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# ThumbPrint News

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



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# FIRST ROBOTICS

V A R S I T Y      S P O R T   O F   T H E   M I N D

**By Nicholas Fitzsimons**  
 ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Dean Kamen faced an unusual dilemma: once you invent something as cool and iconic as the Segway, what can you do to top that? Mr. Kamen, the innovator that he is, had a solution: he invented a high-school robotics league. FIRST, which stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," is a non-profit organization that, since its inception, has brought engineering and entrepreneurial concepts to millions of students not just in America, but

throughout the world. It does this through various student-level robotics leagues, ranging from FIRST Lego League robotics for middle school children to the high school-level FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC), in which the robots are comparable in size to the robots in the *Star Wars* movie series.

Students join teams in their local school district or in some cases from schools up to 50 miles apart. Each



See ROBOTICS, Page 18

# Sabotage of the St. Clair Tunnel

**By Bill Easton**  
 ThumbPrint News Guest Writer



The St. Clair Tunnel links Sarnia, Ontario with Port Huron, Michigan by rail under the St. Clair River. The one currently carrying only freight was completed in 1995 to replace the original one that began operations a century before. That was the first subaqueous rail tunnel in the world. The completed cost was about \$2.7 million, paid for by the British owned Grand Trunk Railway (GTR). Previously, the busy freight traffic between the countries had to be unloaded from rail cars, transferred to ferries and shipped across the

almost mile wide river currents – all at a cost of time and money. It was estimated that use of the tunnel saved about \$50,000 yearly and cut two hours passenger time from eastern cities. Although originally steam locomotives were used, those proved too dangerous and were replaced by electricity and now diesel. Digging across the river began from both countries and met almost exactly in the middle.

Because the first tunnel didn't have enough height to allow

See TUNNEL, Page 28

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*ThumbPrint News* wants to invite you to supper, but we can't tell you where!

Secret Supper Clubs have their roots in the deep South. In the early 1800s, thirty to forty landowners and at least one South Carolina governor, would meet and fish all morning long. Following, they would cook the fish into a variety of epicurean delights and, along with champagne and brandy, would meet in a secret location to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

This tradition is still continuing today. Adventurous chefs and ordinary folks who love food, love to talk about it and love to cook it, send out invitations to a select group of people who are invited to participate in a "Secret Supper Club." The "secret" part is that the location of the event is not revealed until those invited have accepted the invitation (and, by the way, paid to attend). A few days before the event, the location is revealed or, in some cases, unique ways of arriving at the location are used, such as having to complete a series of clues that lead to the destination, having a van or bus pick them up and take them to the location or other creative ideas. Each event is unique and only limited by the imagination of the person or persons who plan the event.

Locations, too, can vary widely. It may be a long table set in the middle of a fragrant forest, seating inside a cozy cabin around a crackling fire or it may be an upscale catered event on an elegant estate. The appeal is the mystery and the chance to make new acquaintances as the guest list rarely is selected because everyone

knows everyone else. Of course, a major component is the gourmet multi-course meal that is the end reward.

What is the reason I am talking about Secret Supper Clubs? *ThumbPrint News* staff is in the planning stages of starting its own version of a Secret Supper Club – with a few twists. They wanted to put the idea out to our readers and see if there would be an interest. They also want your comments, including suggestions or ideas to improve their vision.

What they are proposing is the *ThumbPrint* Secret Supper Club. This version would allow those who want to attend to do so, instead of only a select group of individuals receiving invitations. There would be a cost, which would vary according to the venue and menu being offered. The cost would be revealed up front, with a maximum number of persons who could accept the invitation. The location would not be revealed, other than to say in what county the event would be held. The menu also would be secret, although there would always be several choices. Participants could register as a group with other friends, but would also be free to come as a couple or solo. It is a great opportunity to meet new people, enjoy great conversation – and, who knows, maybe develop a long term friendship. A few days before the event, the location would be revealed or the staff may come up with a creative way to get you to the location. Reservations, once paid for, would be non-refundable.



The locations also would vary. Outdoor locations may be part of the agenda during warmer summer months. The staff already has a list of some really unique places! Indoor locations would be chosen during colder months, including restaurants. We have already contacted chefs at several Thumb area restaurants who would be willing to provide a unique culinary experience for those who attend and who are extremely intrigued with the idea themselves.

So, we now need our readers input to see if there is enough interest to move forward. Send your thoughts and suggestions to thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Secret Supper Club" in the subject line. In a future edition, I will let you know if we are going to move forward with the idea and if we are, in what month our first *ThumbPrint* Secret Supper Club will be held. But, shhhh! Keep this quiet! Don't tell anyone!

**DIANE KODET**  
Editor, *ThumbPrint News*

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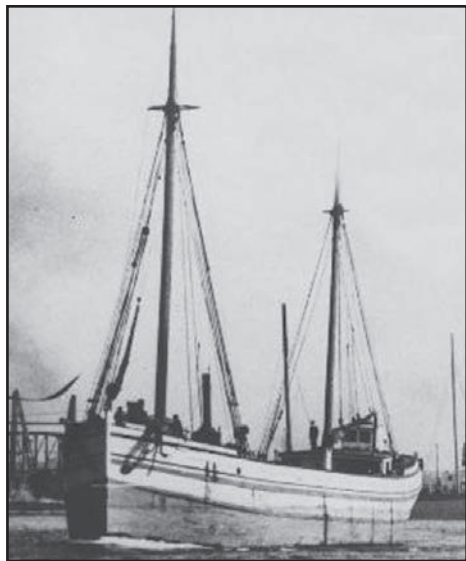
# Simon Langell: St. Clair's Shipbuilder

By Charles Homberg

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

In the late Nineteenth Century, the Pine River in St. Clair, Michigan was an important center for the building of wooden ships. The Reverend Peter Van der Linden, a noted photographer of Great Lakes ships and marine historian, referred to the Pine as "the River of Wood." In an article for *Telescope* magazine, he wrote that we often romanticize the shipbuilding industry, but it was "a period of hardship and strife." He mentioned the "whine of constant saws and the pounding of hammers on long nails" and "the pungent odor of oak, pine pitch, kerosene and oakum." There was the constant threat of fires. Van der Linden wrote that "men had to be made of steel to work on ships of wood."

One of St. Clair's men of steel was Simon Langell. He was born in Nova Scotia in 1833, but moved with his family to Marine City, Michigan when he was ten years old. An avid reader, he became a teacher, then a sailor and soon a shipyard worker in Marine City. In the end, he



The schooner Melbourne, launched in 1880

became a ship designer and builder.

In 1864, Langell proved himself to be a master carpenter when he built his first ship, a wooden bark named the *Hemisphere*. It was quickly followed by the *Liberty*. Both ships were built in a small shipyard on the St. Clair River where Cargill Salt Company is located today. The yard was wedged between a saw mill at the mouth of the Pine River and a foundry to its south. The shipyard and the saw mill were both owned by Wesley Truesdail. Over the next few years, Simon Langell built several more ships in Truesdail's yard including the wooden schooner *Amoskeag* in 1867, which sailed for 56 years. In 1870, the *Agnes L. Potter* was launched, and became the first ship owned by Interocean Transportation Company to haul iron ore from Escanaba to Chicago. The *D.N. Wilson*, launched in 1872, was Langell's first steamer. It also was the first steamer owned by the Wilson Transit Company of Cleveland.

While building a successful career in St. Clair, Simon Langell also worked with shipbuilders in Marine City. In 1869, he worked with Phillip Rice to build the barge *Acton*. That same year, he and Rice "laid down" the *V. H. Ketchum*. Rice then completed this well-known ship. In 1873, Langell designed and built the *J. H. Rutter* at Marine City's Lester Shipyard with design supervision by Capt. David Lester and construction supervision by Capt. J. W. Rodgers.

Most small shipyards could not install steam engines, so the ships were launched, the interior work completed and the ship was towed to Detroit or Port Huron to have the engine installed. Langell liked the quality of the Samuel F. Hodge plant in Detroit, so he often had his ships towed there. In the case of the *D. N. Wilson* and a few others, he had the engine brought to St. Clair by railroad and installed at the shipyard.

Langell found the Truesdail shipyard in St. Clair too small and disliked the fact that ships built there had to be launched bow



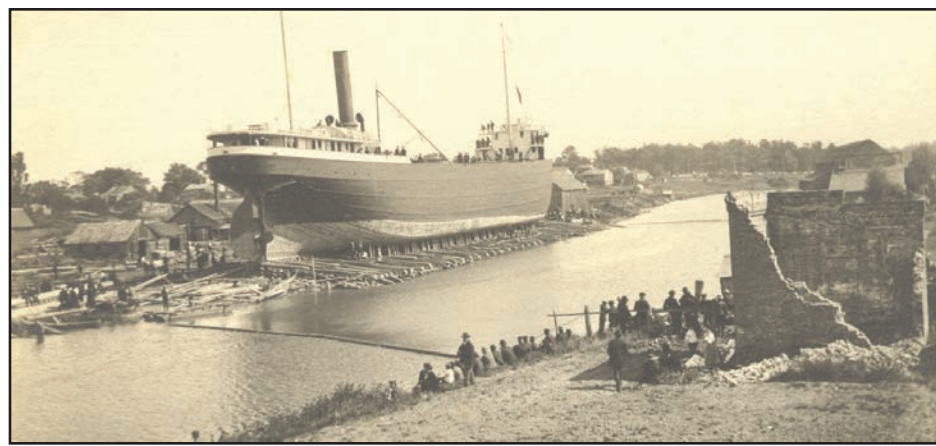
The Chauncy Hurlbut steam barge, built in 1874

first into the St. Clair River. He preferred side-launching. He soon purchased a parcel of land on the south side of the Pine River for the new Langell Shipyard. Today, the St. Clair Boat Harbor occupies the site. By 1872, Langell was building ships in his new yard on the Pine River. Unfortunately, a severe economic depression, the Panic of '73, slowed his progress. New orders for ships were not coming in. To keep his workers employed, he built on speculation a steam barge, which was eventually

purchased and named the *Justin R. Whiting*.

By 1878, the economy was improving, so Langell purchased a stand of oak hardwoods and began cutting timber for use at the Langell Shipyard. The steamer *Oscoda* was launched that same year and two other ships were ordered. The decade of the 1880s was the Langell Shipyard's peak years. Fifteen ships were launched into the Pine River during that time, beginning with the schooner *Melbourne* and the steam barge

See SHIPBUILDER, Page 14



Launch of ship at the Langell Shipyard on the mouth of the Pine River

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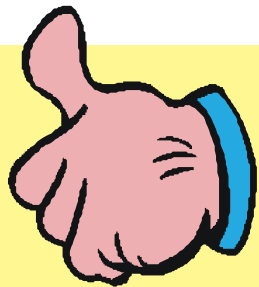
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# A Big Thumbs Up

To Our Service and Volunteer Organizations

ThumbPrint News would like to set aside space each month to recognize local service clubs and volunteer organizations that make it a priority to give back to their communities. The Thumb of Michigan is home to many non-profit organizations that provide assistance to those in need and support the community as well as offering fundraising activities for members and non-members alike. We'd like to offer a hearty Thumbs Up to these organizations!

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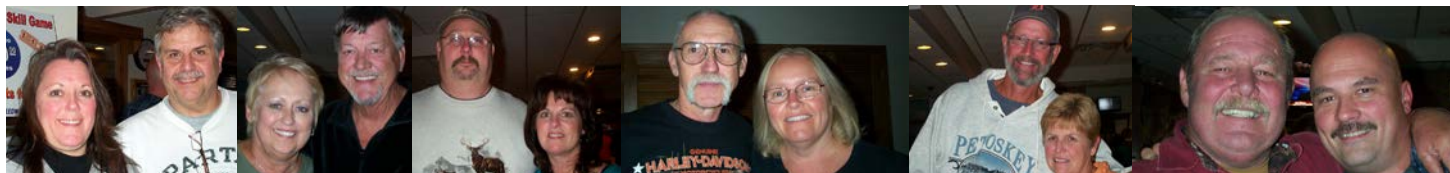
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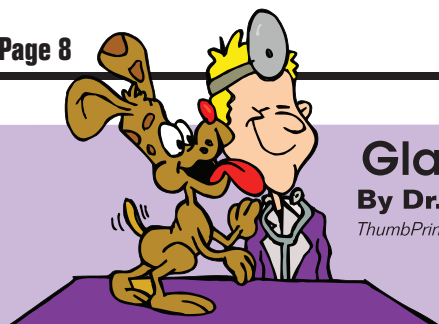
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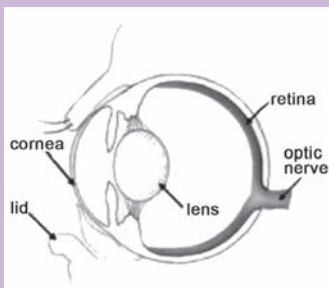
## Glaucoma in Pets

By Dr. DiBenedetto

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Glaucoma is a very common, yet frustrating, eye disease in pets. It requires a lot of monitoring, may require multiple therapies, can get very expensive and despite all of this, there is still a high probability of blindness. The key to saving vision is early detection, excellent owner compliance with treatment and regular eye exams and pressure checks.

The inside of the eye contains fluid to nourish the tissues and maintain the shape of the eye. This fluid, called Aqueous Humor, is produced within the anterior or front chamber of the eye and drains into the blood stream through a mesh-like area where the cornea meets the iris or colored portion of the eye. The balance of the in and out movement of the fluid is what maintains normal pressure within the eye. Glaucoma occurs when there is disruption at the outflow angle, but no disruption to the fluid production. This leads to an increased intraocular pressure, much like the pressure on a dam when flooding water builds up behind it. This increased pressure in turn causes the eye to enlarge and compresses the optic nerve and retina in the back part of the eye, often causing blindness. In some cases, if treatment is not started within a few hours to a few days,



the end result will be permanent destruction and loss of vision. There are two forms of glaucoma, primary and secondary. Primary glaucoma is a hereditary condition seen most commonly in purebred dog breeds (i.e. Cocker Spaniel, Bassett Hound, SharPei, Chow Chow, Shih Tzu and arctic breeds), but is rarely seen in cats. It usually starts in one eye but will progress to the other eye within about nine months to two years. Secondary glaucoma is a complication caused

by another disease that is affecting the eyes. Common causes of secondary glaucoma are uveitis or inflammation within the eye, mature cataracts, tumors, displacement of the lens within the eye, retinal detachment or trauma to the eye. Glaucoma can develop very quickly or can be more slowly progressive. In the acute phase, the shape of the eye is normal. The eye may look bloodshot and cloudy with increased tearing and squinting. Your pet may be rubbing at the eye or that side of the face due to pain. It is really at this phase that the eye should be examined by a veterinarian and the pressures checked so that the glaucoma can be treated to save vision in the eye. With the chronic phase, the eye appears enlarged, protruding and harder. By this phase the eye is usually blind. Animals compensate very well with vision in only one eye, so you may not even notice they are blind in the eye.



Treatment options will vary widely based on the type of glaucoma, the potential to save vision or to save the eye altogether and cost. There are surgeries that can be done by veterinary ophthalmologists but are only preformed if vision can be restored. If vision is lost and the pain is not controlled, enucleation or removal of the eyeball is performed with or without the addition of a prosthetic ball being placed in the orbit and the eye lid sutured closed. The other options are eye drops that either decrease production of the fluid or help to increase the outflow of the fluid. This may require more than one eye drop daily and monitoring the pressures frequently. Medical management is lifelong treatment. 🐾

*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](http://www.MapleVeterinaryHospital.com). Dr. DiBenedetto can be reached at (248) 585-2622 for other pet related questions.*

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# The Churches of Algonac

By Joe Nugent

Algonac/Clay Historical Society

*Editor's Note: Joe Nugent is submitting a series of articles on the history of churches in the Algonac area. The history of St. Catherine's Catholic Church will be the next article.*

## ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Named for the first disciple, St. Andrew, the Episcopal Church in Algonac began, as did other early Christian Churches, by holding services in the homes of various parishioners. The parish is the outgrowth of Reverend Andrew Jamieson's missionary work in the white settlements on the American and Canadian sides of the St. Clair River. In 1845, he was appointed a missionary to the Indians on Walpole Island. During his work with the Indians he was conducting services, visiting the sick, aiding the poor and organizing classes of instruction in various fields of activity. The missionary station here formed the nucleus of the present St. Andrew's Church.

The first resident Episcopal Rector was the Reverend J. B. Pritchard, who assumed his duties in 1862. With the arrival of Rev. Pritchard, regular worship was held in a home at 609 Water Street (St. Clair River Drive). It is interesting to note this is next door to the site of the original Trinity Methodist Church. Also, it is interesting to note that the first burial ground in Algonac was located at the back of this property, but upon the development of Oaklawn Cemetery, all the known remains were moved there for internment.

In 1863, plans were made to build a permanent church on the southwest corner of Green and Michigan Streets. The church was completed and dedicated in 1867 and given the name St. Andrews at that time.

In 1915, the present building at 1507 St. Clair River Drive (northwest corner of St. Clair River Drive and Orchard Streets) was begun. It was consecrated on March 7, 1916. For many years, St. Andrews was known for its Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

St. Andrew's became nationally known as the "Church of the Wren" when it was realized that every May 1 (St. James and St. Phillips Day) wrens would return from

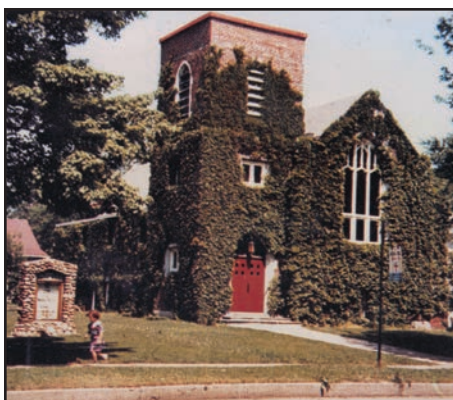
their winter quarters to their summer home at St. Andrews, much like the famed swallows of Capistrano. The wrens would leave on September 21, St. Matthews Day. The wrens would nest in the ivy that grew on the church walls. The ivy was removed about 30 years ago because it was destroying the mortar holding the bricks in place. After the ivy was removed the wrens stopped returning to St. Andrews. To this day, the church is still known as the "Church of the Wrens." 🐦



The first permanent church for St. Andrews, c. 1907



Communion group outside of first church



St. Andrews Church covered in ivy



St. Andrews Church after removal of the ivy

I am at present living on the mainland in Algonac, a very small village inhabited by whites, one mile from the church on the Island.

In 1845, when appointed to this Walpole Island Mission, I lived on the Island among the Indians in a parsonage erected by the government. I lived on the Island until 1860 owing to continued sickness and death in my family with the permission of the Bishop I moved to my present place of residence. The parsonage on the Island was built in 1844, one year before my arrival and by a great blunder, on the very edge of a swamp. I ought to mention that the whole of the surrounding country in this western district of many miles is low and flat. Walpole Island is very low and is almost on a level with the river and full of swamps and marshes.

The parsonage stands on one of the lowest spots, where malaria during the summer and autumn was constantly around it. Shortly after I pitched my last tent here I was taken down with bilious fever and remained on the sick list for months. And long after, exposure to the north wind or any extra exertion would bring on chills and fever. But, Thank God, that is a thing of the past as I am now in robust health and have been so for many years. I am now acclimated. During our stay on the Island we always dreaded July, August, and September, the sickly months of the year and rejoiced to feel the first frosts in October and November. In July and the following months at sunset, we always moved to the upper rooms to escape the malaria which, if it did reach us, would do so in diluted a form as to be comparatively harmless. At the same time every cranny in the rooms we occupied were carefully filled up to prevent the ingress of mosquitoes which during the hot season were moving about in swarms.

The windows, of course, were open but covered with netting to keep out the intruders. Often at such times, we were obliged to have a smudge at each side of the table while sitting at breakfast. Our Island was often called Mosquito Point. Moreover, we often had visitors from the swamp in the shape of snakes of different kinds. I have frequently killed them in our parlor. The copperhead and rattlesnake are on the Island. Of these I have killed several and on one occasion my daughter, a child of 13 years, killed a rattlesnake with eight rattles within three feet of our door. In my walk through the Island I have at different times jumped aside, warned by the rattle to keep out of harm's way.

I have been married twice. The first Mrs. Jamieson, the wife of my youth, faithful and affectionate, lived with me on the Island. Of our seven children, three of them were born there. Four only my children by the first marriage survive. These are all out of years ago in the world for themselves and are living in Detroit, a city of 120,000 inhabitants, fifty miles distant. One of my sons is a medical man with a good paying practice. Another is a cashier in one of the city banks, the youngest is a bookkeeper. My daughter is in the same city, teaching the young idea how to shoot. My children were educated by myself on Walpole Island.

A great difficulty in my way at first was my ignorance of the language. I knew nothing of it. I did not know a single word. There was a dark wall between me and my people. I could do nothing without an interpreter. I had to move as he moved and pause as he paused. It was necessary to put an end to this state of things. I therefore gave my days and nights to the study of the language. At length the difficulty was mastered and for 30 years I have worked without an interpreter. I shall never forget the profound attention with which the people listened to my first sermon in their vernacular. You could have heard a pin fall to the floor. And at the end of the service, I felt well repaid for all my toil as one of the congregation coming into the vestry said to me, "We are so thankful you can now speak to us in our own tongue. We now know that which we hear comes actually from yourself. Sometimes we have been perplexed and bewildered and could scarcely believe that what we heard from the interpreter was the true meaning of what you said".

Preaching through an interpreter is sometimes necessary but not always a safe medium. Sometimes through ignorance, sometimes through mischief, the interpreter does harm.

The above letter was written by Reverend Andrew Jamieson who was appointed missionary to the Indians on Walpole Island in 1845.



By Keith Kodet  
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

*Editor's Note: In this section we encourage readers to write in or to email their automotive questions for our resident automobile expert to answer. Keith Kodet is a self-proclaimed car nut, who has worked for many years as a mechanic. Keith also is an avid collector of vintage and specialty automobiles and has owned over 200 different cars to date. Please email your questions to thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Ask the Greasy Thumb" in the subject line or mail your questions to: ThumbPrint News, 8061 Marsh Road, Clay Township, MI 48001.*

People have been driving their vehicles off-road since the invention of the car, and more importantly, the invention of four-wheel drive. Here are some great 4x4 questions:

#### Dear Greasy Thumb:

What is the difference between four-wheel drive, all-wheel drive, selectable all-wheel drive, and all the other terms I hear for new trucks and SUV's?

#### Flustered in Farmington

#### Dear Flustered,

Auto makers have been coming up with different names for four-wheel drive systems for years in an attempt to sound unique. However, some of the terms usually mean certain things. For example, four-wheel drive usually refers to a vehicle that normally drives the rear wheels, and the front wheels are engaged manually by the driver with a lever, switch or knob. This is the oldest, and usually the most simple type of four-wheel drive system. Usually, four-wheel drive is only engaged off-road to prevent system damage, as power is split evenly between the front and rear wheels. Also, traditional four-wheel drive systems have both a neutral and low range option.

The term all-wheel drive is used for cars and trucks that always send power

to all four wheels, however not in equal amounts. All-wheel drive is great for slippery and slightly sloppy off-road conditions, but usually does not have a low range option, and is best for only for the mildest of off-road conditions.

Other terms such as selectable 4x4, select-trac, command-trac, electronic four-wheel drive and others are usually proprietary names for one of the two main systems. For most off-road enthusiasts, only vehicles equipped with a low range option are considered to truly have four-wheel drive.

#### Dear Greasy Thumb:

I want to get a winch for my Jeep. How do I know what will be strong enough for it?

#### Stuck in Smiths Creek

#### Dear Stuck,

The general rule of thumb in winch selection is to go one and a half times heavier in rating than your vehicle weighs. For example, a 4,000 pound Jeep x 1.5 = 6,000 pounds. However, for most serious off-roading, I feel you should always get a winch rated at least twice your vehicle's weight. The higher the ratings, the more options you'll have and the less the winch will have to work, helping the winch to last longer.



Melanie Duquesnel

## BBB Sponsors Michigan Teen Consumer Education Competition

### Lifesmarts Launches 2011-2012 Season

For the second consecutive year, your Better Business Bureau (BBB) Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula will sponsor the Michigan chapter of the National Consumers League's (NCL) 2011-2012 LifeSmarts competition. LifeSmarts is a consumer education competition that challenges teens in grades 9-12 on real-life consumer issues through online quizzes and live contests. The competition will culminate with the National LifeSmarts championship where teams and individuals are awarded academic scholarships and prizes.

"Our inaugural year sponsoring LifeSmarts in Michigan was a thrill a minute," exclaimed Melanie Duquesnel, President and CEO of the BBB Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. "We are excited to be involved again this year and look forward to giving Michigan's youth the tools they need to be great consumers throughout their lives."

LifeSmarts topics have been chosen to encourage and reward knowledge in the areas that matter most to consumers and workers in today's marketplace: personal finance; health and safety; the environment; technology; and consumer rights and responsibilities. So far this fall, there are 44 teams representing five Michigan high schools registered to compete online. The competition progresses to a live state play-off at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan on February 17, 2012, and then builds to a high-spirited National Championship, which will be held in April in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

School teams can still register to compete at [www.lifesmarts.org](http://www.lifesmarts.org). The Michigan high schools competing to date

include: Carman Ainsworth High School, Cass Tech High School, Davison High School, Fenton High School and Flint Kearsley High School.

"My class was really motivated by the LifeSmarts competition. But more than that, they were really proud every time they competed," said Bruce Burwitz, Business Education Instructor at Fenton High School. "They developed leadership abilities to become better decision-makers and they had fun in the process."

"The National Consumers League's mission is to inspire confidence and safety in the marketplace," said Sally Greenberg, NCL Executive Director. "The LifeSmarts program, our consumer education initiative for youth, fosters students' understanding of consumer issues and provides them with real-world knowledge they will need to take charge of their lives."

For information about LifeSmarts visit: <http://easternmichigan.bbb.org/lifesmarts>.

To test your LifeSmarts, take a sample quiz at [www.start.lifesmarts.org/](http://www.start.lifesmarts.org/). From there, click on "Daily Quiz" to get started.

For more consumer tips you can trust, visit <http://easternmichigan.bbb.org/bbb-news/>.

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

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The weekly course will be taught by professionals and curriculum to be covered will include program introduction and plant science, soils, flowers, woody ornamentals, lawn care, vegetables, backyard fruits, plant health care, indoor plants, volunteerism, water quality, composting, household pests and diagnostics. Cost of the class including all

materials is \$300. Participants are also asked to complete a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer work, which is an essential complement to the classroom training, and a requirement to be a Master Gardener Volunteer.

Pre-registration is required, with a deadline of December 16, 2011, when a \$100 non-refundable deposit is due. The remaining \$200 is due by January 3, 2012. For more information or to receive an application call St. Clair County MSU Extension (810) 989-6935 or an application is also available on our website at <http://msue.stclaircounty.org/>.

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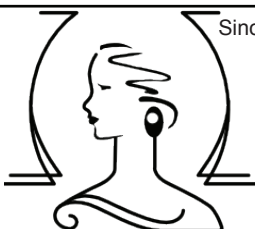
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## The Ghost of Bramey Damm

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

In my avocational endeavors into genealogy, I occasionally stumble across a name or circumstance that offers less than the desired excitement realized when an ancestral hero is found. These discoveries are often referred to as “black sheep of the family” and I am told that an old proverb suggests there’s at least one in every fold.

It seems that when families get together and stories arise about those in their lineage, there’s always an anecdote about a past relative who was not the pride of the clan. Many times these nonconforming kinfolk were objects of ridicule, pity, scorn and embarrassment. And, often those allegories discussed at a family gathering are not shared outside that circle.

Over the years my mother has told me of several “black sheep” in the past, the history of which would make an interesting novel. But, there’s one in particular that I have decided to share in this column. My reason for doing so is that whenever I mention his name in the company of senior citizens of St. Clair, many recall him and of his demise. I’m not even sure of his real first name, but everyone knew him as Bramey Damm.

Bramey was my mother’s uncle. He was someone she never knew, but, she knew of him as, evidently, did many others.

He was a resident of St. Clair and lived his life in somewhat of an alcoholic stupor. He did odd jobs and menial tasks to barely support a wife and his habit. He fell into the Pine River one night and drowned. Not much of a story, huh? Except whenever I mention his name to any long-time resident over 70-years of age, they remember.

I don’t profess to be a poet, which I’m sure you will soon discover. But, I have decided to tell the story of my great uncle Bramey Damm in somewhat of a poetic verse. I have entitled my ode, “The Ghost of Bramey Damm.”

Gather around my friend,  
There’s a story I want to tell.  
It’s all about a great uncle,  
Someone old-timers say they knew well.

Few in the family claimed him as kin,  
But everyone in town knew his name;  
Even to this present day,  
People remember Bramey Damm.

He had an uncanny appearance,  
His clothes were in need of repair;  
He said he once had a regular job,  
But couldn’t remember when or where.

He swept the floors at a local pub,  
Earning enough for his unquenchable thirst;  
For you see it was whisky, wine and beer,  
That was my uncle’s ever-present curse.

When Bramey’s wife passed to the other side,  
And the funeral day had been set;  
Bramey had no suit to wear to the wake,  
So his friends told him not to fret.

They took a collection from those at the pub,  
So Bramey would not be ashamed;  
But instead of the clothes he said he would buy,  
It was several bottles of libation he claimed.

It was here in the City of St. Clair  
Many years ago he did reside;  
And many of the town’s old-timers,  
Still can remember how he died.

For Bramey things never did improve,  
In fact, they became even worse;  
It wasn’t long after his wife passed away,  
That Bramey succumbed to his curse.

It was on the banks of the river Pine,  
That Bramey would lift his last glass;  
He drowned in the murky water one night,  
The town drunk had died, alas.

Many still tell me they recall,  
How my great uncle lived and died;  
Maybe here there’s a lesson to learn,  
Be careful of the memories you provide.

I would never have known of my great uncle’s life,  
If not reminded when I mention his name;  
For all I know at the Pine River’s edge,  
Is the ghost of Bramey Damm.

In my search of family member attributes, I have found some of outstanding accomplishment and heroic behavior. However, I have yet to find many people who can remember them. I cannot say the same about my great uncle. Just mention his name and you’ll discover how the drunken Bramey Damm drowned in the Pine River. As someone once said, now you know the rest of the story. 🍷



## The Angel Advisor

# The Cascade Syndrome

By Jeffrey Johnson

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Gordon Schiff, M.D., an internist on the faculty of the Harvard Medical School and associate director of the Brigham Center for Patient Safety Research and Practice in Boston has stated, "There are a lot of people taking drugs to treat the side effects of drugs, and sometimes that makes sense, and maybe the initial drug is essential. But when you're taking a drug to treat the side effect of a drug which is treating the side effect of another drug, it gets to be rather a house of cards."

Drug reaction occurs more than two million times per year and is the fourth leading cause of hospital deaths preceded only by heart disease, cancer, and stroke. (From an article written by Patricia Barry, "The Side Effects of the Side Effects", AARP, Sept. 2011, Vol. 52 No. 7).

The issuance of medications to treat the side effects of the initial medication is known as "Cascade syndrome" and it is happening at an alarming rate – 4.5 million Americans are treated for adverse drug effects per year. That's more than medications for strep throat or pneumonia (according to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality)!

### Why is this such a big problem?

Well, that's complicated. There are a multitude of reasons. For example, testing of medications is generally performed on younger people due to fewer complications from already existing medical issues. So, when elder folks take medications tested on younger adults, the side effects of that medication are difficult to flush out; that is until the older patient actually is administered that medication. Eventually, the patient will show up at his/her doctor's office complaining of a side effect from the original medication, oftentimes resulting in a new medication to treat that new problem and not realizing that it may be a side effect from the original medication. If that sounds complicated, just think what it must be like for a physician who must diagnosis this problem when few, if any, studies have shown those side effects to be present.

Another big problem is the issuance of newer, more effective medications. Pharmaceutical companies are constantly researching and releasing new medications that more consistently treat already existing health problems. When they do discover a new medication, it supersedes the previous medication and we now are back into this vicious cycle of not having



enough time nor experience to understand the full gambit of side effects of the previous medications.

**I'm getting dizzy just writing this** – how must patients feel when their physician is constantly telling them an improved medication is out there and they should try it?

Needless to say, this is a serious problem, and one that is not easily solved. Patricia Barry, in the AARP article "How to Avoid Drug Reactions" listed a few ideas:

- *If you experience a change that doesn't feel right, tell your doctor.* Ask if the symptom could be a drug side effect.
- *If you're taking several drugs, ask your doctor or pharmacist to review them.* Ask if there can be interaction problems with your drugs and even vitamins and supplements.
- *Ask if there are lifestyle changes you can make instead of taking a drug.* Very often patients with chronic conditions such as diabetes can minimize side effects or avoid drugs altogether by losing weight, exercising more, and stopping smoking.
- *Ask to be prescribed drugs that have been on the market for at least seven years.* It often takes five to ten years for serious side effects of a new drug to show up in the general population.
- *Ask why the doctor is prescribing a particular drug.* Find out what the risks and benefits are, compared to alternative drugs.
- *Don't stop taking a drug without consulting your doctor.*
- *Review your medications online.* Use AARP's Drug Interaction Checker at [www.aarp.org/healthtools](http://www.aarp.org/healthtools).

When dealing with the health of you or your loved one, especially with new or existing medications, there are never too many questions. Ask your doctor and do your own independent research. You should know everything you can about the medications you ingest and the potential cascade of reactions they may induce. 🌱

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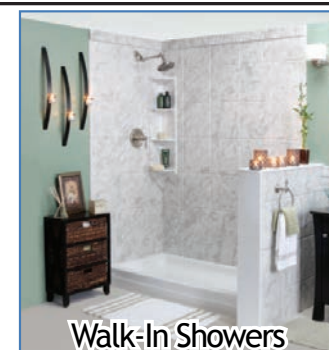
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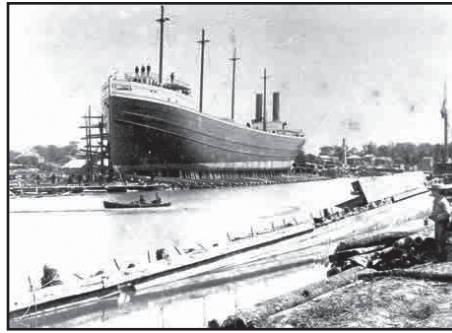
**SHIPBUILDER**

Continued from Page 4

Middlesex in 1880. The largest wooden steamer built at the Langell Shipyard was the *Kaliyuga*. Launched in 1887 and financed by a group of local investors, it was purchased by the Cleveland-Cliffs Company. While hauling iron ore, it sank in Lake Huron during a storm, the "Big Blow of 1905." Its crew of 16 was lost.

By the 1890s, the era of wooden ships was coming to an end. New orders were hard to get, but in 1892, Langell built the steam yacht *Penelope* and in 1894 the steam ferry *Welcome*. For many years, the *Welcome* carried passengers and freight between St. Clair and Courtright, Ontario. Langell then began construction of another wooden steamer on speculation in 1896. It was launched in 1900 and christened the *Alfred Mitchell*. It was his last ship, and perhaps his best.

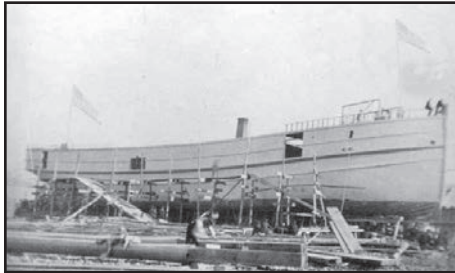
The Langell Shipyard continued to repair



*Kaliyuga being built at Simon Langell's shipyard, c.1887*

and winter ships for many years after 1900, but the era of building wooden ships in St. Clair was over. As Van der Linden wrote, "The river of wood, the Pine, then gradually returned to its sleepy beginnings." 🌱

*Charles Homberg is a member of the St. Clair Historical Society, which, among other things, maintains The St. Clair Historical Museum, located at 308 S. Fourth St. in St. Clair, Michigan. The museum is dedicated to preserving St. Clair's history. The society's collections include local artist, Sam Crawford's, paintings, St. Clair High School composite pictures and yearbooks, antique tools from shipbuilding, farm and carpentry, period clothing, cannon and bug-gy and other St. Clair historical artifacts. Photographs, postcards and other reference materials are also available. The museum is open on Saturday and Sunday from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.*



*Langell's first steamer, the D.N. Wilson, under construction in 1873*



*The steam ferry Welcome carried passengers and freight between St. Clair and Courtright, Ontario.*



# The Book Nook

## While the Eagle Sleeps

By Jennifer Satler

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

"*While the Eagle Sleeps* is a call to action," according to former Michigan Governor William G. Milliken. "And it's a compelling must read for all Americans who yearn for a better life and want to know how to make it happen."

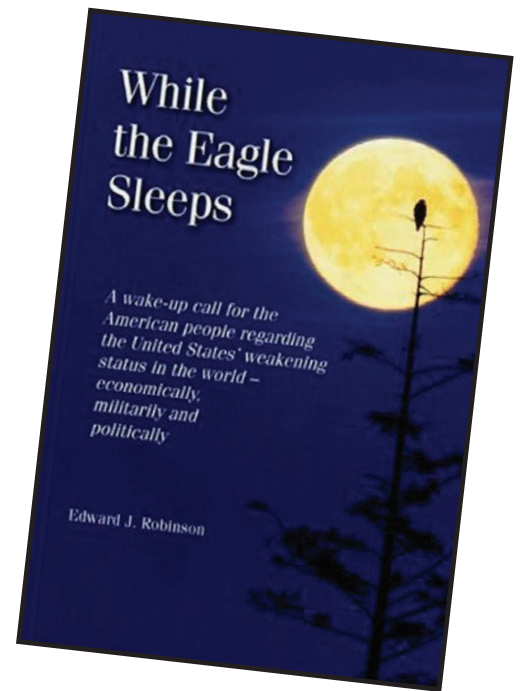
Author Edward J. Robinson, 77, of East China, Michigan, a former Michigan State Senator, writes a 154-page eye opener. *While the Eagle Sleeps* is divided into five sections: Corporations without Borders; Moneyism not Capitalism; An Unhealthy Health Industry; A Government for the People; and Let the Eagle Soar. Consider *While the Eagle Sleeps* a guide to restoring America's greatness.

The author examines, in detail, the causes of our current situation and proposes solutions in the many defective areas.

Robinson's credibility is history worth repeating. He spent his childhood in Dearborn where he enjoyed conversations at a sandlot ball diamond with iconic industrialist Henry Ford, in a college education under the Golden Dome of Notre Dame, to service to his nation as a young Marine lieutenant followed by a political



career and private business. Robinson was the State of Michigan Finance Co-Chairman for Robert Kennedy for President Campaign.



He was also a private consultant for major players like M.J. Maroun, John DeLorean, and many others.

"People see things through different eyes at different times. My thoughts and proposals are not radical. Rather, I am just suggesting that we learn from our history, that we repeat our successes and correct the mistakes," Robinson said.

*While the Eagle Sleeps* was released in both hard and soft covers. It retails for \$23.99 (hard back) and \$20 (paperback). The publisher is World Audience, Inc., New York, [www.worldaudience.org](http://www.worldaudience.org). It is available online and at most major book retailers. 🌱

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# Talking Turkey

By **Rennae Hardy**  
 ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Observations gleaned from nature continue to reveal our connectedness to the animal kingdom. The spirit essence and natural expression of each species offers a vastness of knowledge. As symbols, animals convey to us certain qualities we may be lacking in our daily lives, reflect our own characteristics for better self-perception, and assist our greater understanding of our union with all things. Personal power animals, as well as the correlation to animals and their wisdom are found throughout the world in many cultures. Animals speak to us in numerous ways. The key to hearing their message is by intently observing their behavior and discovering the attributes attracting our personal attention.

In recognition of Thanksgiving, let's talk turkey.

The turkey is often referred to as the

earth eagle and carries a long history of association with spirituality. Turkeys are native to America, have an intricate mythology among the Native Americans, and are symbolic of all the blessings that the Earth contains, along with the ability to use these blessings to their greatest advantage. Turkeys are quite adaptable and can adjust to most environments, however their preference is for forested lands.



A varied diet is enjoyed by the turkey including nuts and acorns. A turkey can eat up to a pound of acorns a day. Nuts and acorns have been associated with hidden wisdom and new seeds of growth. Such an association might suggest that new nourishment in the form of wisdom and/or growth is likely to occur. The males bright red wattle (beard) is linked to the pituitary gland reflecting a higher vision as well as ties to Mother Earth and its feminine energies. The hens are known to share a

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common nest for their eggs. This action hints at the concept of shared blessings. Turkeys can fly up to 50 miles an hour for short distances, will roost in trees at night for safety, and live up to 12 years boasting as many as 3,500 feathers at maturity. The turkey is synonymous with harvest time and is a true ambassador to the autumn season.

Our Thanksgiving mascot, the turkey, is a befitting bird to grace our own harvest table. Offering the wisdom of adaptability, sharing, vitality, gratitude and sacredness, the turkey speaks of harvest and shared blessings. If we hear the turkey's wisdom, we'll understand the joy of Thanksgiving.

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



# WAY DOWN YONDER IN THE PAW PAW PATCH

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

*Where, oh where is dear little Danny?  
Where, oh where is dear little Danny?  
Where, oh where is dear little Danny?  
Way down yonder in the paw-paw patch.*

*Come on girls, let's go find him,  
Come on girls, let's go find him,  
Come on girls, let's go find him,  
Way down yonder in the paw-paw patch.*

*Pickin' up paw-paws, put 'em in your pockets,  
Pickin' up paw-paws, put 'em in your pockets,  
Pickin' up paw-paws, put 'em in your pockets,  
Way down yonder in the paw-paw patch.*

*Where, oh where is dear old Nellie?  
Where, oh where is dear old Nellie?  
Where, oh where is dear old Nellie?  
Way down yonder in the paw-paw patch.*

How many of our older readers remember this traditional children's song? The location mentioned in the rhyme is the pawpaw patch. However, even among those who are familiar with the song, how many actually know what a pawpaw is and how many have ever eaten one?

I planted four pawpaw trees in my

garden about 10 years ago. They grew beautifully into about 12 foot trees with large shiny leaves, but never produced any pawpaws. This year, to my delight and amazement, all four trees were loaded. A few weeks ago I took in some pawpaws for the office staff to try and out of about 20 people, only one person had ever eaten a pawpaw and only two knew the song about pawpaws. Most didn't even know that a pawpaw really exists.

Pawpaws are the largest edible fruit that is native to the United States. The trees and fruit have a distinctively tropical look. Indigenous to 26 states in the United States, they can be found from southern Ontario in Canada to northern Florida and as far west as eastern Nebraska. They will grow in zones 5-9. Pawpaws grow well in Michigan, provided the right conditions are met. In fact the town of Paw Paw in Van Buren County, Michigan was named after this delicious fruit, as they used to grow profusely along the Paw Paw River. However, the pawpaw is an understory tree and as many of the shade trees were

cleared, the pawpaws have become less common in that town. An experimental planting of pawpaw trees on the high school grounds there failed because they were planted in an open, sunny field, not the conditions that pawpaws prefer.

I planted my pawpaws under some old, well-established maple trees and cottonwood trees, and they are thriving. In addition to dappled shade from taller trees, pawpaws thrive in rich, well drained soil. Pawpaw trees, depending on the variety, will grow anywhere from eight to 15 feet tall, and just about as wide. Pawpaw trees are rarely bothered by pests – though raccoons and squirrels may beat you to the harvest.

Pawpaws provided delicious, nutritious food for the Native Americans, European explorers and settlers and for wild animals.

They are high in vitamin C, magnesium, iron, copper and manganese and other minerals. They are also a good source of potassium.

When the pawpaw trees mature, in the spring, beautiful maroon colored flowers appear, followed by clusters of green fruit which look like short fat bananas. In fact, they are often called the "poor man's banana." The unique flavor, resembling a blend of tropical flavors, including bananas, pineapple and mango and the texture reminiscent of custard also has earned them the name "American custard apple."



Ripening pawpaws hang in clusters on the tree.

In this part of Michigan, pawpaws begin ripening around the first of October. Ripeness can be gauged by squeezing the fruit gently, much as you would judge a peach. If it gives slightly to pressure and has a strong, pleasant aroma, it is ready to pick and eat. Pawpaws don't ripen all at once on a tree, so the harvest can be spread out for almost a month. You can also gently shake the tree and the mature fruit will fall to the ground. However, you might want to wear a hard

hat because the ripe fruits are large and heavy! (Mature fruits can weigh from five ounces to over a pound!)

Once picked, pawpaws do not keep well – at most three or four days in the refrigerator. Some people pick the pawpaws just before they are fully ripe and then they can be stored in the refrigerator for up to three weeks and brought out at room temperature to finish ripening.

The fruit can also be scooped out, the skin and seeds discarded, and frozen for future use. Because they are so perishable, they are seldom found in supermarkets or even specialty produce stores. Most people will never have the opportunity to taste a pawpaw, unless they know where some trees are growing or if they plant a tree themselves.

The best way to eat a pawpaw is straight off the tree when ripe. Cut the pawpaw in half across the middle and then use a spoon to scoop out the yellow, custard like fruit. Large black seeds, about four times as large as a watermelon seed, can be discarded. The seeds can be used to start a new tree. The seeds do need to go through a cold period in order to germinate, so the best thing to do is to plant the seeds immediately outside in the fall in rich soil. Don't let the seeds



Pawpaws contain sweet yellow custard like flesh and large black seeds.



Purple flowers appear in spring on the pawpaw tree.

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dry out before planting, or they will not germinate. Mark the spot because they may not germinate until as late as the following summer. Once they have germinated and grown to about four to six inches, they can be moved to their permanent spot.

If you would rather purchase a pawpaw tree, there are more than 50 commercial nurseries in the United States that sell pawpaw seedlings. Usually the tree will only be from six to 12 inches tall, as pawpaws do not like to be transplanted and will be destined to fail if larger specimens are sold to you. A search for nurseries that sell pawpaws on the internet will yield addresses and phone numbers for them.

Although it will take several years for the trees to produce fruit, it is well worth the wait. It may be the only time that you will be able to taste this delicacy and you will have an abundance to share with family and friends. All of my office staff already have dibs on a portion of next year's crop. They all loved the pawpaw! 🌱

*Editor's Note: Pawpaws can also be used almost interchangeably in any recipes that call for bananas. Here are a few tasty recipes for those of you lucky enough to have a source for this amazing fruit:*



## PAWPAW PIE

- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1½ c. pawpaw pulp
- ¾ c. sugar
- ½ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. nutmeg
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. flour
- 1 tall can evaporated milk
- 1 (9 inch) unbaked pie shell

Use only very ripe pawpaws, when skin is black or nearly so; remove skins and seeds with a knife, then process pulp in blender until smooth. Prepare pastry for 1 crust pie; preheat oven to 425°. Blend together sugar, salt, nutmeg, and flour; combine with eggs, pawpaws, vanilla, and evaporated milk, stirring until well blended. Pour into prepared pastry shell. Bake 15 minutes in preheated oven. Reduce heat to 350°; bake about 30 minutes longer or until knife inserted comes out clean.



## PAWPAW MUFFINS

- 1 c. self rising flour
  - 1 c. sugar
  - 1 c. oat bran
  - 1 egg
  - 1 c. mashed pawpaws
  - ½ c. milk
  - ¼ c. oil
  - 1 tsp. cinnamon
  - 1 tsp. vanilla
  - 1 c. raisins or nuts
- Mix flour, sugar, and bran together. Add beaten eggs, pawpaws, milk, oil, cinnamon, vanilla, and raisins. Fill greased muffin tins ¾ full. Bake at 300° for 30-35 minutes.



## PAWPAW CUSTARD

- 1 c. pawpaw pulp
  - 2 oz. grated coconut
  - 1¼ c. half and half
  - 1 tsp. vanilla
  - 3 eggs, beaten
  - 1 dash salt
  - 2 oz. sugar (superfine preferred)
  - zest of orange (optional), serrated
- Mix pawpaw pulp with coconut. Layer this on bottom of buttered ovenproof casserole dish. Heat half and half mixed with the vanilla until bubbles form. Beat eggs with salt and sugar and still beating, pour on the half and half very slowly so as not to curdle the eggs. Add the orange rind if using. Pour over fruit and place in a pan of hot water. Bake in a moderate oven (375°) for 30 minutes or until custard is set. Turn out if possible when cool to show off the fruit layer.

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## ROBOT

Continued from Page 1

team has at least one mentor that guides students but rarely does the work for them, because most teams are largely student-run. Mentors tend to be over the age of 21 and do not need to have any experience with the robotic aspect of FIRST. For example, on Team 1718: The Fighting Pi, which is based at the Macomb Academy of Arts and Sciences in Armada, Michigan, mentors' careers range across the board, with two engineers, one retired airman/school teacher, a physics teacher at the academy, a hospital assistant, two alumni of the team who are now college students, and others. Several of them are parents of students on the team. Team members are any high school students that are willing to learn about robots, or in some cases, how to run a business, and some teams even allow middle school children on their team. The students have to be committed to the program because it is a time consuming hobby, but the value of FIRST is such that the students don't seem to mind.

The official season begins on the first (no pun intended) Saturday in January. This date is called the season's "kickoff" although no physical activity is required except watching an Internet broadcast and discussing of the rules either among the team members or on popular FIRST robotics discussion forums. During the



kickoff each year, the FIRST organization presents the game that has been designed by the game committee during the previous months. The game committee is a panel of FIRST officials that creates the game for which the teams have to design and build a robot to accomplish the task. Each year the game committee releases a new challenge. It has become a tradition for the games to include alliances, where each team has to work with the other robots in order to accomplish the task. The number of teams in these alliances has varied from two to five teams on an alliance throughout the years. It is most commonly three teams per

alliance in more recent years.

After the game is released, the students have six weeks to build a robot. The teams vary in the way they do this, but Team 1718 splits this up into five basic phases: form a strategy, design, prototype, build, and debug a robot. The strategy is determined by what is allowable in the rules and what the team wants to accomplish during each match. The students proceed by thinking of individual systems that will accomplish the goals they set during the strategy session. Each idea is prototyped on a small scale

to test the effectiveness. The team then chooses the best and most efficient design and applies it to a full size robot, which is usually about 120 pounds. There are inherently going to be problems with coding and operation so the robot has to be debugged before bag day in mid-February. After this deadline, the robot may not be modified until the first competition.

After the robot is built, it has to compete in competitions. These occur from March to early May. In Michigan, teams compete in two district events, which are hosted at high schools and universities around the state. For example, The Fighting Pi

attended district competitions at Grand Valley State University and Troy-Athens High School this year. At these events, teams are awarded qualification points for the State Championship held in Eastern Michigan University's Basketball arena. Teams are awarded these qualification points for being ranked highly at the end of qualification matches and for receiving certain awards at the end of the competitions. Currently, Michigan is the only state to have district competitions, with other states having a system of two regional competitions. At the State Championship, teams that receive enough qualification points will move on to the World Championship, which is held in the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, Missouri. At district-level competitions, there are about 40 teams competing, at the state-level there are 64 teams, and at the world-level there are upwards of 300 teams competing in four different, randomly selected divisions.

At the beginning of each competition, teams are randomly placed in alliances for qualification matches. An algorithm designed by FIRST officials, which is so

complicated it would confuse most rocket scientists, makes the selections random and fair. After qualifications are finished, the teams are ranked based on their win-loss record during the matches. The

eight highest ranked teams get to choose any of the lower ranked teams, but do not always do this according to their win-loss records. It is based on scouting done by the teams to determine each robot's strengths and weaknesses and those teams decide whether the other robots strengths pair well with their strengths. The teams then compete in tournament style elimination matches. At the end, the winning teams and the other finalists receive medals for their performance and awards are given by judges for various team functions. These awards can recognize anything from a team's business plan to their engineering skill, but the most prestigious award is not concerned with the robot. This is the Chairman's Award, which is given for the team that best displays the message of FIRST. The Fighting Pi has received this award for the past two years for participating in community outreach events and performing robot demonstrations at places like the Armada Fair, which is one of the largest county fairs in Michigan.

While the robot is the appealing hook that gets most of the students involved



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in FIRST, there is much more to the program than that. Because of the huge monetary cost associated with the robot and competition registration fees, there is an entire business aspect which, although sometimes overshadowed by the robot, is equally important. Several of the awards are business-centered. The Fighting Pi treats business as its own very special part of the team as an income source is generally needed in the form of sponsors or fundraisers. We keep good relationships with our sponsors and make sure to host fundraisers, such as an annual spaghetti dinner, in order to have sufficient funds to participate in our very expensive hobby. Some students find that they are more suited to conducting business operations than with working on the robot and we welcome them with open arms.

It is obvious that FIRST robotics is a large workload, but this is not to say that there is no fun. Even those who don't enjoy playing with robots will find enjoyment in the competitions. If you can imagine a state championship for a high-school football or basketball team and multiply that by about twenty, you will get the atmosphere at any district competition here in Michigan. The students bring so much spirit and playfulness to the competitions that you will be hard-pressed to find someone who isn't enjoying the time there. Some students, who are of Irish or Scottish descent, wear kilts to the competitions

to represent this. The crowd is riddled with mascots of every sort, including the Fighting Pi's mascot, the Pi-llow case. To the many students who pour their hearts and souls into robotics, the work is worth the enjoyment tenfold.

The FIRST robotics program has become very popular and is growing exponentially. During the past season, FRC added 267 teams to make a total of 2,075. The goal of FIRST is to have it become as common in American high schools as football teams are. Michigan itself has the second highest number of robotics teams in any of the fifty states, with 171 teams, bested only by California, which has only four more. These teams are scattered throughout the United States, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Turkey, The Netherlands, Israel, the United Kingdom, and Mexico. FIRST Robotics will continue to grow in future years and, through the work of its many teams like The Fighting Pi, will always strive to inspire students in science and technology. 🍀

*Editor's Note: All photos used in this article are copyrighted by Dan Ernst and were used with his permission. This year there are grants available for rookie FRC teams and for the newly started FTC middle school programs. For more information about the grants or other questions about FIRST please contact Gail Alpert at Gail.Alpert@gmail.com.*



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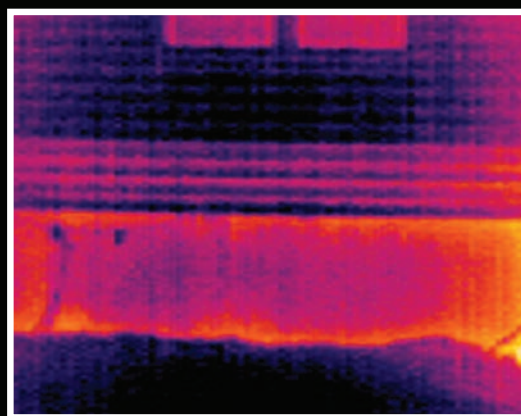
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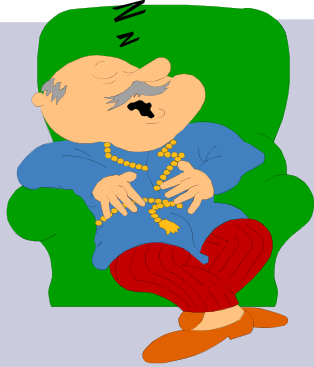
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## Memoirs from The Restless Retiree Teachers Today!

By Gabriel Jones, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

“Gabriel, what are you doing?”

“I’m writing down things teachers did when we went to school. The guy next door is trying to tell me that there are better teachers today. Remember how terrific our teachers were. They would ask us to stay after school if we needed help. At card marking time, we would get comments on our work. On parent’s night, they would see our parents regarding our progress. Does that happen anymore?”

“Gabriel, Emily at church is a teacher. She told me of the many things that a teacher does today. For instance, besides teaching in their classrooms, teachers communicate frequently with all their students and parents using e-mail. By using e-mail, student’s questions regarding their homework can be sent to the teacher while they are doing it. When needed, parents and teachers can communicate with each other. Think of it. It’s as if the

teacher were with you all the time. Ask any question and it will be answered by e-mail.

But this is also a drawback for the teacher. When a teacher’s day is over in the classroom, he or she must try to respond to the many e-mails received from individual students and parents. They do this on a computer either at school or at home.”

“That sounds impossible. How can they do that? How can they answer all the questions and comments from students and parents after teaching all day?”

“Gabriel. These are teachers that are dedicated to their student’s needs. In today’s society, these kids need every encouragement to learn as much as they can. We should be glad to have people like this in our schools.”

“Oh well, I guess the guy next door is right. But how can I face him tomorrow after what I said today?” Another lesson learned by the Restless Retiree. 🍌

## Mayflower Descendants Complete Their Journey



Christine Mary Rowley



Patricia Jo McIntosh Hendrickson



In the January 2011 issue of *ThumbPrintNews*, Christine Mary Rowley and Patricia Jo McIntosh Hendrickson shared their story of seeking the family lines back to the *Mayflower* and the journeys they have taken to find the “proof” necessary to put together applications for the *Mayflower* Descendants’ Society. We are pleased to report that their applications have been submitted, reviewed and approved.

Christine received her certificate (no 83527) in August linking her to Edward Fuller and Patricia received her certificate (no 83593) in September linking her to Thomas Rogers.

Patricia Henderson says, “Sometimes it felt like we would never find the right documents to satisfy a generational connection, but with much perseverance the documents were found and both of

our lines have now been proven. Now the challenge to us is ‘to perpetuate the memory of the Pilgrims, to maintain and defend their principles of civil and religious liberty, to honor their unflinching strength, undying courage and abiding faith, to which they committed their lives.’ Taking this journey back to our *Mayflower* ancestors has given us a new understanding of those who came before us. We would recommend this project to anyone who thinks they may have a connection to those brave individuals who arrived on our shores in December, 1620 in a small ship named the *Mayflower*. Thanksgiving takes on a whole new meaning for the two of us – family, friends, food and a new appreciation for the Saints and Strangers who made the celebration a reality.” 🍌



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## Ask the Audiologist

By Lisa Bont

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

November begins just as we are starting to get acclimated to the long winter ahead. The holidays are upon us and we will, hopefully, be sharing them with family and friends. What! You'd rather stay home! You can't hear Aunt Bea when she talks about her latest drama? You say you have a restricted driver's license and can't drive after dark! What a sad way to spend the holidays, removed from gatherings and withdrawing from your family just because you have difficulty hearing and seeing well.

A patient once told me, "It's not the golden years, it's the rusty years!" Aging certainly has its moments, and I have to say that as we all get older, all of our sensory systems weaken or fail. In my profession, I see people who have issues with both visual and hearing loss. Those who suffer from simultaneous visual and hearing difficulties report poorer self-health, depression, reduced quality of life and less personal interactions. Daily activities that we take for granted, such as using the phone to make social calls or for help, are more difficult. They have difficulties doing simple tasks such as shopping independently.

The auditory system goes through age-related changes and 30% of those over 65 years of age have some degree of hearing loss. These types of hearing loss often impact our ability to understand speech, especially when in difficult listening environments or situations. Yet, many do not seek help for an average of seven years after they initially notice their difficulty! Why? EVERYONE experiences this.

The visual system goes through this aging process as well and it exhibits itself in loss of color sensitivity, inability to adapt to the dark, reduced depth and peripheral vision. These issues result in difficulty seeing well enough to do everyday tasks such as working with small items or driving! Seeing an individual's face when you are conversing helps with your ability to understand speech.

Age-related macular degeneration is on the rise, and since it affects the central visual fields, it has significant implications on the ability to lip read. Lip reading is a natural coping

mechanism that we use when we are having difficulty hearing. Individuals experience difficulty reading fine print, seeing at a distance and managing seeing in the dark.

Blurred vision, sensitivity to bright glare, difficulty discriminating color, and visual acuity issues can all be issues related to cataracts, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy. These are common age-related and chronic diseases. Individuals can suffer simultaneous visual issues as well, and they can severely impact communication abilities. Now, tie in dual sensory loss, visual and hearing acuity, needing help doing daily chores such as shopping, housekeeping, personal care or hygiene and mobility. Falls are the third leading cause of death in this population!

These individuals need help with a diagnosis of their issues, and help in finding solutions to their problems. First, they need to be followed and evaluated by their primary care physician, Ear Nose and Throat physicians, Neurologists, Audiologists, Ophthalmologists, Physical Therapists and other health professionals, in a multidisciplinary approach in order for them to get a proper diagnosis and treatment plan.

Once you have addressed these potential issues, then it's time for treatment which can vary depending upon the disciplinary team involved. However, simple techniques like providing a magnifying lens, brighter lighting in the home and office, furniture positioned in a more easily navigated manner can help. Closed captioning on the television and large print material can all help the visually impaired individual.

For those with hearing impairment, properly fitted and medically appropriate hearing aids, assistive devices for hearing the door bell, wireless alerts and devices to help the individual to hear alarms or the phone ringing will provide tremendous benefit.

Please call us at Advanced Audiology Services at (810) 388-9400 for a consultation about your hearing, email us at [advancedaudiology.bont@gmail.com](mailto:advancedaudiology.bont@gmail.com), visit [www.advancedaudiologyservices.com](http://www.advancedaudiologyservices.com) and see us on Facebook for hearing help. Just ASK THE AUDI- OLOGIST!



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# LANDSCAPING THE THUMB

## Winterizing Your Roses

By Paul Bujak  
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

It's just about that time of year! I know we don't want to think about cold weather just yet, but we need to start protecting our roses before it gets too cold. Michigan winters can be brutal on our rose bushes, but we can protect them now so next spring they will be back to visit you healthy and happy.

Late October is the best time to prepare your roses for winter protection. The average first freeze date for southeastern Michigan is October 17th. With the current warm weather, you should have plenty of time to start your rose care well into November. Protecting your roses is not a difficult task, so let's get to protecting!

A rose properly prepared for cold weather is said to be hardened off. The hardening off process occurs during the fall and early winter months. The key to hardening off is to make sure the plant stops growing and becomes fully dormant before cold weather. You can encourage dormancy by not fertilizing six weeks before the first frost and stop cutting off spent flowers. Keep your roses thoroughly watered because they need to save water for the long winter months.

In mid fall, when the nights are getting colder, mound several inches (twelve inches is average) of soil over the base of the plant so it covers well over the bud union. When the ground is thoroughly frozen, apply a thick layer of mulch, such as straw, shredded tree leaves, or compost. This thick layer of mulch helps ensure the ground stays frozen and your plant is protected. Remove any leaves that may be left on the plant as this can increase disease.

Michigan winters can get blistering cold, so I recommend applying additional protection to your plants. Wrapping the bush in several layers of burlap or



WINTER PROTECTION

Rose Cone



using a rose cone is a great way to keep the cold away. Use heavy rope and circle the burlap and tie it up (but not too tight). Another smart trick is to use an empty garbage can inverted over the rose bush.

Climbing roses and tree roses are more upright thus more exposed to the cold and wind. Cut back canes

and wrap them with an insulated material and tie them to a trellis or stakes. You can also detach the canes from a trellis and lay the whole plant down then cover with soil/mulch for protection. Dig up tree roses and store in a cool basement or garage or gently dig up half of the tree and lie on its side and cover with soil.



Proper winter care for your roses can have a big impact on what happens come spring time.

Roses have been known to survive temperatures down to 10 degrees with little trouble, but most growers say the guideline is 20 degrees. With that being said, the weather is getting colder and you'll need to start your fall and winter care for your roses now. Roses are the most popular and loved flowers in the world today, so be kind to your roses and they'll be back healthier than ever in the spring.

It's also that time of year for leaves and a thorough fall clean-up. ABC Home and Commercial Services provides a professional fall clean-up for your home. Call (810) 794-5678 today! 🌱

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Mar. 4, at 10am, **South Pacific** - Main Floor Seating, Lunch at Sinbad's in Detroit

### Fisher Theater

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## Thumb Area Activities & Events for November 2011

If you have an event in December that you would like listed in the December issue of *ThumbPrint News*, please email it to [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net) by November 12, 2011. 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

#### Flint – November 16

**GIS Day Event**, University of Michigan – Flint, Murchie Science Bldg., Room 507, 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. GPS devices will be used to locate hidden treasures (caches) throughout the campus and then mapped out using GIS (Geographic Information Systems) software inside the classroom. Participants will leave with a greater awareness of how GIS can be integrated with GPS technology and the importance of location awareness in our lives. RSVP required. Call Laura Bender at (810) 762-3355 or email her at [lebe@umflint.edu](mailto:lebe@umflint.edu).

### Huron

#### Bad Axe – November 26

**Annual Lighted Christmas Parade**, downtown area, 6:30 p.m. Call Tammy Teasdale at (989) 551-7921.

### Lapeer

#### Dryden – November 6

**Country Style Breakfast**, St. Cornelius Church, 3834 North Mill Road, 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Adults are \$6 and children ages 4-10 are \$4. Included are eggs, sausages, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, and something new this month! Sponsored by the Women of St. Cornelius. Call Diane at (810) 724-0639.

#### Almont – November 12

**Euchre Night**, Almont Lions, 222 Water St., doors open at 6:00 p.m., play starts at 7:00 p.m. There will be two sets of five games each with a break in between. Refreshments and lunch will be served during the break. Generous prizes are awarded to the top three points holders. There will be a \$15 donation at the door. If a player brings a first time player they both play for \$10. Call Don at (810) 798-9609.

### Macomb

#### Clinton Township – November 5

**People, Pets & Vets**, Macomb Community College, 44575 Garfield Rd., 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. This free educational, interactive and fun event for the whole family provides information about veterinary and animal care from a variety of resources. More than 45 booths will be featured. Download an informational flyer at [www.michvma.org](http://www.michvma.org) or call (586) 463-9550.

#### Richmond – November 5

**Macomb County Obsolete Money**, Richmond Community Center, Festival Drive at Beebe St. Park, 7:00 p.m. Join us as Karl Mark Pall, a member of the Macomb County Historical Commission, shares his expertise on this subject. Admission is free and the public is invited. Call (586) 727-7773.

#### Romeo – November 10

**Detroit Inter Urban Railroad Lecture**, Romeo Arts and Archives Center, 290 N. Main St., 7:00 p.m. Presented by the Romeo Historical Society, [www.clintontwphistory.org/index.html](http://www.clintontwphistory.org/index.html).

#### Richmond – November 12

**A Day at the Holiday Market**, St. Augustine School, 67901 Howard Street, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Join us for this craft and vendor show extravaganza. Call Barb at (586) 727-9062 or (586) 531-3705.

### Oakland

#### Oxford – November 5

**We Love Our Veterans Tribute and Variety Show**, 1550 W. Drahnner. Starring stand up comedian, Jeff Allen, blues guitar legend, Glenn Kaiser, a special address by Major General Kurt Stein and appearance by Emcee Chris Stevenson. Visit [www.the-stand.org](http://www.the-stand.org) or call (586) 255-6610.

### St. Clair

#### Lakeport – November 1

**Technology Committee Meeting**, St. Edward on the Lake Catholic School, 6995 Lakeshore Rd., 3:30 p.m. This will be the first meeting. Contact Sister Patricia Magee at (810) 385-4461.

**Marine City – November 1, 8, 15 & 22**  
**Indoor Marine City Farmer's Market**, Knights of Columbus Hall, 6385 King Rd., 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (810) 765-5165.

#### Marysville – November 2

**Let's Talk Turkey**, Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware, 6:00 p.m. Join MSU Extension presenter, Liane Allen, and learn the difference between domestic and wild turkeys, make your own turkey call. For ages 5-12. Call (810) 364-9493.

#### Port Huron – November 2

**The Blue Water Chordsmen in Concert**, Salvation Army Citadel, 2000 Court St., 1:00 p.m. The concert is presented by The Port Huron Musicales which supports young musicians with music lessons and grants and is open to the public. Donations accepted. To join us for dessert at 12:30 p.m., call Marge at (810) 765-9500 or Mary Jo at (810) 329-5866 for reservations. Cost of dessert is \$4.

#### Algonac – November 3, 10 and 17

**Fabulous Forties and Beyond: How to Stay Young at Heart as You Age**, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 6:00 p.m. Ladies, talk openly with Dr. Lori Wylie of St. John's Women's Health Care. Join us for an interesting evening of camaraderie and conversation. Registration required. Call (810) 794-4471 to register.

#### Lakeport – November 3, 10 and 17

**Moms in Touch Prayer Group**, St. Edward on the Lake Parish Convent, 6995 Lakeshore Rd., 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Open to moms and grandmothers of school age children to pray for their children and schools. Contact Beth Garcia at (810) 357-3453.

#### St. Clair – November 3

**Lost Legends of the Lakes**, St. Clair Library, 310 S. Second St., 7:00 p.m. Explore shipwrecks of the Great Lakes, starting with the *Griffon* and ending with the *Edmund Fitzgerald*. (810) 329-3951.

#### Port Huron – November 4

**Salvation Army Brass Band Concert**, 2000 Court St., 7:30 p.m. Free concert features the Meadowlands Corps Band from Hamilton, Ontario and soloist Paul Stevenson. Offering will be collected to support Salvation Army programs. Call (810) 984-2679 ext 21.

#### Fair Haven – November 5

**Teen Game Day**, Ira Township Library, 7013 Meldrum Rd. Come out and join us for a day of games and socializing. Games include: Apples to Apples, Monopoly, Pitureka, Pusoy Dos, Settlers of Catan and more. Call (586) 725-9081.

#### Memphis – November 7, 14, 21 & 28

**Kid Kreations**, Memphis Library, 34830

Potter St., 4:30 p.m. Students in grades 1-5 are welcome to join us for a craft or game on Mondays. Registration requested, call (810) 392-2980.

#### Yale – November 7

**Senior Craft Day**, Yale Public Library, 2 Jones St., 2:00 p.m. Make your own Thanksgiving themed fleece pillow. Registration required. Call (810) 387-2940.

#### Marine City – November 8

**Veteran's Day Celebration**, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary, 10:30 a.m. Jim Fernandez will present a program on POWs and MIAs. Everyone welcome. If you would like to have lunch with the group, call (810) 765-4724 at least 24 hours in advance for reservation. For information please call (810) 765-3523.

#### Capac – November 9

**Home Independence for Seniors**, Capac Library, 111 N. Main, 10:30 a.m. Come to this program and learn about home safety and the services that are available to help seniors stay in their homes. Registration required, call (810) 395-7000.

#### Lakeport – November 12

**Fall 2011 Turkey Dinner**, St. Edward Parish Hall, 6962 Lakeshore Rd., 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Includes turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, corn, cranberry sauce, apple crisp, pumpkin squares and more. \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors 65+, \$5 for children ages 3-12. Take out boxes available for \$10 if you call (810) 385-4072 on the 12th. Raffles, baked goods and entertainment. Test drive a Chrysler 2012 car. Chrysler will donate \$10 per driver at least 18 years of age to St. Edward on-the-Lake Elementary School.

#### Smiths Creek – November 13

**Feather Party (Bingo)**, American Legion, 7150 Smiths Creek Rd., 2:00 p.m. Admission is \$2. Sponsored by the Smiths Creek American Legion. Play for turkey, chicken, other prizes. Call Sherwood at (810) 367-3244 or Ron at (810) 367-6006.

#### Kimball – November 14

**How to Interpret Your Dreams**, Kimball Township Library, 1995 N. Allen Rd., 5:00 p.m. What are your dreams telling you? Are they sending you messages or guidance? Denni Lesinski will help you with your many questions. Registration required. All ages may attend. (810) 982-9171.

#### Lakeport – November 16

**PTO Meeting**, St. Edward on the Lake Catholic School, 6995 Lakeshore Rd.,



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Don't forget to purchase your tickets for the

**8th Annual History of the Christmas Tree Walk!**

(see ad on page 29)

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7:00 p.m. Meeting is held in the library. Call Kelli Collier at (810) 385-4461.

**Port Huron – November 16**  
**St. Clair County Family History Group**, Port Huron Museum, 1115 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. Roundtable discussion on “Holiday Family Traditions – share a story of how your family has celebrated the holidays.” Dave Belair will talk about the Vietnam War book that he is writing. All are welcome to attend. Go to [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miscfhg/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miscfhg/) or call (810) 989-0399.

**Port Huron – November 17**  
**UFOs in the Blue Water Area**, Port Huron Library, 210 McMorran Blvd., 7:00 p.m. Join Randy Baker from Shadow Research, Inc. as he speaks about local UFO sightings and information. Registration requested. All ages may attend. Call (810) 987-7323 ext 132 or 130.

**Fair Haven – November 18**  
**Euchre Party**, St. Peters Lutheran Church, 6745 Palms Rd., registration begins at 6:30 p.m., games start at 7:00 p.m. Donation is \$5. Free goodies, coffee and tea will be provided. Hot dogs and pop are a \$1 donation. Cash prizes! Contact [caddybill@comcast.net](mailto:caddybill@comcast.net).

**Marine City – November 18**  
**Fundraiser Turkey Trot Dance and Silent Auction**, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Live music will be provided by “Closing Time”. Chances are you will find some great Christmas gift items to bid on at our Silent Auction. When you are not bidding, enjoy the music for your listening and dancing pleasure. Plenty of refreshments for all appetites are included. Tickets are \$8 if purchased in advance, \$10 at the door (suggested donation). Call (810) 765-3523.

**Lakeport – November 19**  
**Thanksgiving Kids Kreations**, Burtchville

Twp. Library, 7097 Second St., 11:00 a.m. Kids are invited to drop in and make a fun and easy Thanksgiving craft. Supplies provided. Registration required. (810) 385-8550.

**Port Huron – November 19 – 22**  
**Poker Night Benefit**, Maverick’s Poker House, 1639 Garfield, #B, 6:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m. Event benefits St. Edward on the Lake Catholic School in Lakeport. For information call Kelli Collier at (810) 385-4461.

**Marine City – November 28**  
**Ancestry Database**, Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker, 1:00 p.m. Learn how to use the Ancestry genealogy database to research family history in order to create or add to your family tree. Adults only, registration required. Call (810) 765-5233.

**Sanilac**

**Lexington – November 2**  
**Annual Pasty Sale**, Trinity Episcopal Church, 5646 Main St. Authentic U.P. recipe. Orders must be placed by November 2. Pick up November 5 at the church from 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Call Paul at (810) 359-8741.


**Tuscola**

**Caro – November 19**  
**Ellington Country Christmas Craft and Gift Fair**, Ellington Nazarene Church, 2545 Lazelle Road, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Over 70 tables of vendors. Cookie Walk, country breakfast, pie sale, homemade soup and bread bowl lunch. New this year – Ellington Sweet Shop featuring homemade candy. Free Admission. This is a fund raiser for Children’s Ministries, Church Camp Scholarship and next year’s event. For information contact Marilyn Shannon at (989) 691-5507, [mshanno@hotmail.com](mailto:mshanno@hotmail.com) or [www.ellington-nazarene.org](http://www.ellington-nazarene.org).


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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear *ThumbPrint News*,

My sister in Michigan sends me her copy of *ThumbPrint News*. Seeing the picture of the big City Hall in Marine City from 1884 in the September, 2011 edition brought back fond memories.

My father, Lealand Rivard, used to play in the Marine City Band. He played in the Saturday night concerts in the round bandstand in a city park. In that park was a large building that looked like City Hall and I wondered if that could be the same building. This would have been in the early 1940s. He also marched and played in the holiday parades in Marine City. He played the trumpet.

After every Saturday night concert, my sister and I would each get a nickel to buy either a candy bar or double dip ice cream cone – our treat for the week!

Please let me know about the building; it would make me feel reconnected. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
 Rita F. Hampton  
 El Cajon, California



*Editor’s note: I am betting, Rita, that it is the same building. Here is a photo of the Marine City City Hall with the bandstand in front, taken in 2009.*

*Editor’s Note: In a past issue of ThumbPrint News we invited our readers to submit a short letter anytime during this current school year letting us know about a teacher who had made a significant impact in their lives and we would print a few of them each month as we receive them. The staff of ThumbPrint News truly believes that teachers make a difference in the lives of our children and it is one small way that we can honor them all year long. Here is a letter we recently received:*

Dear *ThumbPrint News*,

Mr. Larry Miller was the best teacher I ever had. He taught English in Port Huron Northern High School. The class I loved was about Mark Twain. Mr. Miller was also a custom’s officer on the Blue Water Bridge for many years. Whenever our paths crossed, it would be just like we were back in time. He was the teacher and I felt like the student. Many other teachers at Monroe School were outstanding, especially Mrs. Gall. The school only had four grades and the neighborhood kids all knew each other and would watch out for each other.

Nancy Davis  
 Alvinston, Ontario, Canada

### Sudoku ThumbPrint News Sudoku

7					5	8	4	3
8	9							6
				9	4			8
	7						2	
			1		6			
		5						3
	5		4	6				
	1						4	7
6		3	8	7				1

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

## TUNNEL

Continued from Page 1



Train entering the St. Clair Tunnel

passage of rail cars carrying double decked containers, the new one was built alongside. Then, the first one, which had been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, was sealed off. Passenger service was terminated in 2004, in part because of increased border security required after the “9/11 tragedy.”

But it was the first tunnel, a “man made marvel,” that was the objective for destruction by a group of German saboteurs who were plotting all over the U.S. and Canada in their effort to discourage American support of both its northern neighbor and Great Britain before our April, 1917 entry into WWI. While President Woodrow Wilson had won reelection on a pledge to keep us out of that war, nevertheless, we were supplying necessities to the Allies, many via Canada from Detroit and Port Huron. The “mastermind” of the tunnel plot was Albert Kaltschmidt. He was a German immigrant who had owned businesses in Detroit and Marine City, although he had also filed bankruptcy. The records show that he operated the “Marine Sugar Company” in Marine City.

Financed by the German government, with the Austrian Ambassador Dumba’s complicity, several years before the U.S. entry into the war, employment bureaus had been started in several cities that encouraged German immigrants to obtain jobs in local factories, to disrupt manufacturing of products destined for shipment to



The Detroit Screw Works building in 2005, shown shortly before it was demolished. It was an intended target to dynamite, but wasn't hit.



Entrance to the St. Clair tunnel which opened in 1890 and was closed in 1994 when the new tunnel opened (see photo at bottom of page).

Britain. Also, a social organization called Deutscherbund was used to raise funds locally for those nefarious purposes. Most of what is known about the tunnel plot came out during the Detroit federal court trial of Kaltschmidt. That trial concluded in his conviction “for hiring men to blow up Canadian factories and American tunnels and munitions plants.” (*New York Times*, Jan. 3, 1918). A hireling, Charles F. Respa, who had been tried and convicted in a court in Canada for fire bombing a clothing factory in Walkerville (now part of Windsor, Ontario), had testified against Kaltschmidt. He said that he had been sent to Port Huron to determine whether dynamite could be smuggled on to a rail car for detonation once in the tunnel. It isn't clear why that plan didn't materialize. But, they were successful in destroying the Peabody Company in Canada that manufactured uniforms and military supplies. They didn't succeed in blowing up the Windsor Armory. According to a site entitled “German Plots and Propaganda in America” it was proved that Kaltschmidt and his gang planned to blow up the Detroit Screw Works which manufactured shrapnel – and to destroy the St. Clair tunnel, although both of those plans failed. German sabotage efforts on the U.S. northwestern and northeastern Canada borders also were unsuccessful for the most part, as was the planned attack on the Welland Canal linking Lakes Erie and Ontario. All of these happened while the U.S. was still nominally neutral. The tunnel visit was probably in early 1915, followed by the sabotage in Walkerville. After his Detroit trial, Kaltschmidt was sentenced to four years in Leavenworth penitentiary. Once America became a declared ally, the enemy retreated to sea and land warfare in Europe. 🇺🇸

*Author's Note:* Michigan History Magazine has an article on the construction of the first tunnel in Vol. 54, Spring 1970 issue. Also there is a DVD in the CN Documentary Collection showing the construction and travel through the new tunnel. I regret that I never had the opportunity to ride the rails through either one.



The unused entrance to the St. Clair Tunnel (left) and the Paul M. Tellier Tunnel which is in use today



On the back of the above postcard appeared the following facts about the St. Clair Tunnel:

- One of the longest submarine tunnels in the world including approaches it is more than two miles long.
- Length of tunnel proper 6,025 feet
- Nineteen feet ten inches in diameter
- Work commenced, September, 1888.
- Opened for freight traffic in October 1891.
- Opened for passenger traffic, December 7, 1891.
- Steam engines formerly used weighed 200,000 lbs.
- These engines were the largest in the world when built.
- Original cost of tunnel 2,700,000
- Tunnel now operated by electricity.
- Cost over half a million dollars for electrification
- Length of zone electrified approximately 4 miles
- Maximum grade 2 percent
- No. of units per electric locomotive, two
- Weight of complete electric locomotive, 135 tons
- Normal motor capacity 1,500 horse power
- Normal draw bar pull of electric locomotive, 50,000 pounds
- Maximum speed of electric locomotive per hour, 35 miles
- Electrical system adopted – single phase
- Type of construction- single caterery supported by structural steel bridges
- Normal voltage, 3,300
- Tunnel lighted throughout by hundreds of electric lights
- The train service operated through the St. Clair Tunnel is the heaviest railway service handled by electricity in the world.
- The St. Clair Tunnel has been operated by electricity since May 17th, 1908.
- The annual tonnage of vessels passing through the St. Clair River which flows over the St. Clair Tunnel is about twice as great as that passing through the Suez Canal.



# 8th Annual History of the Christmas Tree Walk

December 16-23  
nightly 6:00-9:00

Enjoy over fifty Christmas Trees decorated with ornaments from the 1850s through the present, all displayed inside a 9,500 square foot log home! Discount tickets are on sale at Foxfire Farm Country Store and Floral Shop. Tickets purchased in advance are \$10.00 per adult and \$5.00 per child and are good for any night the Walk is open. Tickets are non-refundable. Starting December 1, the price of tickets increases to \$12.00 per adult and \$6.00 per child.

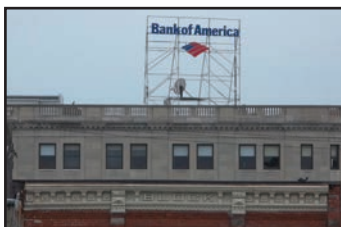
**Shuttle Leaves From  
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810.794.5108**

## ThumbPrint News Contest

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, email us at [thumbprintnews@comcast.net](mailto:thumbprintnews@comcast.net) and put "Contest" in the subject line. All correct answers received by the 15th of the month will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store at 8061 Marsh Road in Clay Township. (You can apply it toward the delivery of a floral arrangement also.) The winner of this month's contest will be announced in the December edition as well as information about the object or place. In October's edition, we asked our readers to identify what building has the word "Block" carved on one side. (Shown above).

The winner of the drawing was Joe Hayes of Port Huron, Michigan who correctly identified the building as being Bank of America, located in Port Huron, Michigan. Joe will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Foxfire Farm in Algonac.

This month we are asking the question,



"Where is it?" Let us know the city and street where the following interesting home can be found. Email your answer to [thumbprintnews@comcast.net](mailto:thumbprintnews@comcast.net). Be sure to include your name, address and phone number in case you are the winner of the random drawing for a gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store. Good luck!

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## It's Not Gone!

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

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

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

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

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

## NEVER

- put bleach into the system. Bleach kills the good bacteria.
- put garbage from table waste in at any time.
- put cigarette butts in the toilet. They can clog the orifices in the field.



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## ThumbPrint News Travels to Italy!

ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb of Michigan (over 930 businesses in eight Thumb counties are now drop locations for the newspaper), but ThumbPrint News has also traveled to the states of Utah, Nevada, Georgia, California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Alaska, Florida and Missouri, and to the countries of Bonaire, Mexico, Canada (Nova Scotia and Grand Bend), Costa Rica, Iraq, Nigeria, Belize, St. Lucia, Wales, Cuba, Jamaica and Argentina! ThumbPrint News was even seen on television – on the *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno!*

When we began inviting our readers to submit photos of where they have taken ThumbPrint News, we never expected such an overwhelming response! This month, ThumbPrint News traveled with Tom Klempay of Chesterfield Township to the beautiful country of Italy. While on a business trip on July 20 in Italy, Tom snapped this spectacular picture of the Piazza Castello.

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



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<b>Lexington Clinic</b>	5730 Main Street	Lexington	(810) 359-2605
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## AVOIDING



## COLLISIONS

### DEER-VEHICLE COLLISION FREQUENCY DOWN 23% IN MICHIGAN FROM A YEAR AGO

Michigan (1 in 90) drops from third to fifth in likelihood of a deer-car crash

By Angie Rinock

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

For the third consecutive year, the number of deer-vehicle collisions in the U.S. has dropped. Using its claims data, State Farm®, the nation's leading auto insurer, estimates 1.09 million collisions between deer and vehicles occurred in the U.S. between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. That's 9 percent less than three years ago and 7 percent fewer than one year ago.

And the downturn is accelerating. The percentage decline over the last year is nearly three times as large as during the previous two years combined. Michigan has experienced the biggest decline with a 23 percent drop, according to State Farm. Following are West Virginia (22 percent), Connecticut (22 percent), Louisiana (19 percent) and Arkansas (18 percent), all states where at least 2,500 deer-vehicle collisions occur per year.

#### Where are deer-vehicle collisions most likely?

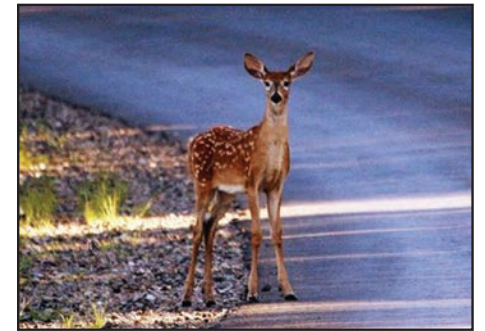
Vehicle/deer crashes can cause more than just damage to the vehicle. According to the Michigan State Police Criminal Justice Information Center the 55,867 crashes in Michigan last year resulted in 1,277 injuries and 11 deaths. And, officials note that many crashes also go unreported, so actual crash numbers are much higher.

In 2010, Kent County once again topped the state's counties in the number of car-deer crashes with 1,976 crashes. The remaining top nine were Oakland (1,836), Jackson (1,779), Calhoun (1,618), Lapeer (1,321), Montcalm (1,319), Genesee (1,295), Clinton (1,267), Sanilac (1,275) and Eaton (1,220).

For the fifth year in a row, West Virginia tops the list of states where an individual driver is most likely to run in to a deer. Using its claims data in conjunction with state licensed driver counts from the Federal Highway Administration, State Farm calculates the chances of a West Virginia motorist striking a deer over the next 12 months at 1 in 53, an improvement over a year ago when the odds were 1 in 42.

Iowa remains second on the list. The likelihood of a licensed driver in Iowa hitting a deer within the next year is 1 in 77. South Dakota (1 in 81) moves up one place to third. Pennsylvania (1 in 86) jumps two places to fourth. Michigan (1 in 90) drops from third to fifth.

Montana is sixth, followed by Wisconsin and Minnesota. North Dakota and



Wyoming round out the top 10. In eight of the top 10 states (Minnesota and Wyoming are the exceptions), the rate of deer-vehicle collisions per driver went down from a year ago.

The state in which deer-vehicle collisions are least likely is still Hawaii (1 in 6,267). The odds of a Hawaiian driver colliding with a deer between now and 12 months from now are approximately equal to the odds that you are a practicing nudist.

#### When do deer-vehicle collisions occur?

State Farm's data shows that November, the heart of the deer migration and mating season, is the month during which deer-vehicle encounters are most likely. More than 18 percent of all such mishaps take place during the 30 days of November. A confrontation between a deer and a vehicle will occur once every five seconds in the United States in November (roughly equivalent to the time it took you to read this sentence).

Deer-vehicle collisions are three times more likely to occur on a day in November than they are on any day between February 1 and August 31. October is the second most likely month for a crash involving a deer and a vehicle. December is third.

The average property damage cost of these incidents during the final half of 2010 and the first half of 2011 was \$3,171, up 2.2 percent from the year before.

#### Avoiding deer-vehicle collisions

"State Farm has a long history of supporting auto safety," said Laurette Stiles, State Farm Vice President of Strategic Resources. "Calling attention to potential hazards like this one is part of our DNA. While we can't put our finger directly on what's causing a decline in deer-vehicle collisions, we'd like to think media attention to our annual report on this subject has had at least a little bit to do with it." 🍀





### Tips on how to reduce the odds of a deer-vehicle collision

- Be aware of posted deer crossing signs. These are placed in active deer crossing areas.
- Remember that deer are most active between 6 and 9 p.m.
- Use high beam headlamps as much as possible at night to illuminate the areas from which deer will enter roadways.
- Keep in mind that deer generally travel in herds – if you see one, there is a strong possibility others are nearby.
- Do not rely on car-mounted deer whistles.
- If a deer collision seems inevitable, attempting to swerve out of the way could cause you to lose control of your vehicle or place you in the path of an oncoming vehicle.

## Be Heart Smart During the Hunt



Hunters are encouraged to follow some health safety tips

By Stacy Sawyer

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Deer hunting season has arrived and with that thousands of hunters are headed to the woods to get the biggest buck they can find. But the American Heart Association encourages hunters to be heart smart. If last year's hunting season was the last time you've exercised, you may be putting yourself at risk of a heart attack.

An American Heart Association study compared the heart's workload of an individual deer hunting to that of the same individual exercising on a treadmill and discovered that deer hunting places the heart under more strain. Therefore, hunters need to be heart smart.

Preparing early not only helps with physical fitness come deer season, but also with overall general health. Studies show that being physically fit lowers heart disease risk even in people who have other risk factors like high blood pressure and cholesterol. The American Heart Association has several online tools that can help with your conditioning. First visit [www.mylifecheck.org](http://www.mylifecheck.org) to find out your heart score, then visit [www.heart.org/start](http://www.heart.org/start) where you can track your fitness before you head to the woods.

Chad Sawyer of Caro, Michigan, is an American Heart Association "You're The Cure" volunteer and an avid outdoorsman. "When I took the My Life Check quiz, I thought for sure I was fit, but my heart score ended up being lower than I expected." That score got Sawyer to start watching what he eats and led to some family fun also.

Sawyer started encouraging his own children to go for walks in the woods with him. They helped him prepare for the hunting season during the summer months by scouting out the best location, while staying in shape. "Hunting puts strain on

your body, so you need to be prepared and know what your body can handle," stated Sawyer. "I end up carrying about 50 pounds worth of gear. Put that on top of a big buck and I end up carrying a few hundred pounds out of the woods."

Heavy lifting, hiking and the overall physical activity of hunting can put a strain on any hunter's heart. Therefore, some other tips include cut out that heavy breakfast before heading out into the woods and avoid hunting alone. Bring a cell phone to reach emergency services if needed and tell friends or family your location and scheduled return. Also, make sensible plans for moving any game taken. Get help from friends and family members to haul in your trophy buck.

If you'd like to have your voice heard in Lansing, register to be part of "You're The Cure" at [www.yourthecure.org](http://www.yourthecure.org). For more information on cardiovascular disease visit [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org).

Both heart attack and stroke are medical emergencies and 911 needs to be accessed immediately. 📍

### Warning Signs of a Heart Attack

- an uncomfortable pressure, fullness, or squeezing pain in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or goes away and comes back again.
- Pain that spreads to the shoulders, neck and arms and is often accompanied by lightheadedness, sweating, nausea and shortness of breath.

### Warning Signs of a Stroke

- a sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, sudden dizziness and loss of coordination, slurred speech, and severe headache.

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## What Happened On This Day In History?

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

### NOVEMBER



**1.** On this day in 0079, Pompei was buried by Mt. Vesuvius' eruption.

**2.** On this day in 1852, Franklin Pierce was elected as president of the U.S.

**3.** On this day in 1679, great panic occurred in Europe over the close approach of a comet.

**4.** On this day in 1841, the first wagon train arrived in California.

**5.** On this day in 1872, Susan B. Anthony was fined \$100 for trying to vote for Ulysses S. Grant.

**6.** On this day in 1897, *Peter Pan* opened in NY at the Empire Theater.

**7.** On this day in 1893, the state of Colorado accepted female suffrage.

**8.** On this day in 1731, in Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin opened the first U.S. library.



**9.** On this day in 1864, Sherman issued preliminary plans for his "March to the Sea".

**10.** On this day in 1775, Congress formed the U.S. Marine Corps.

**11.** On this day in 1620, 41 pilgrims landed in Massachusetts and signed the Mayflower Compact.



**12.** On this day in 1900, the World's Fair in Paris opened (50 million visitors).

**13.** On this day in 1839, the first U.S. anti-slavery party, the Liberty Party, convened in New York.

**14.** On this day in 1896, the power plant at Niagara Falls began operation.

**15.** On this day in 1869, free postal delivery was formally inaugurated.

**16.** On this day in 1811, an earthquake in Missouri caused the Mississippi River to flow backwards.

**17.** On this day in 1913, the Panama Canal opened.

**18.** On this day in 1805, the Female Charitable Society first met as the first woman's club in America.

**19.** On this day in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered the famous Gettysburg Address.

**20.** On this day in 1967, at 11:00 a.m., the Census Clock at the Department of Commerce ticked past 200 million.

**21.** On this day in 1871, the first human cannonball, Emilio Onra, was shot.

**22.** On this day in 1910, Arthur Knight patented steel shaft golf clubs.

**23.** On this day in 1887, Notre Dame lost its first football game 8-0 to Michigan.

**24.** On this day in 1859, Charles Darwin published *On the Origin of Species*.

**25.** On this day in 1715, the first English patent was granted to an American, for processing corn.

**26.** On this day in 1962, the first recording session under the name "Beatles" took place.

**27.** On this day in 1870, the *New York Times* dubbed baseball "The National Game."

**28.** On this day in 1776, Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River.

**29.** On this day in 1942, the U.S. began rationing coffee.

**30.** On this day in 1983, Radio Shack announced the Tandy Model 2000 computer (80186 chip).

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What have you seen in your travels in the Thumb of Michigan that has made you stop and take a second look? Grab your camera, photograph it and send it in to us! We will choose some of the best photos to print in future editions of *ThumbPrint News*. Be sure to include your name and address, so we can send you a complimentary copy of the issue in which your photo appears!

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Now that's personalized service!  
sent to us by Anonymous

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sent to us by Keith Kodet of East China

Fashionable Kitty enjoying his visit to the Richmond Good Old Days  
sent to us by Joseph Jeczen of Algonac

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