer Club, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 3:00 p.m. Have you ever wanted to be a part of a puppet show? Learn to make puppets and put on little skits. For more information call (810) 794-4471.

Capac - July 3 Kid Kreations, Capac Library, 111 N. Main, 4:00 p.m. Bring your friends to the library to hear some great stories and do a fun craft. For elementary-age children. For more information call (810) 395-7000.

Algonac - July 4 Boat Parade with the Algonac Lions Club, downtown area, 4:00 p.m.

Do you have a boat 1979 or older and would like to join the parade? For more information call Paula at (810) 794-9641.

Marysville - July 6 AYCE Bacon, Egg and Pancake Breakfast, Marysville Masonic Center, 1569 Michigan Ave., 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Adults \$6, children 4 and under free. For more information contact Al at (586) 907-7125 or ajohnson48063@yahoo.com.

Port Huron - July 7 Little Critter Live, Port Huron Library, 210 McMorrin Blvd., 2:30 p.m. Little Critter, the favorite children's book character created by Gina and Mercer Mayer, will be here for stories, crafts and photos with the children. Ages 10 and under. For more information call (810) 987-7323 ext. 132 or 130.

Yale - July 9, 16 & 30 Science Wednesday, Yale Library, 2 Jones St., 10:30 a.m. Join us for a story and experiment for Summer Reading Club. For more information call (810) 387-2940.

Fair Haven - July 11, 18 & 25 Tot Time, Ira Township Library, 7013 Meldrum Rd., 10:00 a.m. Stories, music and crafts for children ages 0 – 5 and their caregivers. For more information call (586) 725-9081.

Marine City - July 11, 18 & 25 Freaky Friday, Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker, 1:00 p.m. Join our science geek Alisha as she amazes us with her simple, silly science stuff. Registration required. Ages 5 – 12. To register or for more information call (810) 765-5233.

Capac - July 12 4th Annual CoA Golf Scramble, Holly Meadows, 4855 Capac Rd. Cost is \$150 per three-man team for 18 holes and will include a hot dog, chips and pop. Proceeds benefit the Brick-by-Brick Campaign to build the Dr. and Alberta Conrad Community Center. For



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information contact Jan at (810) 395-7889 or capac@thecouncilonagin.org.

Harsens Island - July 12

6th Annual Boat4Vets Outing, Idle Hour Yacht Club, 7800 S. Channel Drive, 10:00 a.m. Join us for a boat ride, BBQ with good food, prizes and some of the best fellowship in Michigan. As always this is free to all veterans and spouses. RSVP is required. Call Mike at (810) 241-8025 to save your spot.

Marine City- July 12

Flea Market, Riverside Plaza (K-Mart Plaza), 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., set up is 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m., rain or shine. Applications are available to be mailed out by the Chamber of Commerce by contacting chamber@visitmarinecity.com or (810) 765-4501.

Marine City - July 12

4th Annual Yard Sale, Light of Christ Church, 4053 Ravenswood Rd., 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. You are welcome to come and take what you need without any expectation to pay for it. If you do leave a donation, 100% of the donations will benefit Blue Water Pregnancy Care Center as they serve our St. Clair County community. If you have things to donate, drop off items Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – noon and Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. For more information call (810) 985-4673

St. Clair - July 12

Ice Cream Social, St. Clair Library, 310 S. Second St., 1:00 p.m. Come to the library and make ice cream from scratch. Ages 6 – 12. Registration is required by calling (810) 329-3951.

Kimball - July 14

Rosevalley Ceramics Kids, Kimball Township Library, 1955 N. Allen Rd., 4:00 p.m. Come paint a ceramic piece to take home. Ages 5 – 12. For more information call (810) 982-9171

Memphis - July 14

3-2-1 Blast Off!, Memphis Library, 34830 Potter St., 3:00 p.m. All students in grades 1 – 5 are welcome to join us at the library as we see what we can shoot into the air safely. Registration is requested by calling (810) 392-2980.

Lakeport - July 17

Family Movie Night, Burtchville Township Library, 7097 Second St., 5:30 p.m. The PG rated film feature is about an imaginative nine year old boy who daydreams of alien invasions, then makes friends with an innocent alien giant robot from outer space. Registration requested. All ages welcome. Popcorn and beverage provided. For more information or to register call (810) 385-8550.

Port Huron - July 17

Wine on the Water, Vinomundo Wine Bar and Brew Pub, Vantage Point Marina, 104 1st St., 6:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Visiting Nurses Association Specialized Adult Day Program is sponsoring this non-profit event with all proceeds going to provide care to affected individuals in St. Clair County. This is a full progressive Spanish tapas dinner and wine tasting event. Dr. Annette Mercatante, St. Clair County Medical Officer, will be the keynote speaker addressing the topic of Alzheimer's and highlighting resources for affected families in our community. Live entertainment by Joe DeHeno and there will be commemorative wines to purchase. Tickets are \$55 each or two for \$100. Call (810) 984-4131 to purchase tickets or for more information. Seating is limited.

Fair Haven - July 18

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

Marine City - July 19 & 20

Annual Antique Show, Nautical Mile Park, downtown area, on the St. Clair River, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Vendors will be selling antiques, primitives and collectibles. Location is near the ferry to Canada. Additional amenities nearby include nine antique shops and malls, retail and art shops, restaurants and specialty foods. Saturday admission is \$3 for adults;

kids are free. Also serious shoppers will have access to early buying on Saturday only from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. for \$10. A mini car show will be featured this day as well. Sunday admittance is free to everyone with an optional donation to this year's non-profit group, the Boy Scouts. Scout volunteers will also be available for porter service to buyers and vendors throughout the weekend. Any tips will stay with their group. For more information visit chamber@visitmarinecity.com or call (810) 765-4501.

Marysville - July 19

Tail Waggin' Tutors, Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware, 10:00 a.m. Does your child need a little extra encouragement with reading? This special hour at the library fosters confidence and love of reading as kids read aloud to their individual canine tutor from Therapy Dogs International. Registration requested by calling (810) 364-09493.

Port Huron - July 22

Free Blood Pressure and Body Mass Index (BMI) Screenings, Vantage Point Farmers Market, 51 Water St., 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Heart Healthy educational materials will be freely available as well. No registration required. For more information call toll free (800) 326-1811. For a list of future 2014 events and other Heart Healthy information visit www.partnersatheart.info

Port Huron - July 223

St. Clair County Family History Group, St. Clair Library, 210 McMorran Blvd., 7:00 p.m. Archived information available for genealogy research at the library will be discussed and a tour will be hosted by Barb King. No business meeting that evening. Visitors are welcome. Anyone interested in local history or researching their family tree may visit our programs as a guest or become a new member of the group. For more information visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miscffhg/ or call (317) 600-7813.

Algonac - July 27

Historic Log Cabin Open for Viewing, Clay Township Park, M-29 next to Clay Twp. Offices, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. For more information call Paula at (810) 794-9641.

Sanilac

Croswell - All of July

Croswell Tagged Fish Contest, For all ages. Cost is \$20. Cash prizes for anyone who catches a tagged fish. For more information and rules and regulations visit www.cityofcroswell.com or call (810) 679-3904.

Port Sanilac - July 10

American Red Cross Blood Drive, St. Mary Parish Center, 7066 W. Main St., 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Blood supplies are always low during the summer months. Please come and help save lives. Hosted by Port Sanilac Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8872. For more information email jplyall@hotmail.com.

Sandusky- July 12 and 26

Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Bring finger foods (for 9:00 p.m.) and friends. \$5 for members and \$6 for guests (regular dances). \$10 membership per year. On July 12 we will be entertained by Lighthouse Three and on July 26 The Natural Tones. July 26 is Hawaiian Night and the Club provides chicken. For more information call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250.

Sandusky- July 12 and 26

Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Bring finger foods (for 9:00 p.m.) and friends. \$5 for members and \$6 for guests (regular dances). \$10 membership per year. On July 12 we will be entertained by Lighthouse Three and on July 26 The Natural Tones. July 26 is Hawaiian Night and the Club provides chicken. For more information call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250.

Lexington- July 15

Sanilac County Genealogical Society Meeting and Annual Potluck Picnic, Captain's Quarters Inn, 7277 Simons St., 6:00 p.m. This is an indoor event; bring a dish to pass. Tableware and beverages are provided. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to Pat Cutler at (810) 359-8910 prior to this meeting. There will be no planned speaker and no business meeting at this event.

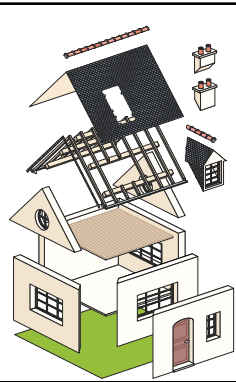
Tuscola

No July events were submitted for Wayne County this month. If you would like to see your county represented in August, be sure to submit August events by July 12 to thumbprintnews@comcast.net!

Wayne

No July events were submitted for Wayne County this month. If you would like to see your county represented in August, be sure to submit August events by July 12 to thumbprintnews@comcast.net!

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General

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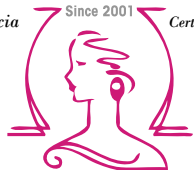
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Memoirs from The Restless Retiree

PLANNING FOR FAMILY BIRTHDAYS

By **Gabriel Jones**

ThumbPrint News Columnist

"Love...your birthday is coming up. We only have two weeks to plan for it. We can celebrate it at home or a restaurant or both. What do you think?"

"Well, if we have it at home, we'll really have to move things and clean up the house."

"Do we have the strength and energy at this time to do it?"

"Well, what's the alternative?"

"We can ask to have it at our daughter's house."

"No. I don't think that's a good idea. She has enough to do taking care of her two children and working with them to keep up their grades in school."

"Then, there is our niece. She would have it at her house if we asked her."

"No, Gabriel...She had us over for Christmas Eve. Remember how hard she said that she worked to get ready for that."

"OK, then...you answered the question. We'll have to have it at a restaurant."

"But Gabriel...what about the birthday cake and such? Do we do it there?"

"Well, we did it once before... Remember...about 3 years ago. We opened the cards and presents after we had our dinner."

"Yes, I remember, but I wouldn't

want to do it that way again."

(Phone Rings)

"I'll answer it."

Gabriel's wife goes to the phone. "Hello."

Gabriel's wife keeps talking and suddenly she smiles at Gabriel and waves her hand excitedly.

She keeps talking and finally hangs up.

"Gabriel...our problem is solved."

"How, love?"

"That was our niece on the phone.

After I mentioned that we were going to have my birthday at a restaurant, she reminded me that her daughter's birthday is only two weeks later than mine. She then suggested that the two birthdays could be celebrated together at her house. We could order pizza from there and afterwards have cake and presents. That way our family wouldn't have to travel between dinner and birthday cake.

"Well, what did you say?"

"I had to stop...slow down...and slowly...say...yes, that would be a wonderful idea."

Gabriel sits down heavily and says "Whew! We're saved! We don't have to clean up the house tonight."

"Gabriel, I wouldn't go that far! The house can't stay this way. We'll still have to work and clean up so that we'll be ready the next time that the family gets together. We're due to have them at our house. So get up off of that couch and let's start cleaning!"

Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🐿

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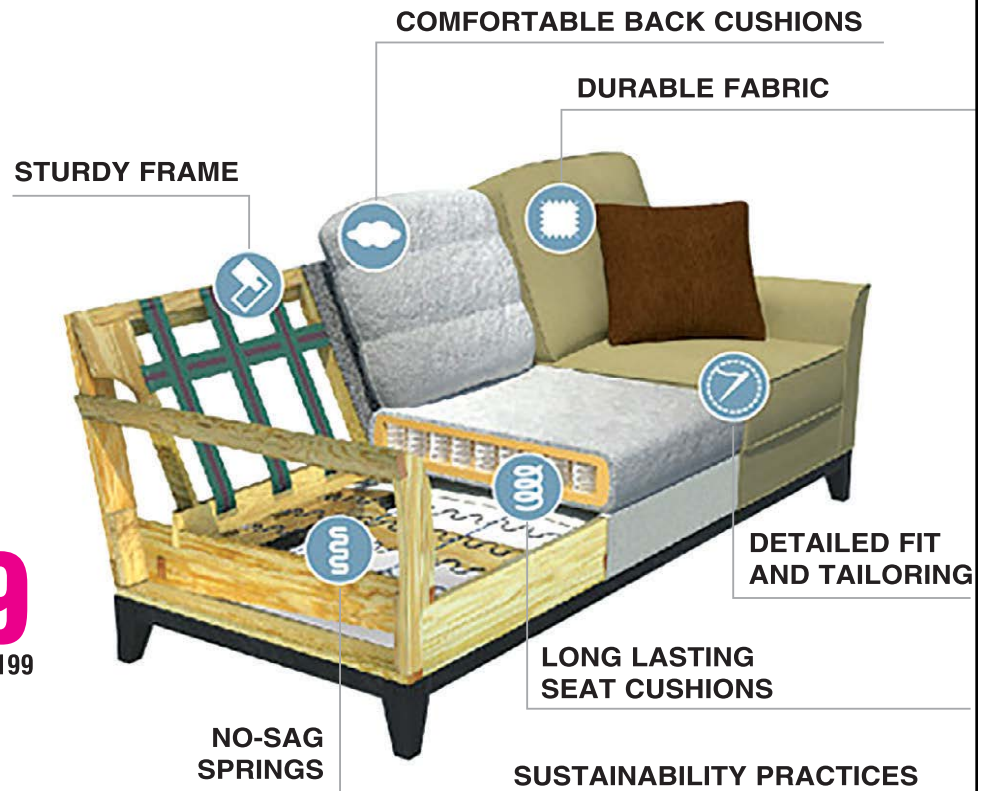
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