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# ThumbPrint News

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

SEPTEMBER 2010



## Inside This Issue

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**PAGE 32** **Celebrate & Remember**



## Signs of the Times

### Burma-Shave

**By Diane L. Kodet**

*ThumbPrint News Editor*

Road trips across America were at the height of their popularity when I was growing up in the late 1950s. My father would get the old station wagon packed and ready the night before we were to leave, always leaving the back for room for large pieces of foam topped with sleeping bags, pillows and blankets – and toys – to make a place for my sister and I to rest and play.

In the morning, even before the sun was up, we would be awakened,

and still in our pajamas, bundled into the car, where we promptly climbed to the back area prepared by our father and fell back asleep.

Several hours later, well down the highway on our family adventure, we would wake up with the sun now streaming in the windows and it would be time to start looking for a Howard Johnson's restaurant to stop in for breakfast. (This seemed to be a favorite of our parents, and my sister and I were in love with their chocolate milk – which was made with whole milk and Hershey's chocolate syrup. There were always tell-tale signs of the syrup in the bottom of the glass, where it hadn't been stirred quite



*Catchy verses were part of Burma-Shave's advertising.*

enough to dissolve all the way.) Then it was back on the road again.

While traveling, we amused ourselves in many ways. We played the traditional road games, like searching for items that began with each letter of the alphabet, playing "I Spy"



See SIGNS, Page 28

## Spotlight on a Small Town: Dryden

**By Ralph McKinch**

*ThumbPrint News Staff Writer*

Dryden is a small village of less than 1,000 people that is located in Dryden Township in the southeast corner of Lapeer County. Although small in size, Dryden is rich in history.

In 1834, pioneers to the area first settled at the corner of what are now Hollow Corners and Mill Roads. Five years later, building began at Dryden's present location, one mile

south of the original settlement. Jonathan Sweet built one of the first stores there around 1839. The settlement had many different names throughout its history, including Lambs Corners, Amboy, Lomond and finally, in 1839, it was named Dryden after the English poet John Dryden.

During the early years of the village that was to become Dryden, wolves were rampant in the area. In fact when the



*Early postcard of Dryden showing a grain elevator and the Pollyann*

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# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

**“E**ach morning when I open my eyes I say to myself: I, not events, have the power to make me happy or unhappy today. I can choose which it shall be. Yesterday is dead, tomorrow hasn't arrived yet. I have just one day, today, and I'm going to be happy in it.”

- Groucho Marx

This is such a powerful quote. I am looking at the events in my own life this summer and am thinking about how I could or could not have reacted.

My father, Gordon Keith Glaza, age 92, passed away on July 8, 2010. He had lived with my family and myself for the past eight years. I had the blessings of seeing him at his very best and his very worst, but wouldn't have given it up for the world.

We moved him and my mother into my home eight years ago when my mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases. A stroke a year later left her totally incapacitated and with the prognosis that she would have 24 hours at most to live. Eight years later, she is still alive, with us still providing 24 hour care for her in our home. I always expected her to go before my father, who seemed fit and healthy when he was chopping wood for our fireplaces last December, but she didn't. Instead, colon cancer ended my father's life.

I am glad my father didn't have to live to see my mother pass. It would have devastated him. He would have been married to her for 70 years this past August. She was the breath of life to him. Caring for her during her illness kept him going.

When I had to go through his

belongings after his passing, I came upon love letters he had written to her during World War II, when he was stationed in Hawaii in the Navy and she was stationed in Texas in the Army. They spent more than a year apart and the letters they wrote portrayed how much they missed each other and loved each other and waited for the day when they could be back together. Their love, their devotion, their patience for making the best of a bad situation helped them endure the time apart serving their country and continues to inspire me today when I read the letters. He lived for her. I am glad he won't have to watch her final days.

When my father passed, I had a choice, to have a traditional funeral in a funeral home or do something that I knew was more what he would have wanted. With the agreement of my sons, we held a Celebration of Life Service for my father at our home. I thought that since he was 92 years old and most of his relatives had predeceased him, there would not be that many people stopping by. Boy, was I wrong. From 9:00 in the morning until almost midnight, people stopped by to help celebrate his long life and to pay their respects to myself, my husband and my sons.

It was perfect. Only a few tears were shed. Instead, we talked about

his 92 long years on Earth and about all of the memories we now have of him to cherish. I would not have done it any other way. It was the perfect celebration of my father's life.

The point is, each situation, each challenge, each snag in the smooth ride of life, gives us the opportunity to make choices. We can sulk, we can cry, we can pout, we can become angry or defensive, we can walk away and give up – or, we can seize life and say that we are going to make the best of what the day has given us. We can be the light in other people's lives. We don't need to draw the attention to ourselves when life dishes out challenges or situations that we may not have chosen had we been given the opportunity. Instead, we need to focus on the positive.

Think about the problems, challenges and obstacles that you are facing today. It may not be the best day of your life, but it can certainly be a whole lot better with the right attitude. Make the best of whatever life has to offer. There is always someone who is dealing with a lot more issues than you are. Your smiling, positive face and attitude will be the light at the end of the tunnel for others in similar or worse situations.

As Groucho Marx so eloquently implies in his quote, we have just one day – today – and it is up to us to be happy about it. The neatest thing if we choose to follow this advice is that we are going to have a positive effect on everyone else around us, too. Isn't that what we really all want in life – to be happy and content? Consciously choose to make the best of whatever is handed to you today.

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



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# A Tandem, a Triple and a TransAmerica Tour

By Allen Kodet

ThumbPrint News Publisher

Anytime I see a bicycle built for two it reminds me of the time in my earlier years when my wife, Diane, and our two sons, Brett and Keith (who were around 5 and 12 years old at the time, respectively), decided to rent two tandem bikes while on Mackinaw Island so that we could ride around the whole island. It was a great experience and the scenery was magnificent – but it was one of the hardest darn things I've ever done! The part of my body that came in contact with the bicycle seat was sore for days after!

So, in early August, on a trip to the northern Thumb area of Michigan, when I came across a family of bicycle riders in Caro, two on a tandem and three on a bike made for three, memories of that whole Mackinaw Island thing came back. Something about this group of riders compounded my interest – three of them were young children, all appearing to be about the same age, and all dressed in identical bicycling outfits and helmets as the two adults. The bikes, too, were different from the old wide tire versions I remembered from the Island. These were super long, sleek and vibrant with color. Behind each bike a small covered portable trailer was being pulled. I thought to

myself, “These folks are planning on doing some serious biking!”

As publisher of the *ThumbPrint News*, I thought this would be a great photo opportunity – perhaps even a short tidbit about the riders. So, I pulled ahead of them enough with my car so I could get out and snap a photo when they went by. However, the riders saw that I was interested in what they were doing, and pulled over alongside the road. Little did I know that I was about to discover a story about one family's adventure of a lifetime.

After introducing myself, I had the pleasure of meeting John Replinger, his wife, Valerie Wildman, and their three children, Deirdre, Ian and Zara, who were 9½ year old triplets. Yes, they were out on a family excursion, but the magnitude of that journey had not yet been revealed to me.

“A Tandem, a Triple, and a TransAmerica Tour” read the business card John handed me. The family resided in Portland, Oregon, but, beginning on May 25 of 2010, they had embarked on a remarkable adventure. Leaving from their home state on the bicycles I was looking at today, they were peddling their way across the country! When I ran into



John Replinger and his wife, Valerie Wildman, had already traveled over 2,000 miles on the day they stopped in Caro.

them in Caro, Michigan, they had already traveled over 2,000 miles!

Their journey would ultimately end in Washington D.C., which they figured would be complete by September 1.

What would make two fifty-something parents attempt such a feat? Valerie admits that she was the reason. Every since she was about 15 years old, she had dreamed about bicycling across the country. Almost 40 years later, after a year of planning and preparation, she was more than half way through that dream.

I didn't want the conversation to end – their story was just so fascinating. I found out that they would be continuing their journey traveling southeast through Michigan and would actually be traveling through Algonac, the town where I reside.

They would probably be in Algonac two days after our encounter in Caro. Wanting so much to

talk to this family more about their adventure, I offered our home to them as a place to spend the night when they were in our town. I was thrilled that they accepted.

Two days later, I met their caravan in Marine City and gave them directions on how to get to the house. I went on ahead. I was totally amazed at how quickly they covered the eight or so miles and, when we did get to the house and they finally had a chance to get off the bikes, I was totally amazed that the triplets still had as much energy as they did, after riding over 50 miles that day! (And I thought Mackinaw Island was hard!)

After John and his family took some refreshing showers at our home, the kids enjoyed an hour swim in our indoor pool. John, Valerie, my wife and I had a chance to visit around the pool's edge.

The triplets were delightful. They were polite, well-spoken and seemed to be absorbing everything they could from their amazing journey across America. Later, the conversation continued over dinner at a local restaurant, while the kids



# YELLOW JACKET ALERT!



Yellow jackets are often mistaken for paper wasps. **They are aggressive and destructive.** Yellow jackets can be identified by their yellow and black stripes, black antennae, and legs that are tucked up when flying (like a bullet). Yellow jackets can build nests on your home, in a tree or in the ground. The nest is enclosed (no "honey comb" visible) and can be the size of a basketball or larger.

If they build a nest IN your home, they have the ability to chew through quarter inch drywall causing extensive damage. They do this to enlarge their nest. Never plug or seal a yellow jacket nest from the outside of the home. This will only trap them inside your home and drive them further into your walls, causing them to come into the living space in search of an exit, as well as food and water for their young.

1. Never plug an active yellow jacket entrance on your home.
2. Never use an over the counter liquid yellow jacket product in the nest entrance. This added moisture can amplify the stench of rotting yellow jackets and their larvae.
3. Never touch a soft or water spot in your ceiling where yellow jackets are eating through. If necessary, VERY CAREFULLY place duct tape over the area. Do not apply a lot a pressure, as you could puncture a hole through the drywall.

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# CLUSTER FLIES & MULTI-COLORED ASIAN LADY BEETLES!

Cluster and face flies are found in homes, churches, hospitals, apartment complexes, commercial and public buildings and other structures. These large, sluggish flies appear on warm, sunny days during late autumn, winter and early spring. They occur in large numbers, especially at windows and in rooms not frequently used. In times of cooler weather, they can commonly be found warming themselves on the sides of buildings (retreating into the cracks and crevices as the weather continues to cool).

These flies make irritating, buzzing noises, spin around and move sluggishly. They can also leave a greasy spot on upholstery, carpets, wood, and other surfaces.

The multi-colored Asian lady beetle has become a nuisance pest to homeowners in North America in recent years because of the propensity of adults to enter houses in search of over wintering shelter. Their tendency to over winter in homes and other buildings, usually clustered in large numbers, can make them a nuisance to many persons. If agitated or squashed, the beetles may exhibit a defensive reaction known as "reflex bleeding," in which a yellow fluid with an unpleasant odor is released from leg joints. This reaction generally prevents predators, such a birds, from eating lady beetles. But in the home, the fluid may stain walls and fabrics. The desiccating bodies of these insects have also been known to cause breathing problems in persons with asthma or related conditions.

The best time to control these insects is before you have a problem with them. An exterior treatment of the home (especially the cracks and crevices) is an excellent pre-emptive step to help prevent an infestation.

# PAPER WASPS



European paper wasps are commonly mistaken for yellow jackets. These wasps however have orange antennae while yellow jackets have black antennae. Another difference is that paper wasps generally have a small skinny body while yellow jackets have a bigger more bulky body. Also, paper wasps fly with their legs hanging down while yellow jackets fly with their legs up and look similar to a bullet. The paper nests of paper wasps are built with individual chambers all visible and in a "honeycomb" pattern. The nests generally will look like an upside down umbrella. Yellow jackets, however, will build their nest on the exterior of the home or on a tree branch and will be shaped like a basketball. The paper wasp will also fill cavities such as those in shutters or deck railings. **These wasps are very aggressive.**

The common paper wasp is not as common now that the European paper wasp has become the dominant species. This is because the European paper wasp is known to steal the paper and larva from the nests of this species of wasp. This wasp is brown in color and has black antennae but makes a similar nest to the European paper wasp.



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Melanie Duquesnel

## Complaints to BBB about Satellite TV Reveal Common Customer Grievances over Terms of the Agreement Before signing up with a satellite provider, read the contract closely to avoid unexpected charges

**By Melanie Duquesnel**

President and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan

In the past three years, more than 53,000 customers have complained to the Better Business Bureau about satellite TV providers, with 39,000 of those complaints filed against DirecTV and 13,000 filed against Dish Network. Many complaints stem from fees and terms outlined in the customer agreement and BBB recommends that TV viewers planning to make the switch to satellite should read the fine print

closely.

According to company reports, DirecTV has more than 18 million customers in the U.S. and Dish Network has more than 14 million. The complex policies and fees that are sometimes unique to satellite service has led many customers to complain to BBB about the contractual obligations outlined – but often overlooked – in the fine print of their agreement.

“Many complaints to BBB about satellite providers stem from steep cancellation fees,” said Melanie

Duquesnel, President and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. “If customers aren’t satisfied with their service or they can’t afford the cost after the introductory period, it isn’t that easy to cancel because the early termination fees can run into the hundreds of dollars.”

Following are examples of common complaints BBB receives about satellite TV providers:

**Early Termination Fees –** Complainants report paying cancellation fees amounting to more than \$600. Commonly the customer felt that the company didn’t provide the services promised and they shouldn’t have to pay to cancel service they weren’t happy with or didn’t receive. In some cases the customer claims they were not aware of the policy or that a sales rep misrepresented the terms.

**Introductory Offers –** Many promotions will offer a lower price or premium channels for an introductory period, after which the customer will be charged the full price. Some complainants state their monthly bill increased substantially more than they anticipated. Others state they were promised gift cards for signing up that never materialized or rebates that couldn’t be redeemed immediately.

**Billing issues –** Some complainants state that they were charged for services they didn’t order – such as pay per view movies – or were charged for services which they thought would be free. Complainants also cite issues with returning the receivers to the company and still being charged. In some cases the unexpected charges were the result of expiring introductory rates or offers.

**Service issues –** Complainants have also contacted BBB over reception quality issues, channel offerings or difficulties in getting equipment repaired.

**Upgrades Resulting in Contract Extension –** Some complainants were upset to learn that when they upgraded their service or equipment, it resulted in a contract extension and they were later charged fees for early cancellation.

When signing up for satellite TV, BBB recommends that customers:

**Get it all in writing –** Don’t just take a salesman, installer or customer service representative’s word for it. You might also be speaking with a third-party retailer and the verbal promises may not show up in the final customer agreement with the satellite provider.

**Read the terms and conditions carefully –** Pay close attention to the terms on introductory offers, equipment costs and the cancellation policy.

**Check every bill closely –** The sooner you spot inaccuracies in billing, the better. Even if you have your account set up to automatically charge your credit card or debit your checking account, always review your monthly bill closely for any new or unusual charges.

**Mark your calendar –** Put important dates down on your calendar such as when you need to cancel introductory promotions for premium channels and the end of your contract.

**File a complaint with BBB –** Consult the terms that you agreed to and if you’re unable to reach an agreement with your satellite provider, file a complaint with your BBB. Dish Network and DirecTV consistently respond to complaints and BBB has been able to help consumers receive refunds in many cases.

For more information or to schedule an interview with a BBB spokesperson, contact Patrick Bennett at (248) 799-0326.

**About Better Business Bureau** The Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan is a non-profit organization with the purpose of assisting in the protection of consumers and businesses from fraud and unethical business practices in the local marketplace. In addition to its recognized dispute resolution services, BBB maintains reliability reports on the customer service history of more than 80,000 local businesses and provides consumer education materials on numerous topics. BBB provides its services free to the public and its service territory stretches across Eastern Michigan from Ann Arbor through Metropolitan Detroit, Lansing, Flint, upward to Alpena, and covers the entire Upper Peninsula of the state.

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# The Fishing Rocker Combines Two Loves of his Life

**By Ralph McKinch**

*ThumbPrint News Staff Writer*

Lake St. Clair, in the Thumb of Michigan, is 430 square miles of some of the world's greatest fishing spots, according to Brian Schram. Brian should know, as he is a

professional fishing guide on the lake, sharing the secrets of some of the best musky,



*Brian Schram, the Fishing Rocker*

walleye, smallmouth bass and perch fishing areas on the lake with his clients.

Brian's number one passion since he was a youngster has been fishing. He always dreamed of making a living as a professional fisherman. As Brian says on his website, "It didn't take me long to realize that I had the bug and had it very bad. I would head to the lake right after school and fish for giant top-water smallmouth bass all through the night. In my mind I could spend the rest of my life on that canoe and I would die a very happy man."

Brian has appeared on nationally syndicated fishing television shows and just this year started his own business called "Rockin Fish Tales Guide Service." His home base is Anglers Point Marina, a popular tackle and marina shop on Lake Saint Clair. It is located at 28955 William P. Rosso Highway in Chesterfield Township.

Why Brian calls his business "Rockin Fish Tales Guide Service" is another interesting story. Brian has combined his other love, music, with his number one passion, fishing. Brian's rock band, called Schram, has played with Uncle Kracker on *The Jay Leno Show*, MTV and *Live with Regis & Kelly*. The band is about as original as it can get, especially when the group released a CD called *Rockin' Fish Tales*, combining Brian's two passions together.

Some of the titles on *Rockin' Fish Tales* include "Musky Maniac," "Largemouth Bass Oh Yeah," "Catfish Man," "Big Pike" and "The Next Bite." It isn't often that a person can make a living doing what he or she loves best. It is almost unheard of that someone can combine TWO of their most favorite things, but apparently Brian has done that admirably. I doubt there are many days when Brian gets up



*Brian Schram with a large musky caught on Lake St. Clair*

and says, "I wish I didn't have to go to work today." To him, it is just "Everyday Normal Life" (another one of the songs on his CD). 🌱

*Editor's Note: To book a tour on Lake St. Clair with Brian, call (734) 709-4728 or go to his website at [www.brianshram.com](http://www.brianshram.com).*

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# Yup, It's That Time Again

By **Bryon McClain**  
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

It's that time again. The time of year when you know it's still too hot to be having these thoughts, these feelings. The way you look off into the distance, as if lost in space. You think it's too early in the seasons of the year to be restless. But it isn't. They have antlers! Not just stubby little black and brown masses of unshaped tissue. Antlers! You can count the tines, measure the spread by the width of their ears, and do your best to give an on the hoof premature scoring of what he "could be." This leads you to reliving the hunts of years past and yearning for the first leaves of fall to appear. You shoot your bow, sight in your gun, and inventory your trusty hunting pack. Twice. You read your old magazines and watch the TV shows, yet the feeling gets stronger. It seems nothing can satisfy this urge.

You check your food plots and decide where to put your trail cameras for the best results. You drive the back roads near where you hunt and look for deer every night, and then your buddy's hunting spot. Pretty soon, you know where every buck in the county is spending his evenings eating to fatten up for the winter ahead. Yup, it's that time of year again. They just don't understand. Who can blame them? It does feel a little selfish to double your gas budget, and put off the lawn "just one more day" so you can pursue this little feeling in the pit of your stomach. But it's not wrong, or uncommon. In fact I too suffer from this ailment along with you. We probably pass each other often on the dirt roads around town.

I get to know several of you by name every summer when we stop to look at the same group of deer milling about in a field. It's not a sickness, it's a passion. A passion for America's oldest sport, older than baseball and apple pie combined. We love it; it's what we live for. Granted, it's probably

not the most important thing in your life, but it ranks pretty high on the list of things that make you tick. This feeling will never go away, it may fade for a few months of the year but you never lose sight of it. This is why we go out at the first thaw and look for sheds from the year before. This way you know what made it through the season, and what could be on the property the next fall. This is why you clear areas in the woods in the spring and plant food plots. This is why you subscribe to every major hunting magazine on the planet. This is why we put out trail cameras to see what the bucks are looking like on our property. This is why you record every single outdoor show that comes on TV. This is the life of the deer hunter.

So yeah, it's time. Go ahead and put out the trail cameras, burn your gas, and let the grass grow. Read your dog-eared copies of those magazines, and use up as much space on your DVR as possible. Don't fight it, it won't go away. Hunting season is coming. You know it and I know it, and there is absolutely nothing anyone can do about it. So I say embrace it, and let it run its course. I will see you on the back roads with a smile on my face because, yeah, it's that time again! 🍀

*Editor's Note: Bryon McClain has been hunting deer since the age of 12 with his father, David. He is also the owner of Buck Wild Nation, L.L.C. at 7419 Lakeshore Road in Lexington. Buck Wild Nation is a retail store that houses products in departments such as fishing, hunting, clothing, cooking, guns, ammunition and gifts. They also have online hunting gear, fishing gear, hunting supplies, camping gear and much more at discount prices. Their website is [www.buckwildnation.com](http://www.buckwildnation.com) or call (810) 359-8550 for more information.*



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# Small Inventions That Make a Big Difference

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

Sometimes it is the small inventions that have made the biggest differences in the quality of our living experience. The screened window is one great example.

I was washing the windows the other evening and had taken the screens out to also clean them. Being called a way for a few minutes to take a phone call, I forgot that the screens had not yet been replaced. Big mistake!

When I returned to the room, since it was evening, the mosquitoes were on their flights of revenge and they were everywhere! That was not going to make for a pleasant sleeping time! Quickly, I put the screens back on. Then I heard a pitiful meowing sound. Without the screens on, Cream Puff, my house bound kitty, decided to jump out the window and see what the big wide world beyond had to offer. Only she didn't realize that since the window was on the second floor she would end up on the roof instead of the ground. She was not a happy camper! And neither was I when

I had to crawl out the window on to the roof to rescue her. Lack of screens certainly made my life a little less pleasant.

After that experience, I got to thinking about screens. I wondered who the genius was that developed them. So, I did a little Internet research, and here is what I found.

Some kind of screening for windows has been around for as long as there have been window frames. However, the screening was not of the type we think of today. Many older civilizations used wood, ceramic or stone fretwork to provide privacy but also to allow minimal light and ventilation in to a building. Wicker or basketry was also sometimes used.

Cloth window screens were used from ancient times all the way into the 1920s. Silk or cheesecloth were popular materials as they allowed in light but also provided protection from dust and insects. Turn of the 20th century women's magazines recommended cheesecloth screens at school so that windows could be opened for ventilation.

Early colonists in our country did



Gilbert and Bennett's wire drawing factory first manufactured wire screens for windows.

not have screened windows – in fact, most didn't even have glass. Instead, they used animal skins or oiled paper to cover their windows. When glass was eventually used, it was in small diamond shaped panes.

The invention of the modern day wire screen needs to be credited to the Gilbert and Bennett Wire Mill in Georgetown. In 1830, Benjamin Gilbert and Sturges Bennett partnered to purchase a factory where the long unused hair of cattle and horses could be woven on looms into sieves for sifting meal and flour. They turned out to be quite popular. Traveling salesmen in Conestoga wagons sold them all over New England and as far west as Ohio.

In 1834, William Gilbert, Benjamin's son, experimented with using fine iron wire instead of the horse hair to make the sieves. These proved to be much stronger and became more in demand than those made of horse hair.

When the Civil War began, the company lost their sales to the southern markets and found that they had accumulated more woven iron cloth than they could sell. An inventive employee suggested using them to cover windows. The company took a hold of the idea and gave the screen a protective coat of gray paint and then introduced the products as the first Insect Wire

Screening. It was an overnight success, not only for the company, but also for the well-being of the public.

Mosquitoes had long been a menace in our country, spreading yellow fever through the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1647 and hitting Philadelphia, Pennsylvania hard in 1793. Use of window screening has been directly linked to the fact that parasitic diseases were largely eradicated in the United States by the 1950s.

Today, the most common materials used for insect screening are aluminum and fiberglass. Aluminum is available either as is or with an applied charcoal color. The charcoal color helps the screen to be less visible both when inside the home looking out and when outside of the home looking in. Fiberglass is less expensive and has the advantage of not denting when hit or pushed, but it is more opaque and reduces the amount of light that will come in from the outside. Fiberglass also degrades rapidly with exposure to UV light. Less common screen materials include bronze, copper, brass, stainless steel and galvanized steel.

So, as I finish up the job of getting the windows washed, I will continue to appreciate how they make my life a little bit more pleasant – as long as I remember to put them back on before walking away from the windows! 🍀

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**PRESENTS**

# A TRIBUTE TO 9/11

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Opening Benediction  
National Anthem  
Honor Guard by Richmond VFW Post #6802 "James Coleman Post"  
- 21 Gun Salute  
- "Taps"  
- "Amazing Grace" by Bag Pipes  
Speech by the Chief of the Richmond Volunteer Fire Department.  
Closing Prayer and Blessing  
Immediately following opening ceremony, there will be a short driver's meeting and then the trucks proceed to participate in the Children's Main Street Parade

11-11:30 Parade (Trucks end up at Bailey park for display)

12 - 3 Ladder Truck Rides on RVFD (Richmond Volunteer Fire Department) Ladder 1 Truck.  
This is based solely on donation. The donations from the ladder truck rides go to support Richmonds Antique Parade Fire Truck

12 & 2 LTM Fire Equipment and Amkus Rescue Systems (Muster Sponsor) will be holding an Auto Extrication Demo (New This Year)


12 Dunk Tank (Proceeds to the Great Lakes Burn Camp)

2:30 Fire Department Water Ball Contest (New This Year)  
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4 Registration closes (Trucks are welcome to stay and enjoy the festival)

10 Good Old Days Fireworks Display!

**Dedicated to all the men and women that lost their lives on that tragic day and to those that have made the ultimate sacrifice in the war against terrorism since.**



**For more information visit [www.richmondgoodolddaysfestival.org](http://www.richmondgoodolddaysfestival.org)**

## We the People

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

In September 1957 I had just entered my freshman year at Algonac High School. I recall that I was more interested in the perceived status of being in high school than I was about the reality of being there to actually learn something.

One of my first classes was civics and my teacher was Lucy Jean Titsworth, known by all simply as Miss T. She was a no-nonsense educator, which proved to be difficult for me – an all-nonsense student.

I remember Miss T presenting to her class the United States Constitution. She was serious about the importance of this document and stressed that we would be devoting a substantial amount of time to understanding it. Tests relating to the subject proved just how serious she was.

Miss T's introduction of the Constitution began with the announcement that we were celebrating the 170th anniversary of its signing. I wondered then why so much emphasis was being placed on this one governing document when so many others existed. Miss T taught me why and I have come to fully appreciate her devotion to it.

This year we mark the 223rd observation of this historic event that actually began in the last week of May in 1787, when the 55 delegates to the Constitutional Convention met almost daily in the State House in Philadelphia. Their focus was on a revision to the Articles of Confederation. By mid-June, however, it became apparent that a simple amendment would not suffice.

The delegates decided, instead, to write a new document that would provide a clear understanding of the separate powers of federal and state governments. They would also define the rights of the people and how they would be represented by those elected from among them to serve in the government.

Three months later they had finished their objective and on September 17, 1787 42 of the delegates to the Convention came together for their final gathering. On their agenda that memorable day appeared a single item for consideration. They were there to add their signatures to the Constitution of the United States of America.

Following this notable event, Congress sent copies of the newly executed Constitution to the various state legislatures for ratification. During the months that followed, the *Federalist Papers* were written in support of confirmation while other organized efforts opposing it were circulated. By June 21, 1788 nine states had approved this nation-guiding document and a "more perfect union" was born.

Some people then debated the details of this, our greatest national governing document. That argument continues even today. However, for most Americans it truly represents a tremendous expression of purposeful direction provided by those who fully understood what this country needed to continue on into the future.

It should seem amazing to all of us that just four hand-written pages we know as our Constitution offers the guidelines for the greatest government structure the world has ever known.

One of Miss T's efforts to make sure we fully understood the importance of this aging document was how she stressed the 52 words that introduce it to the reader. In this brief paragraph we are ensured justice, domestic tranquility, common defense, general welfare, the blessings of liberty, and our posterity. We know it as the Preamble.

The students in Miss T's class learned that the Preamble neither granted any powers nor did they inhibit any actions. It only explained the reasoning behind the Constitution. After all these years that basic introduction, especially the very first words ("We the people") is probably one of the most quoted references to the Constitution.

By congressional resolution for the week beginning September 17 each year, Americans commemorate the adoption of the U.S. Constitution. The purpose of the observance week is to promote a greater awareness of the document. The first day of "Constitution Week" we recognize "Constitution Day," formerly known as "Citizenship Day."

Of importance to all of us are the opportunities and protections provided by this simple, but very meaningful document. Let's give thanks to the courageous 42 signers of the U.S. Constitution and pray for all the dedicated educators who continue to stress its importance to the next generations. 🍀



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## “Seasons in St. Clair” Art Competition

By Jo-Anne F. Wilkie

President of the St. Clair Art Association

The Fall 2010 edition of the Seasons in St. Clair project is ready to begin! This project is supported by the Art Association and St. Clair’s Downtown Development Authority, and is open to artists 18 and older.

Only original artwork is eligible; student work completed under the supervision of an instructor is not. Work previously exhibited at the Alice W. Moore Center for the Arts is ineligible. Artists are invited to submit artwork depicting a fall scene in St. Clair, past or present. The scene can be real or imaginary but the location has to be recognizable as St. Clair. The artist may choose the medium; however, photographs and works using photographic processing are not eligible. The artwork must be 18”x 24” in size, titled, unmounted and unframed. The finished artwork must be able to be reproduced in the form of prints.

The winning artwork will be announced Sunday, October 3, 2010, at a reception from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The artist will receive a cash prize

of \$1,000 and a solo exhibit at the Gallery. The top three finalists will receive an invitation to the St. Clair Art Fair, June 25 and 26, 2011, with booth fees paid by the Downtown Development Authority.

This competition will be judged by St. Clair native artist, Tom Hale. He has received many awards for his artwork, including the Gold Medal of Honor from the American Watercolor Society (AWS) in New York City for his painting titled CHROME.

To enter, download an entry form at [www.stclairart.org](http://www.stclairart.org), fill out and turn in with your artwork. Attach identification labels to the back lower right corner of the painting. Also include a brief, one-page biography. The deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 28, 2010. Entry fee is \$15 per piece of artwork submitted. Submit artwork to Fall in St. Clair, St. Clair Art Association, 201 N. Riverside Avenue, St. Clair, Michigan, 48079. For more information, call (810) 329-9576.

Complete details are on the entry form. Consider submitting your fall scenes today! 🍁



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# CORNER

BY  
RAY  
KELLY

## Blue Water Carvers are Welcoming New Members

By Paul Shoemaker  
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Give a group of retirees a place to meet and what do you get? In our case you get the Blue Water Carvers. Our group consists of approximately 20 members, most of who are retired. There are 12 to 14 active members and we meet at

the Council on Aging Center in Port Huron. Our meetings run Thursdays from 9:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m. We are a very informal group and our dues are \$1.00 a year. Our backgrounds are as varied as our carvings. Our ranks include retired mechanics, welders, school teachers and military. Our skill levels also vary from beginner to advanced. We are also geographically diverse, coming from as far away as Port Sanilac, Lexington, Columbus, Armada and Marine City.

Some of the types of carvings and woodworking that we do include Santas, chip carving, caricatures, walking sticks, canes, relief carving and wood burning.

When I was a kid, we had an old family friend and one day he showed me how to make a whistle from a tree sapling. The only tool he used was a small pen knife. When I got a little older, I started carving my own fishing lures and I still have the scars to prove it. I have always enjoyed working with my hands, whether it was pottery, macramé or wood working. My mother-in-law was a woodcarver and I always enjoyed the carvings she would do for us. When she was no longer able to carve, she gave me her carving tools and told me to keep them and maybe when I had time I would like to try woodcarving. After I retired from teaching, I took a class on carving a Santa ornament. I fell in



A variety of wooden items carved by Ray Kelly

love with woodcarving and have been actively carving for almost ten years. I enjoy carving Santas, wood spirits, walking sticks and also the technique of chip carving. Most of what I carve I give away as presents or to groups who are doing fundraisers. I always have a supply of chip carved Celtic crosses and I take them with me when I travel so when I attend Mass I can give one to the priest after Mass.

Some of our members are couples. This is the case with Dick and Elaine Nadjkovic. Elaine first became interested in woodworking while attending a carving show put on by

a carving club. She was looking at a small carving of a boot and asked the carver how it was done. He took the time to show her and got her started on carving one. She fell in love with the carving process and began taking classes in carving water fowl. Her husband eventually took up carving and they took classes together. They both enjoy carving a variety of things. Besides woodcarving, they also do wood burning. They attend several of the carving events held around the state and are good ambassadors for woodcarving. They are just as eager to show others how to get started in carving.

Another club member, Kenn, became interested in woodcarving through a mutual friend of his and mine. Kenn also enjoys carving a variety of things, but really enjoys doing walking sticks. He has done several in the past couple of years. Each one is unique and gives him a chance to showcase his carving skills. Like all carvers, he enjoys adding to his skills with every piece that he completes.

Wayne Seaford, the club vice-president, got hooked on carving while he was still part of the work force. One of the people with whom he worked got him started. His friend would bring in carvings and work on them during his break periods and lunch hour. Wayne talked to him about his carvings and



Wayne Seaford is Vice-President of Blue Water Carvers

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Elaine and Dick Nadjkovic enjoy wood carving as a hobby.

eventually took some waterfowl carving classes. Wayne also enjoys carving many different items. He has done several canes and walking sticks, and enjoys carving cottonwood bark gnome homes, small children's toys, and novelty items such as wooden pliers and wooden chains. He is currently preparing to make a working lock made completely from wood.

One thing that our members have in common is their love of wood working. Our club is always looking for events where we can give demonstrations. In the last several years we have given demonstrations at craft shows in the Armada area,

the New Baltimore Library, the Fire and Ice Art Happening in Port Huron and for one of the elementary schools in the Yale school system. Many members of the group have involved themselves in the "Lean on Me" project. This project involves the carving of an eagle cane head which is then attached to a shaft that chronicles a soldier's service to his/her country. These canes are presented to the appropriate soldier in a ceremony honoring his/her contribution to America's freedom.

We are always looking for new members. If you are interested in getting involved in woodcarving or in having us give a demonstration at your event you can stop in at the Council on Aging in Port Huron on Thursdays mornings, visit our table at Fire and Ice in September, or contact me, Paul Shoemaker, at (586) 784-9066 or by e-mail at shoe.haida@sbcglobal.net.

This year Fire and Ice will be held on September 18 and 19 from 10:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m. at Vantage Point which is located at 510 Water Street in Port Huron. 🌱

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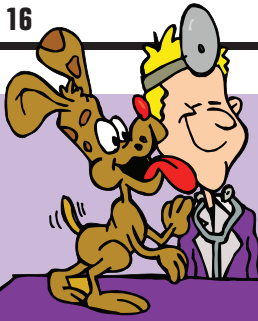
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## What Should You Do When Your Pets Have Fleas?

By Dr. DiBenedetto

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Ridding a home of fleas can be frustrating and costly. Fleas account for more than half of all dermatological conditions requiring veterinary assistance. Even a single flea bite can cause a hypersensitive animal or person intense itching and irritation. Here are some tips on how to control a flea infestation:

- Adult fleas spend most of their time on the animal, not in the carpet. They have an average life of 50 days.
- Adult fleas lay all of their eggs (up to 50 per day) on the pet. However, the eggs soon fall off the animal into carpeting, beneath the cushions of furniture, and wherever else the pet rests, sleeps or spends most of its time. Flea eggs will hatch in about 10 days under the right conditions.
- After hatching, flea eggs develop into tiny, worm-like larvae. Larvae remain hidden deep in carpet fibers, beneath furniture cushions and in other protected areas. It takes the larvae about 12 days to mature and move on to the pupae stage.
- Before becoming adult fleas, the larvae transform into pupae within a silk-like cocoon. Pupae remain inside the cocoon for two to four weeks, sometimes up to four or five months. The cocoon is resistant to all insecticides and

this is why some adult fleas are seen for an extended period, even after the home and pet are treated.

- The adult fleas make up only 5% of the flea population in an environment. This means that the other 95% of the population is in the animal's environment, both indoors and outdoors.
- Therefore, successful flea control must include treating the home, the pet and occasionally, the yard.

Treatment of your pets must include all pets in the house, even if your cats are strictly indoors only. Fleas will bite humans, but prefer dogs and cats. Your veterinarian can assist you in finding the right products to apply to your pets. Cats in particular can be very sensitive to some of these insecticides. There are varieties of topical and oral flea products available that will kill the adult fleas that contain an insect growth regulator which will prevent the eggs from hatching in the environment. These products should be used for at least three months consecutively. This will kill the adult fleas that emerge from the resistant pupae stage.

At the same time that your pets are being treated, you should also clean and treat your house. This process should include:

- Removing all the toys, clothing and stored items from floors, under the beds and in closets is an essential step so that all areas will be accessible for treatment.

- Remove pet food and water dishes, cover fish tanks and disconnect their aerators.
- Wash, dry-clean or destroy all pet bedding.
- Vacuum! Vacuuming removes many of the eggs, larvae and pupae developing within the home. Vacuuming also stimulates pre-adult fleas to emerge sooner from their insecticide-resistant cocoons, thus hastening their contact with insecticide residues in the carpet. By raising the nap of the carpet, vacuuming improves the insecticide's penetration down to the base of the carpet fibers where the developing fleas live. Vacuum thoroughly, especially in areas where pets rest or sleep. Do not forget to vacuum along edges of rooms and beneath furniture, cushions, beds and throw rugs. After vacuuming, seal the vacuum bag in a garbage bag and discard it in an outdoor trash container.

Other than the person performing the application, people and pets should be out of the house during treatment. People and pets should also remain off treated surfaces until the spray has dried.

Many different products are available for home treatment. The most effective formulations contain both an adulticide (e.g., permethrin) effective against the biting adult stage, and an insect growth regulator (methoprene or pyriproxyfen), necessary to provide long-term suppression of the eggs and larvae.

In cases where pets spend most

of their time outdoors, it may also be necessary to treat the yard. Outdoor flea treatment should focus on areas where pets rest, sleep and run, such as doghouses and kennel areas, under decks, along fences and next to the foundation. It is seldom necessary to treat the entire yard or open areas exposed to full sun. Insecticide formulations containing chlorpyrifos (Dursban) or permethrin are somewhat effective for outdoor flea treatment. These can be applied with a hose-end or pump-up sprayer. Long-term suppression of fleas infesting kennels or outdoor areas can be enhanced with formulations containing an IGR such as methoprene or pyriproxyfen.

Fleas can be successfully controlled. Homeowners that do not have the time to control fleas themselves or who are uncomfortable applying pesticides may wish to enlist the services of a professional pest control firm. 🐾

*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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## Memoirs from The Restless Retiree

### Absentee Ballots - Know the Rules!

By Gabriel Jones, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Whenever an election comes up, a senior feels relieved that they can request an absentee ballot. This means no matter what the weather is, you can feel safe and sound in your home knowing that you voted by mail.

Well, we received the request for absentee ballots, filled them out, and put them in the mail. Soon after, we received our ballots and put them in a safe place until the election.

The election was coming up and the news of the event had people

talking to each other. They all seemed to be getting excited about how they should vote.

We also thought of the experiences of talking to the leaders in the parking lot, the people in line, but also about voting in person as a responsible citizen of the community.

It was then that I told the wife that we should vote in person and not to send in the absentee ballots.

Election Day came and the wife and I drove to the school (where our precinct was) to vote. When we got out of the car, we were met by some of the leaders who were

running for office and they gave us their brochures.

We then entered the building and saw some of our neighbors in line. Here we were, with our neighbors, everyone talking to each other, actually enjoying being there.

After waiting a while, it was our turn to sign in. I gave my name, ID, and was ready to sign the slip, when . . .

"You can't vote, sir. You voted by mail by absentee ballot."

"WHAT!" I exclaimed. "We didn't vote by mail. That's why we came here tonight, to vote in person!"

"I'm sorry sir, but our records here showed that you received an absentee ballot and you can't vote twice. If you didn't vote by mail, then the only way you can vote tonight is to bring the actual absentee ballots you received back here to our desk, and then we will allow you to vote tonight."

Well, you know what I did. I left the wife there to wait for me while I drove home to get the ballots and return (in the rain) WET!

I THOUGHT I KNEW THE RULES OF THE GAME!

Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🍀

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**Dryden: Small Town Spotlight**

Continued from Page 1

first town meeting was held on April 3, 1837, one of the first orders of business was to enact a bounty of two dollars for each wolf that was killed in the township. Thirty-seven citizens attended this first meeting and also elected village officers, including justices of the peace, constables and other village officials.

Some of the early businesses in Dryden included two blacksmith shops, a broom and ink factory, a soap factory, a millinery shop, a tailor, a shoe shop, a wagon shop and a tin shop. The first hotel was built by Sanford Maynard in 1846. The Dryden Exchange Hotel, which was built in 1854 by E. H. Baker, stood on the northeast corner of Main and Mill Streets. (The hotel burned down in 1889.) In 1874 a second hotel, the Twin Elms House, was built on the opposite corner by Joseph Dowd, who later sold it to D.C. Bacon. Bacon was one of the early pioneers of Dryden and ran the hotel for many years.

The first mill in Dryden was built by Mr. Neiley on what is now the southwest corner of Mill and North Streets.

Another notable business started in 1876 was an apple dryer and cider mill built by Joseph Darwood on Mill Street south of the Parker block called Darwood & Lamb. Farmers brought in apples from their orchards which were then peeled, cored, dried and packed into boxes to be shipped. Wasting nothing, the dried cores and peels were sold as hog feed. In 1881, the dryer burned to the ground, but was rebuilt once again.

Also in 1881, a large three-story wooden store was built on the north side of Main Street by P. M. Ulrich. Mr. Ulrich was also the first person

in the village to have a telephone installed in his home (in 1906). After Mr. Ulrich sold the store to John Heenan, the third floor became the Masonic Hall. At that time, there were about 300 residents in Dryden.



Major General George Owen Squier

One of Dryden's most notable residents was Major General George Owen Squier, who was born in that village on March 21, 1865. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1887 and received a Ph.D. from John Hopkins University in 1893.

During Squier's military career, he served as executive officer to the Chief Signal Officer of the U.S. Signal Corps and helped to establish the Aeronautical Division, which was the ancestor of the U.S. Air Force, in 1907. He also had the distinction of becoming the first military passenger in an airplane in 1908, and with the help of the Wright Brothers, was responsible for purchasing the first airplanes for the U.S. Army in 1909. During World War I he was appointed Chief Signal Officer. During World War

II, the USS General G.O Squier was a transport ship for the U.S. Navy that was named after him. (The ship was awarded one battle star for its service during World War II.)



The USS General G. O. Squier was awarded a battle star during World War II.

In addition to his military career, Squier wrote and edited many books and articles on the subject of radio and electricity. He had many inventions, including multiplexing (the sending of two or more signals along one communication channel), which earned him a place in the National Academy of Science in 1919. He also created a service that piped music to businesses and to subscribers over wires, which he named "Muzak."

In 1883, the Pontiac, Oxford and Port Austin Railroad came through the village after the Local Ladies

Library Association contributed \$11,000 to help defer construction costs. They knew that the railroad would help increase the village's prosperity. The railroad ran from Pontiac to Caseville, mainly to serve the Thumb area's lumber industry, and farmers who toiled in the rich farm lands surrounding Dryden took advantage of the increased markets that opened up for their products. Passenger service also allowed the citizens to travel throughout the Thumb area of Michigan.

In 1889, the railroad was reorganized as the Pontiac, Oxford and Northern Railroad and was affectionately known as the Pollyann. In 1910, the railroad was taken over by the Grand Trunk, who continued to operate the line until the 1970s. The Dryden depot became the center of community activity and was used by the railroad until October 9, 1973. After the closing of the railroad, the depot was relocated to another location in Dryden in 1979 and now is used as a museum.

In 1915, Dryden Electric Company brought electricity to the village. The street lights were turned on for the



Early photo of the train depot in Dryden

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first time on October 8 of that year.

In the late spring of 1918, an influenza epidemic began that continued to spread into 1919. It spread rampantly, eventually attacking one fifth of the world's population. In the United States, it afflicted over 25 percent of the population. In that year, the average life expectancy in the United States dropped by 12 years. By the time it was over, an estimated 50 million people had died, more than from any other recorded illness in history and almost three times as many as World War I had claimed. The village of Dryden was not spared. By the middle of March, 1919, all businesses were closed and orders were only taken by phone. Merchandise was handed to the customers at the door due to the epidemic.

Dryden holds the distinction of being the original home of Champion Homes, which began in 1953 and employed about 150 people. The company produced manufactured housing and recreational vehicles. During its beginnings, each vehicle was built by hand and approximately two per week were built. In the 1980s, the company relocated and now has produced almost two million homes since its humble beginnings.

Today Dryden is still a thriving, quaint, small community with a lot of charm. Many wonderful parks and trails within its boundaries or just outside make it an outdoor person's paradise, such as General Squier County Park, which was built on land donated by General Squier, and The Seven Ponds Nature Center. The amenities at General Squier Park include a water park, outdoor pavilions, an indoor historic hall, sand volleyball, horseshoes, pontoon boat rental and nature



General Squier Park provides recreational opportunities for the community of Dryden.

trails. Entrance to the park is free, although there is a fee for pavilion rental or water park admission. The Seven Ponds Nature Center provides a diverse mixture of habitat types including glacier-formed lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, prairie and rolling woodlands. Five miles of hiking trails wind through these habitats providing a close look at the wildlife that call these areas home.

The downtown area has many thriving businesses and the countryside surrounding it abounds with horse farms, vineyards and agricultural lands. It is worth a day's drive to Dryden from anywhere in the Thumb to experience rural country living at its best and the rich history the village has to offer. 🌿

*Editor's Note: More information about General Squier Park can be had by calling (810) 667-0304 or by visiting their website at [www.lapeercountyparks.org](http://www.lapeercountyparks.org). More information about the Seven Ponds Nature Center can be had by calling (810) 796-3200 or by visiting their website at [www.sevenponds.org](http://www.sevenponds.org).*



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### Emmett Lions Club give scholarships to students from three local schools.

At the August 11th meeting of the Emmett Lions Club, \$500 scholarships were handed out to 6 students from three local schools.


With the increasing cost of education and the fact that every penny helps, the Emmett Lions Club was proud to support the effort of local students in the pursuit to further their education.

Along with the financial support, pizza and refreshments were also served at the meeting. President Al Pilarski presented the scholarships to Matt Arnold from Memphis, Alexa Burns from Memphis, Alyssa Gerrick from Capac, Lexie Muldoon from Yale and Curtis Patton from Capac. Robin Tomasschko from Yale also received a scholarship but could not attend the meeting.



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# Foxfire Farm's Third Annual Night Filled with Pumpkin Light

October 22, 23, & 24 from 7:00-10:00 P.M.

Foxfire Farm Country Store  
8061 Marsh Road in Clay Township



All pumpkins and Halloween decorations will be clearance priced for last minute shoppers! All carved pumpkins will be available to purchase at \$5.00 each and can be bought on those nights but cannot be picked up until October 25.

Over 400 uniquely carved pumpkins (our goal this year is to get 1,000!) will be lit inside a warm greenhouse for the viewing pleasure of everyone in the family!

Cost per adult is \$5  
children aged 2-12 are \$3  
Under the age of two are free.



Tear here and Save the Date

Call (810) 794-5108 or Email us at [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net) for more information.



Writing a restaurant review usually entails choosing several courses from a restaurant's menu, sampling them, and then writing an honest opinion of the food, the service, the décor and the unique attributes that make the restaurant worth visiting. This is what I set out to do when I was asked to review the Raven Café on 932 Military Street in Port Huron by



The Raven Café in downtown Port Huron

the owner, Jerry Edson. However, after spending a couple of hours talking and dining at the Raven with Jerry and my husband on a recent Thursday night, I came to realize that I would not be only reviewing a restaurant, but would be reviewing an entire cultural experience.

Jerry is a native of Port Huron, graduating from Port Huron High School. He attended the University of Michigan after high school, transferring and graduating ultimately from Albion College. He then attended Harvard Law School and graduated in 1967. Returning to Port Huron, he established a very successful 30 year law practice.

Jerry always had fond memories of his days in Ann Arbor while in college – especially the atmosphere of the coffee houses popular at that time. In 1993, when one of the oldest buildings in Port Huron became available for purchase, Jerry had a vision of creating that same type of environment in his home town.

The building Jerry bought formerly housed the old WHLS Studios, but had been empty for many years prior to his purchase. It was deteriorating rapidly and, as Jerry says, was a real eyesore to the downtown area. The building needed to be completely gutted

until only the shell of the building remained. The one salvageable part was the solid brick walls, which remained in good condition.

Jerry then embarked on an eight year odyssey of gargantuan proportions to create the intimate, cultural mecca that the Raven is today. He eventually turned over his law practice to his partner to devote himself full time to the project, which opened on December 2, 2002.

Before a customer even walks in the doors of the Raven, it's obvious there is something special about the place. The intricate outside woodwork, the stained glass window, and the large black raven perched above the restaurant sign hint that the restoration of this building was a true labor of love for someone.

Stepping inside, it becomes apparent that no detail of the interior was left to chance. Each phase was orchestrated by a person with a unique vision. That person was Jerry Edson.

The lavish hardwoods on the walls came from boards made from trees on Jerry's own property. A large plane was brought into the building to use in the construction process. Tiffany lighting and stained glass windows, along with faux paint art deco walls create the look of a Greenwich Village hideaway. Multi-levels, created



Jerry Edson, owner of the Raven Café

by the stairway, loft, and outdoor balcony overlooking the Black River, create intimate spots for conversation. Thousands of antique books line the walls for patrons to peruse.

Ashley Morissette of Port Huron was curled up in a chair reading one of the books on the Thursday night that we visited the establishment. She now lives in Florida, but said that every time she comes back home, this is the place she chooses to come. "It is so relaxing here – I'm just really comfortable," she said.

How Jerry acquired such a collection of books is an interesting story in itself. He saw an ad when he was doing the restoration work for someone who was selling 300,000 antique books in Carsonville, Michigan. When he tracked down the sale, it was in an old theater there and the books were being sold for a dime apiece. Rather than just choose what he needed, Jerry made the sellers an

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The interior of the Raven Café

offer they couldn't refuse, and he became the owner of all 300,000! It took him three months to sort through the books and salvage those that weren't damaged. They eventually became the library of the Raven.

The more than fifty posters that line the walls on all levels actually came from poster shops in Greenwich Village. Jerry spent a couple of weeks just after 9/11 in New York scrounging the Village poster shops for ones that appealed to him, knowing that he wanted to use them for wall décor in the Raven. Each one tells a story of its own and adds to the visual cultural experience of the restaurant.

The tables have stylized portraits that Jerry had commissioned a graphic artist, who formerly lived above the Raven, to paint.

When Jerry opened the Raven, it was his intent to have the Raven exemplify the type of espresso bar that could compete with the top coffee houses in California or Oregon. He attended many national coffee conventions and employed the help from coffee experts in choosing the coffees for his café.

One brand, Raven's Brew, had a direct influence in the final decision

of what the café should be called. Jerry held a contest having future patrons suggest a name for the restaurant. Several times the name the Raven came up (a reference to one of the most famous narrative poems in history, "The Raven", written in the 1880s by Edgar Allan Poe). Jerry wasn't sold at first on the name, considering "Club Casablanca" or "Bastille" as preferable. However, when Raven's Brew coffee was one of the coffees he had tested for serving in his café and was declared to "knock the socks off" of the coffee expert Jerry had hired, the name officially became Raven Café.

Originally, Jerry intended it to be a non-alcoholic establishment. However, when he saw a need to increase the traffic to the business, and the Downtown Development Authority opened up several new liquor licenses, the time seemed right to add alcoholic drinks.

Today, The Raven has a class C full liquor license. Their extensive drink menu includes not only specialty coffees, espresso drinks, chai tea, shakes, chillers, smoothies, nutritional and energy supplements, but also specialty drafts and bottled beers, house and select wines, cocktails, martinis and frozen drinks.

The Raven operates without ovens or fryers, but the extensive seven page menu of unique and traditional deli, baked and grilled sandwiches, along with mouth-watering appetizers and side dishes, homemade soups, specialty salads, thin-crust gourmet pizzas and calorie-laden desserts give ample choices for lunch or dinner.

The night we visited, we started

with a plate of humus and garlic grilled pita bread followed by lobster bisque. Both were excellent (I could have made a meal on the soup alone!). I ordered the slow-cooked pulled pork roast sandwich, which was marinated in Caribbean seasonings and served with chipotle mayonnaise on an onion roll. My husband ordered The 'Venetian' Herb-Crusted Chicken sandwich, served with melted provolone cheese, red onion, balsamic vinaigrette, basil and parsley on a crusty Italian baguette oven-crusted with marinated roasted red bell peppers and parmesan cheese. We both had half of our own and half of each other's sandwiches – I couldn't have chosen which was better. The Raven takes the idea of a sandwich to a true culinary experience. Jerry ordered an Eldorado Mesquite Chicken Salad, which contained grilled mesquite chicken over The Raven Salad Mix with chopped red onion, tomato, hard-boiled egg and black bean corn relish, tossed in chipotle cilantro ranch dressing, topped with crumbled bacon and shredded three cheese mix with corn tortilla chips. Definitely a meal in itself – and the presentation was exquisite.

The Raven is open seven days a week and has live acoustic entertainment five nights per week. It has become one of the leading acoustic venues in the whole state. On the evening we were there, John Lamb of Royal Oak was the entertainer. Jerry has future plans of adding a night for karaoke and also a night to show classic movies.

We chose Thursday night to visit the Raven thinking it would be a little slower than the weekends

would be, but the place was packed even though the streets outside were almost deserted. We saw people conversing, people by themselves enjoying books from the shelves, a young man with his computer at the bar enjoying a 20 ounce latte, and many people just relaxing and enjoying the music.

I highly recommend that our readers plan a visit to The Raven. You will want to immerse yourself in the whole cultural experience that Jerry has so meticulously created. I guarantee you won't be disappointed. Unlike the raven in Edgar Allan Poe's poem who kept repeating the words "Nevermore", once you have experienced the Raven, you will be saying "Evermore" instead. 🌿

*Editor's note: If you are a restaurant owner in any of the counties that the ThumbPrint News covers and would like us to review your restaurant for possible inclusion in a future edition, please call Diane at (810) 794-2300 or send an email to thumbprintnews@comcast.net.*



Customers from Port Hope and Harbor Beach give the "Thumbs Up" to the Raven.



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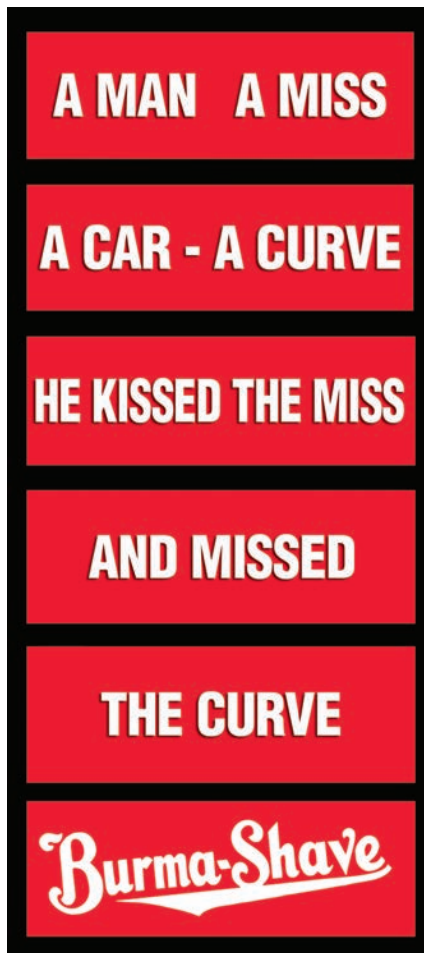


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**SIGNS:** Burma-Shave

Continued from Page 1



A set of nostalgic Burma-Shave roadside signs

and trying to see how many different state's license plates we could find on the automobiles we passed.

My sister and I always packed a survival kit for these long trips. It wasn't the traditional survival kit that one might take on a camping trip in case someone got lost in the woods. This was a FOOD survival kit, with things like candy, gum, crackers and other snacks. We would dole them out slowly and see if we could make them last for the entire trip. However, one of our very favorite roadside amusements was watching for Burma-Shave signs.

Burma-Shave was introduced in 1925 by the American company Burma-Vita, which was owned by Clinton Odell. The original product was a liniment made of ingredients reported as coming from the Malay Peninsula and Burma, hence the name Burma-Shave. Sales of the product were slow at first, until an aggressive advertising campaign eventually put Burma-Shave as the company with the second highest sales in the United States selling brushless shaving cream.

One of the most lasting, and now

nostalgic, parts of the company's advertising plan were the signs that were common along the roadsides across America. These came about from a suggestion made by Alan Odell, the son of Clinton Odell. Each wooden board was a separate sign, spaced about fifty yards apart. Travelers had to read each sign separately until, by the last sign, a message (often rhyming) had been delivered. On long road trips, children such as my sister and



1940s Burma-Shave tube

I, would see who could spot the signs first and who could be the first one to read them. Usually there were six signs, with the last being the name of the product. Originally the signs were either red-and-white or orange-and-black, though the latter was eventually eliminated. Only in South Dakota were the signs white-on-blue, as the state restricted the use of the color red to roadside signs showing official warning notices.

Over the years that Burma-Shave roadside signs were the most popular, they were used not only for advertising, but also to promote roadside safety, such as in these

1939 messages:

**Hardly a driver  
Is now alive  
Who passed  
On hills  
At 75  
Burma Shave  
Past  
Schoolhouses  
Take it slow  
Let the little  
Shavers grow  
Burma Shave**

By 1940, the company was even promoting the idea of a designated driver in such verses as:

**It's best for  
One who hits  
The bottle  
To let another  
Use the throttle  
Burma-Shave**

During the war years, Burma-Shave signs followed the lead of most advertising and focused on World War II sentiments:

**Let's make Hitler  
And Hirohito  
Feel as bad as  
Old Benito  
Buy War Bonds  
Burma Shave**



Burma-Shave roadside signs could be found on highways throughout America.

Slap  
The Jap  
With  
Iron  
Scrap  
Burma-Shave

But it was the humorous jingles of the 1950s that I remember reading on our summer road trips that firmly placed Burma-Shave in the forefront of nostalgic memories for myself and thousands of other Americans. Sayings such as these were at the forefront of one of the most powerful advertising schemes of the times:

He tried  
To cross  
As fast train neared  
Death didn't draft him  
He volunteered  
Burma-Shave

My job is  
Keeping faces clean  
And nobody know  
De stubble  
I've seen  
Burma-Shave

Pedro  
Walked  
Back home, by golly  
His bristly chin  
Was hot-to-Molly  
Burma-Shave

Slow down, Pa  
Sakes alive  
Ma missed signs  
Four  
And five  
**Burma-Shave**

The big blue tube's  
Just like Louise  
You get  
A thrill  
From every squeeze  
Burma-Shave

The monkey took  
One look at Jim  
And threw the peanuts  
Back at Him  
He needed  
Burma-Shave

The bearded lady  
Tried a jar  
She's now  
A famous  
Movie star  
Burma-Shave

Sales of Burma-Shave began declining after the 1950s. When the Interstate system expanded and automobiles began traveling at higher speeds, it became more difficult for

the small signs, such as those used by Burma-Shave, to attract traveler's attention. The billboards became the advertising method of choice. In 1963, the company was sold to Phillip Morris, and the signs were all to be removed, although many rural out-of-the-way towns sported remnants of the original signs well into the 1970s. (It was reported that at the time the signs were to be removed there were over 7,000 sets across the country sporting over 600 different rhymes!)

In 1997, the American Safety Razor Company reintroduced the Burma-Shave brand, but using modern means of advertising. Today, reproduction signs and memorabilia are still popular in some tourist areas. However, the

days of kids waiting for the next set of Burma-Shave signs to pop up around the bend in the highway are a thing of the past, living on only in the memories of us Baby Boomers and in those slightly older. 🍀



Set of signs on U.S. Route 66 promoting Burma-Shave

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**EXPERIENCED SALESPERSON** wanted for selling ads and classifieds for *ThumbPrint News*. Position requires both days on the road and days in the office. Need reliable transportation as person that is hired will be using own vehicle when on the road. 8061½ Marsh Rd., Clay Township. (810) 794-2300.

**WANTED: NEWSPAPER BOYS OR GIRLS**, twelve years and older with parent's consent for the cities of Richmond, Capac and St. Clair doing walking routes for monthly publications. For more information call (810) 794-2300.

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## Celebrations & Remembrances

Beginning with this issue and continuing with each future edition, *ThumbPrint News* is offering special rates to publish your remembrances or celebrations. Birthdays, graduations, wedding announcements, engagement announcement, obituaries, memorial tributes, anniversaries, or congratulations for a job well done are all examples of submissions that will be accepted. This section is not for advertisements, general announcements or articles. Our special rates are:

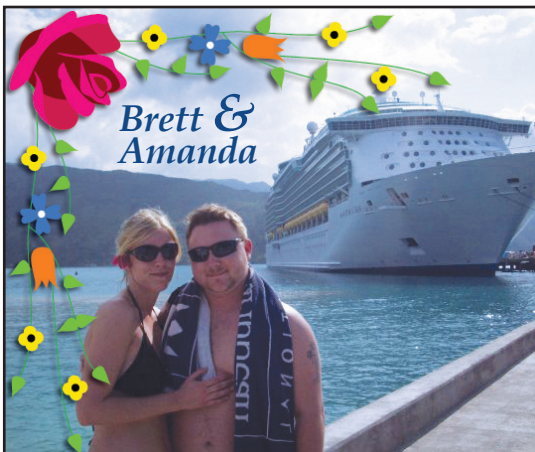
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## Engagements

Amy Suzanne Richardson of Algonac, Michigan, daughter of Connie Johnson and Terry Richardson is engaged to be married to Andrew Gerald Vistisen of Algonac, Michigan, son of Scott and Ginny Vistisen.

The couple has been together for seven years and is planning a spring wedding.



*Brett Michael Kodet and Amanda Lynn Gill, both graduates of Algonac High School, are pleased to announce their engagement. Brett is the son of Allen and Diane Kodet of Algonac and Amanda is the daughter of Joseph and Karry Gill of Algonac. A summer 2011 wedding is planned.*

## Birthdays



Lavina Victoria (McKinch) Kodet of Port Huron, Michigan, will be 92 years old on September 5, 2010.

*Happy Birthday, Mom, Grandma, and Great Grandma!*

*From Allen, Diane, Keith, Katie, Preston, Abigail, Brett and Amanda! We love you!*

## Obituaries



### Gordon Keith Glaza

of Algonac, Michigan, passed away on July 8, 2010, at the home of his daughter and son-in-law, Diane Louise Kodet and Allen Ralph Kodet, where he had resided along with his wife, Louise Caroline (Nessen) Glaza, for the past nine years. Gordon was born on August 26, 1917, in Boyne City, Michigan.

Besides his wife, Gordon is survived by his daughters, Diane Louise Kodet and Donna Lynn Powers, his son-in-laws Allen Ralph Kodet and Frederick Allan Powers his grandsons, Keith Douglas Kodet and Brett Michael Kodet, his great grandson, Preston Douglas Kodet, his great granddaughter, Abigail Louise Kodet, his brother E J Glaza, his sister-in-law Patricia Ann (Woodlock) Glaza and many other nieces and nephews. Keith and Caroline would have been married for 70 years on August 3, 2010.

Keith served his country in the Navy during World War II. Keith was an avid outdoorsman who loved fishing, hunting and camping. He worked for many years at Dow Chemical Company in Midland as an aeronautical engineer, where he held many patents.

A celebration of Gordon's life has already taken place. Arrangements were taken care of by Young Colonial Chapel Funeral Home in East China, Michigan. Interment will take place at a later date in Oaklawn Cemetery in Algonac.



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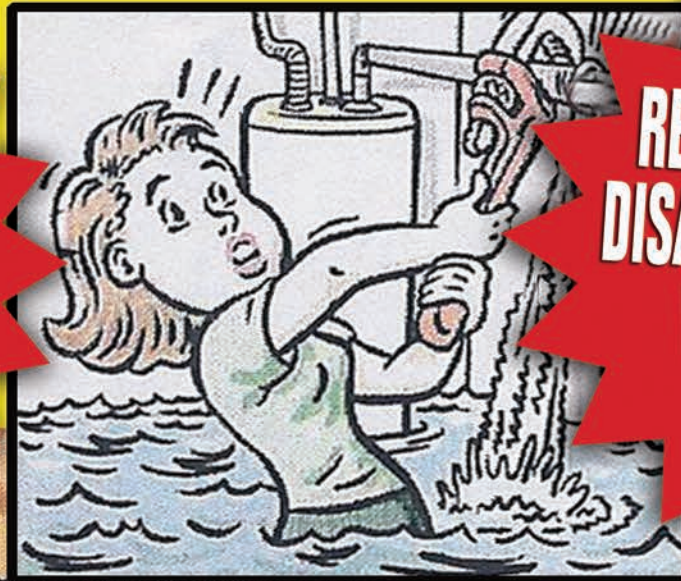
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## Thumb Area Activities & Events for September 2010

If you have an event in October that you would like listed in the October issue of *ThumbPrint News*, please email it to [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net) by September 12, 2010. There is no charge for the listing.

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

### Genesee County

#### Flint – September 9-11

**Festival of Quilts**, downtown area. Marvel at the magnificent artistry from around the country as themed quilts at a variety of unique sites are displayed. Daily demonstrations, raffles, quilt sales, classes, lectures and more. Contact the Flint Area Convention & Visitors Bureau at (810) 232-3261.

#### Flint – September 24 & 25

**4th Annual Bikes on Bricks**, Saginaw St., downtown area. Presented by Vehicle City Harley-Davidson and supported by numerous other sponsors. No entry fee for motorcycle show or spectators! Bring your bike to the bricks and see how you stack up. Eight categories, cash prizes to the winner. A special category this year is Ron Finch's Most Creative Bike Award. It will be presented by Ron Finch himself, along with \$100. Look for vendor booths from your favorite motorcycle dealers, suppliers, clubs, pubs, magazines and more! Contact Ron Lonsway at (810) 234-6646 or [ron@cummingsharleydavidson.com](mailto:ron@cummingsharleydavidson.com) or Tanya Lane at (810) 232-8903 or [tlane@flint.travel](mailto:tlane@flint.travel).

### Huron County

#### Elkton – September 3-5

**Autumnfest**, Ackerman Park and downtown area. Activities and events for "youngsters" of all ages! Demolition derby, tractor pulls, pickup Enduro and lawnmower races, great food and musical entertainment. Call Brenda at (989) 551-7275 or visit [www.elktonchamber.com](http://www.elktonchamber.com).

#### Port Hope – September 3-6

**Labor Day Weekend Softball Tournament**, Stafford County Park, 4451 W. Huron St. Call Dan Burton at (989) 428-3583.

#### Sebewaing – September 3-6

**Christian Motorcycle Association State Rally**, Bay Shore Camp, located just north of Sebewaing on the northeast side of Saginaw Bay. M-25 through Sebewaing, left on Pine Street. West about ½ mile. Call Leann Blair at (989) 883-2501.

#### Harbor Beach – September 4-5

**Tomato Festival**, Frank Murphy Memorial Museum, 156 South Huron Ave. Event includes a tomato toss, tomato carving, tomato balancing, tomato decorating and much more. Concessions, local musical talent, salsa tasting, drawings and prizes. Call Jackie Garnor at (989) 712-0177.

#### Harbor Beach – September 18

**Harvest Festival/Merchant's Chili Cook-off**, downtown area. The event includes craft and veggie vendors, local musical talent and an annual merchants' chili cook off and is sponsored by the Harbor Beach Chamber of Commerce. Contact Scott Rayl at (989) 479-3241.

### Lapeer County

#### Lapeer – September 6 & 13

**Cruise Night**, Nepeessing St, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Weekly gathering of car enthusiasts and fans. Contact Dennis at (810) 728-0076.

#### Almont – September 11

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

#### Imlay City – September 17-19

**Michigan Festival of Gourds**, Eastern Michigan Fairgrounds. Hours are 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5, 12 and under free. The purpose of the Gourd Festival is to educate, familiarize and entertain the public with gourds. Photography is encouraged. Proceeds benefit Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation. Call (810) 724-6135.

### Macomb County

#### Warren – September 5

**Bunert School Museum Open House**, 27900 Bunert on the Warren Woods Tower High School Campus, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. The Bunert school building was named for August and Mine Bunert, who sold land to Warren School District No. 4 in January, 1875. The school was built later that year on the northeast corner of the intersection of Bunert and Martin Roads. When classes ceased in 1944, it was the longest-serving one-room school in Warren. In 1987, the board and batten building was donated to the Warren Historical Society, and then moved to its present location.

#### New Baltimore – September 5, 12, 19 & 26

**Meet Me at the Market**, Washington Street between the Recreation Center and the Police Station, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Farmers market with local produce, hand-made foods, artisans and live entertainment. Go to [www.ridethewavenb.com](http://www.ridethewavenb.com).

#### Chesterfield – September 7

**Bus Trip to Shipshewana, Indiana, Amish Flea Market**, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 31100 23 Mile Rd.,

departs 7:00 a.m., returns 9:00 p.m. Deluxe highway motorcoach, rest-room equipped, reclining seats. Stop at Deutsch Kase Haus (cheese factory), the flea market, and a meal stop on the way home (not included in price of trip). The cost is \$56, deadline is Sept. 2. Call Gale at (586) 949-7053 or the church office at (586) 949-9440.

#### Richmond – September 8

**Presentation: Phone & Mail Scams**, Lois Wagner Memorial Library, 35200 Division Rd., 11:00 a.m. Free 30 minute presentation followed by a 20 minute Q&A session. Conducted by a presenter from the Attorney General's Senior Brigade Program. Call (586) 727-2665.

#### Richmond – September 9

**Good Old Days at the Historic Village & Strawberry Festival**, corner of Park and Beebe Streets, 3:00 p.m. until dusk Friday, 1:00 p.m. until dusk Saturday and Sunday. The event is sponsored by the Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society. Docents will be in each of the historical buildings to answer any questions you may have. We will also have our annual Strawberry Shortcake Festival during the Good Old Days. Stop by for a delicious bowl of strawberry shortcake. For more information visit [www.richmondhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.richmondhistoricalsociety.org).

#### Chesterfield – September 11

**Historical Village Heritage Day**, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Games and activities for the children, guest speakers, music, craft demonstrations, black smith shop demonstrations, classic and antique cars, and food will be available for purchase. Parking at the Chesterfield Township Offices, 47275 Sugarbush Rd, with a tractor drawn trolley ride to the village. Call Roy/Eileen Rivard at (586) 749-3713 or Duane/Kathy Vosburg at (586)949-3810.

#### Armada – September 12

**Community Yard Sale**, Creek Center Banquet Hall in Armada. 20x20 vendor space available for \$15. Community organizations are invited and will receive one space for no charge. Donations also accepted for Knights of Columbus booth. Creek Center is located at 72025 North Avenue, Armada. Call (586) 871-3806.

#### Richmond – September 12

**Richmond "Good Old Days" Car Show**. Registration from 7:00 a.m.-noon. Trophies presented at 3:00 p.m. Call Stan at (586) 243-4652 or email [tgabridge@klondyke.net](mailto:tgabridge@klondyke.net).

#### Fraser – September 12

**Flea Market/ Barn Sale and Garden Walk for Master Gardeners**, Baumgartner Museum, 28577 Masonic, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Rain date Sept. 19.

#### Richmond – September 15

**Dodgeball Tournament**, Beebe St. Park, 3:00 p.m. Richmond Area Good Old Days Festival is seeking teams to participate in the 2nd Annual Dodgeball Tournament. \$15 per team. Registration forms and official rules can be picked up at the Richmond Community Center or at [www.richmondgoodolddaysfestival.org](http://www.richmondgoodolddaysfestival.org). Age divisions are 12 & under, 13-17, and 18 & older.

#### New Baltimore – September 18

**History Fair**, downtown area throughout the day. Hosted by the New Baltimore Historical Society. One of the participants will be the 15th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, who will be doing drills and mock battles throughout the day at Walter and Mary Burke Waterfront Park.

#### Clinton Township – September 24-26

**Festival of the Senses**, historical village, located at Canal and Romeo Plank (next to the library). Docents, blacksmiths, make and take it crafts, and much more.

#### Armada – September 26

**Creek Center Banquet Hall's Fall Bridal Show** – Caterer tasting, fashions, door prize raffles, gift bags to registered brides. Brides get in free, admission for others \$5. Receive 2 for 1 pricing online. Creek Center is located at 72025 North Ave., Armada. Still seeking vendors. Call (586) 871-3806 or visit [www.armadafallfest.org/bridalshow](http://www.armadafallfest.org/bridalshow).

### Oakland County

#### Royal Oak – September 3-6

**Arts, Beats and Eats**, downtown area. Presented by Citizens Bank. Takes place in downtown Royal Oak for the very first time. Offer more than 200 performances on ten stages, a Juried Fine Arts Show, local restaurants with some of the finest cuisine in metro Detroit. Visit [www.artsbeatseats.com](http://www.artsbeatseats.com).

#### Rochester – September 10-12

**Art & Apples Festival**, downtown area, Rochester Park. Presented by Paint Creek Center for the Arts. Michigan's second largest juried fine art festival with 250+ artists. Showcases artists from across the country, local and national entertainment acts, a free Kids Art Zone, Activity Zone, three fresh food courts and more. Call (248) 651-4110 or visit [www.artandapples.com](http://www.artandapples.com).

### St. Clair County

#### Smiths Creek – September 3

**Fish Fry**, American Legion Post 525, 7150 Smiths Creek Rd., 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. All you can eat baked or deep fried

Alaskan Pollack, baked potato, rolls, deserts, coffee or tea for only \$6.50 for adults. Soft drinks available for purchase.

#### Harsens Island – September 4, 5 & 6 Turkey Shoot

Lions Field, 230 LaCroix St. Antique boat parade at 10:30 a.m., a parade from St. Mark's Church, 4190 Green Dr. to the field at 11:30 a.m. and entertainment. Opening ceremonies at noon on Saturday. Vegas room, trap shooting, bingo, children's games and raffles. Free admission, with a charge for some activities. Beer tent and Lions Club concessions. Profits from the event benefit Harsens Island Lions Club charities and projects. Call (810) 748-9710.

#### Algonac – September 4 & 5

**Algonac Rotary Art Fair**, Riverfront Park along M-29. The juried art show features about 100 artists and crafters as well as musical groups, a children's tent and entertainment. The cost is free. Food and drinks are available for purchase from various vendors. Visit [www.algonacartfair.com](http://www.algonacartfair.com) or call Shirley Tuzinowski at (810) 794-5097.

#### Marysville – September 5

**All You Can Eat Bacon, Egg and Pancake Breakfast**, Marysville Masonic Hall, 1569 Michigan Ave., 8:00 a.m.-noon. Adults are \$5, children four and under are free. Call Al Johnson at (586) 727-3216 for more information.

#### Marine City – September 7, 14, 21 & 28

**Farmer's Market**, Parker and High Streets, next to the Marine City Library, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Local fruits, vegetables, plants, breads, pasta, pies, pottery, handcrafted birdhouses, potpourri, handmade soaps, hotdog stand, and much more! All from local producers! Sponsored by the Marine City Chamber of Commerce, (810) 765-4501.

#### Marysville – September 7, 14, 21 & 28

**Holy Cross Tuesday Morning Bingo**, K. of C. Hall, Range and Ravenswood Roads, 10:20 a.m.-2:00 p.m. We have a total of 21 games in all, ranging from \$25 to \$600, depending on attendance. Call Bob Thompson at (810) 765-8751.

#### Marine City – September 10

**Sounds of Sinatra, Buddy Holly and Others**, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Impersonators Marty Robbins and Jerry Connelly from J. C. Productions will take you back to the 1950s and 1960s with their musical renditions. Refreshments are included – all are welcome. The cost is \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door. Call (810) 765-3523.

#### East China – September 12

**Vintage Quilt Show**, Red Brick School, 696 Meisner Rd., 2:00 p.m. Vintage Quilts from the 1800s will be featured. Joan (Jodi) DeRue, owner of Quilting Dreams, will discuss how quilts were used by the Underground Railroad, the care of vintage quilts and how those vintage designs are reproduced on today's materials. Donations accepted. Call (810) 765-9327.

#### Emmett – September 16

**16th Annual Indoor-Outdoor Junque & Treasure Sale**, Mt. Carmel Catholic Church, 10828 Brandon Road, 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. both days. Consistently, one of the largest rummage sales in the area. Antiques and collectibles, clothing, household, books, toys, dishes, tools, auto parts, building supplies, Christmas items, hunting and sports equipment and lots more! Lunch available, bake sale and a farmer's market.

#### Columbus – September 18

**3rd Horseshoe Pitch**, Emil Restaurant, 8887 Gratiot Ave. Sign up from noon-1:00 p.m. Pitch starts at 1:15 p.m. sharp. \$5 donation to sign up and a draw for partners. Sponsored by Snyderville Lions. Proceeds to benefit Leader Dogs for the Blind. Email [aka609@hotmail.com](mailto:aka609@hotmail.com).

#### Algonac – September 18

**Dinner Theater Fundraiser**, Fred Quandt Post VFW Hall, 1005 Pointe Tremble Rd., 6:00 p.m. Sponsored by "Friends of the Algonac-Clay Library." Buffet dinner followed by a showing of the romantic comedy, *Pillow Talk*. Tickets are \$30 per person or \$50 per couple. Cash bar and 50/50 drawing. Advance ticket sales, payable by cash or check, will be available only at the Algonac-Clay Library through September 10. Call (810) 794-4471. Proceeds benefit Algonac-Clay Library.

#### Port Huron – September 22

**St. Clair County Family History Group Monthly Meeting**, Port Huron Museum, 115 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. This month's program will be "The Forgotten Fort" presented by Dennis Delor on the Fort Gratiot Military Site. Guests and new members are welcome to attend. Anyone interested in local history or researching their family tree is encouraged to become a member of our group or to just attend one of our programs. More information can be found on our website [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miscsfhg/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miscsfhg/) or call (810) 989-0399.

#### Algonac – September 25 & 26

**Fall Festival**, Foxfire Farm Country Store, 8061 Marsh Rd., Noon-5:00 p.m. both days. Games, prizes, crafts, rides, pumpkin painting, food, a straw maze, a bouncy house, kiddiepillar rides AND MORE! A small ticket price is charged for most activities. Reasonably priced activities encourage families to have a great time together – at a price they can afford! Call (810) 794-5108. See our ad on page 24.

#### Marine City – September 30

**Beginner's Coupon Workshop**, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 6:30-8:30 p.m. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to get BIG COUPON SAVINGS and save every time you shop! Coupon Crazy Chrys will show you how to get the biggest bang for your bucks using coupons. There will be handouts and a basket full of samples to raffle off to the people who attend. Handouts include resources, websites, basic coupon policies, how to organize coupons, coupon lingo,

how to get coupons, store information and samples. All are welcome to attend. \$10 per person. To sign up and pay in advance or for information call (810) 765-3523.

## Sanilac County

#### Lexington – September 4

**Thumbfest**, downtown area, 10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Free music festival that highlights traditional and acoustic music. Workshops, jam sites, song circles and more. There is handicap access, parking, shuttle service, a kid's tent, and craft and food vendors in addition. Visit [www.thumbfest.org](http://www.thumbfest.org) or call (810) 334-9038.

#### Port Sanilac – September 4

**Music at the Harbor**, Port Sanilac Harbor Park, 7:00 pm.-10:00 p.m. This is the last of the season's musical series and stars Kitty Donohoe. No cost for the event. Food and drink available through Lions Club vendors. Proceeds benefit Lions Club charities and projects.

#### Deckerville – September 17, 18 & 19

**Ninth Annual Oktoberfest**, city wide activities, Lego Building Competition on Friday, All You can Eat Pancake Breakfast, 5K Walk/Run, Craft and Flea Market, Quilt Show, Historical Museum, Indian Heritage Day, Pedal Pull, Pumpkin Parade, Jello Eating Contest and more on Saturday. Antique

Tractor Pull at Wilson Park on Sunday. Call Elaine Phillips at (810) 376-5540.

## Tuscola County

#### Fairgrove – September 3-6

**Bean Festival**, downtown area. An old fashioned festival for the whole family! Activities include a Funtastic Inflatables Carnival, complete with a water slide, mechanical bull and a rock wall, a harvest pot luck dinner, a bingo tent, a mini tractor pull, a casino tent, entertainment, food and drinks, a craft show and flea market, a blood drive, a child seat check by the Tuscola County Sheriff Department, a Decades Dress Alike Contest, the crowning of the Michigan Bean Queen, fireworks, the 64th Michigan Bean Festival parade and more! Visit [www.michiganbeanfestival.com/schedule/shtml](http://www.michiganbeanfestival.com/schedule/shtml).

#### Gagetown – September 11 & 12

**15th Annual Thumb Octagon Barn Fall Family Days**, 6948 Richie Rd., 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. both days. Step back in time to the way farming and rural life was in the early 1900s through many activities, displays and demonstrations. Over 150 antique, craft and flea market vendors will also be there. A fish fry will take place on Sept. 10 from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Parade each day at 3:00 p.m. Other activities include: horse drawn wagon rides, live music, children's barrel train rides, an apple cider press and farm machinery in operation. Call (989) 872-3761.



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# What Happened On This Day in History?

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

## September

**1.** On this day in 1862, a federal tax was issued on tobacco.

**2.** On this day in 1930, the first non-stop airplane flight from Europe to the U.S. took place (37 hours).

**3.** On this day in 1895, the first pro football game was played, Latrobe beats Jeanette 12-0 (Pennsylvania).



**4.** On this day in 1862, General Lee invaded the North with 50,000 Confederate troops.

**5.** On this day in 1862, 10,000 workers marched in the first Labor Day parade in New York City.

**6.** On this day in 1716, the first U.S. lighthouse was built (Boston).



**7.** On this day in 1916, the Workmen's Compensation Act was passed by Congress.

**8.** On this day in 1565, the first permanent settlement in the U.S. formed (St Augustine, Florida).

**9.** On this day in 1850, California became the 31st state.



**10.** On this day in 1913, the first U.S. paved coast-to-coast highway, the Lincoln Highway, opened.



**11.** On this day in 1773, Benjamin Franklin wrote, "There never was a good war or bad peace."

**12.** On this day in 1624, the first submarine was tested (London).

**13.** On this day in 1788, New York City became the first capital of the United States.

**14.** On this day in 1868, golf's first recorded hole-in-one took place (Tom Morris at Prestwick's 8th hole).



**15.** On this day in 1830, the first National Negro Convention began in Philadelphia.

**16.** On this day in 1782, the Great Seal of the U.S. was used for the first time.



**17.** On this day in 1778, the first treaty between the U.S. and Indian tribes was signed (Fort Pitt).

**18.** On this day in 1957, *Wagon Train* premiered.

**19.** On this day in 1970, the *Mary Tyler Moore* show premiered.



**20.** On this day in 1932, Gandhi began a hunger strike against the treatment of the untouchables in India.

**21.** On this day in 1784, the first daily newspaper in America began (*Pennsylvania Packet* or, the *General Advertiser*).



**22.** On this day in 1862, President Lincoln said that he would free slaves in all states on Jan 1, 1863.

**23.** On this day in 1862, Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was published in northern newspapers.

**24.** On this day in 1895, the first round-the-world trip by a woman on a bicycle happened – it took 15 months.

**25.** On this day in 1639, the first printing press in America began operating.



**26.** On this day in 1957, *West Side Story* opened at Winter Garden Theater in New York City for 734 performances.

**27.** On this day in 1821, the Mexican Empire declared its independence.

**28.** On this day in 1678, *Pilgrim's Progress* was published.

**29.** On this day in 1789, the U.S. War Department established a regular army.

**30.** On this day in 1996, the Nintendo 64 video game system debuted in the U.S. (3 months after Japan).

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**CYCLING TOUR: A family affair**

Continued from Page 4

enjoyed watching the freighters sail down the St. Clair River. The whole picture was becoming much clearer.

John and Valerie have long been avid cyclists. In fact, their love of the sport was one reason that they ended up together. Their honeymoon was spent cycling in France. The thought of a cross-country trip always remained in the back of Valerie's mind, but was delayed with the birth of the triplets, whom she calls the "DIZ" (for the first letters of each of their names).

In the summer of 2009, the family planned a 200 mile bike trip with the kids, to see if the idea of a cross-country trip could even be a possibility. Apparently, it was, as the plans began for the 2010 adventure. Many preparations went into getting ready, including planning the route, customizing the bikes, planning on what clothing and other items they would take.

The route they chose combined sections of the American Cycling Association's Lewis and Clark, Northern Tier and Great Lakes routes to the south shore of Lake Erie. From there they would head southeast to Pittsburgh and on to Washington, D.C., via the Great Allegheny Passage Trail and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Trail.

John and Valerie have a website

of the adventure starting with their preparations and detailing their daily progress, including thoughts, feelings, adventures and circumstances they have encountered. That site is [www.crazyguyonabike.com/doc/teamdiz](http://www.crazyguyonabike.com/doc/teamdiz) and makes for fascinating reading.

On their blog, Valerie says that her biggest hopes for the ride were "to be able to force ourselves out of our introverted shells and take on the challenge of meeting and making friends with many new people." She also says, "I hope to demonstrate to my children that they can take on a BIG project or task, without knowing HOW they will accomplish it, or even if they CAN accomplish it. Tenacity and creative problem-solving are undervalued in our instant-gratification culture, but I am 'nothing if not tenacious' – John's words. I'd like to pass that on."

Valerie's biggest fear was crashing the bike and injuring herself or her children. She did have two mishaps on the adventure, but fortunately with no serious injuries.

Most nights were spent camping during the long adventure, unless there was severe weather. Then they would find a motel or, several times they were offered shelter from a family they met by chance.

Teamwork has been the key to making it work. The bicycles have to be broken down each night and



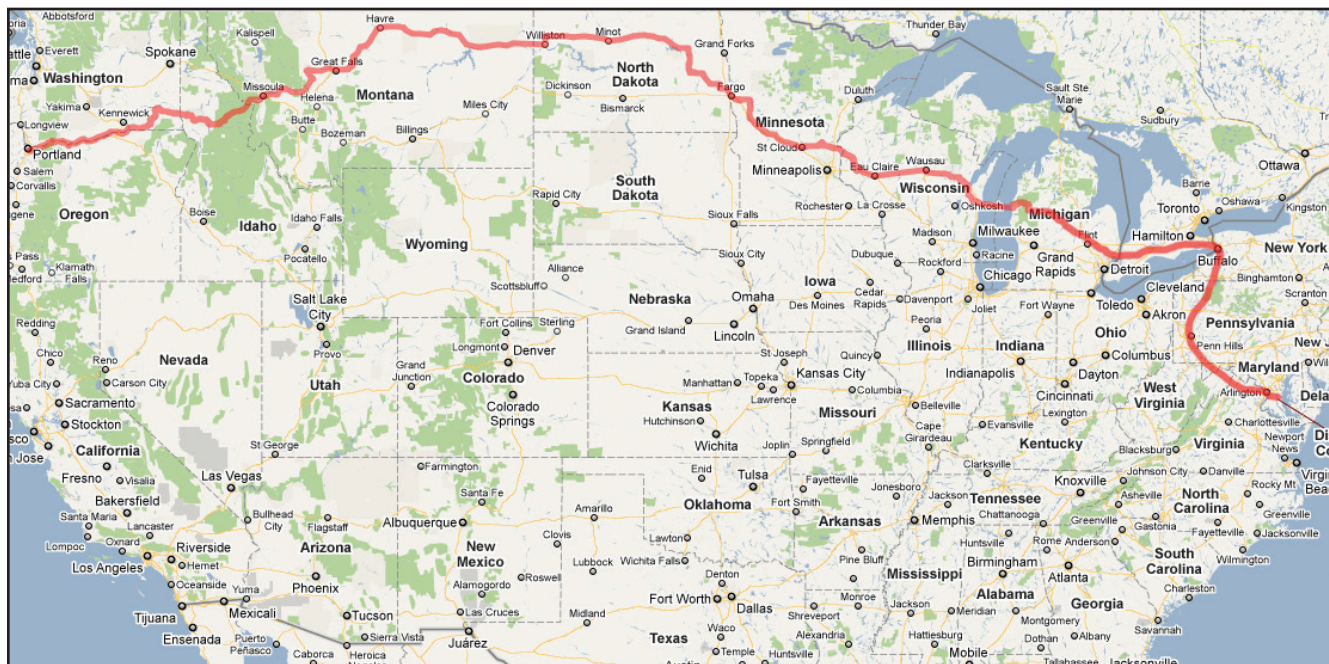
After spending the night with Al and Diane Kodet, John, Valerie, Deirdre, Ian and Zora headed to the Algonac ferry to cross into Canada on their way to Washington D.C.

carried into the tents, motels or homes. When riding the bicycles, the children rotate every two days which bike they will be riding and in what position they will be riding.

I asked Valerie if her dream had been as wonderful as she had expected. She answered that it had been a lot harder than she thought. One of the most difficult things she states is getting everyone up and ready to start riding again each morning. Mosquitoes, rain, hills and flat tires were some of the bumps they encountered.

I have a feeling that when all is

said and done, and John and Valerie and the DIZ can actually sit back at home after their adventure has been completed, that it will be one of the most rewarding experiences they will ever have together as a family and that it will certainly leave powerful impressions in the minds of the triplets about just how much a family can do together with determination, commitment, resourcefulness – and love. And, as Valerie had hoped to accomplish with this trip, I am sure she will have passed on her tenacity to her descendants. 🌱



Team DIZ followed sections of the American Cycling Association's (ACA) Lewis and Clark, Northern Tier, and Great Lakes routes to the south shore of Lake Erie. From there, they headed southeast to Pittsburgh and on to Washington, D.C. via the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) Trail and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Trail.

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# ThumbPrint News Contest

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, email



us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Contest" in the subject line. All correct answers received by the 15th of the month will be entered into a drawing for a \$25.00 gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store at 8061 Marsh Road in Clay Township (you can apply it toward the delivery of a floral arrangement also). The winner will be announced in the October edition as well as information about the object or place. The photo above is of last month's object. The winner

is Nancy Sirovey of Chesterfield who correctly identified the photo as being taken in front of Continental Lanes at 13 Mile and

Gratiot in Roseville, Michigan. This month we are asking the question, "What is it?" Identify the object in the photo below. Send an email to thumbprintnews@comcast.net if you think you know the answer. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number in case you are the winner of the random drawing for a gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store. Good luck!



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**Upcoming Events at at Foxfire Farm Country Store & Floral Shop**  
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**September 25 & 26 – Fall Festival**  
*See our ad on Page 24.*

**October 16 – Sweetest Day**  
Visit Foxfire Farm Floral Shop's website to place your orders 24/7 – or stop in the store and let our talented designers help you choose that perfect gift for the sweet one in your life!

**October 22, 23 & 24 – Third Annual Night Filled with Pumpking Light**  
*See our ad on Page 25.*

**November 20 – 3:00-4:00 P.M. Wreath Decorating Workshop**  
Decorate a real Christmas wreath that can be displayed throughout the holiday season. Florists will give a bow making demonstration and teach participants how to attach items to the wreath.

**December 4 & 5 – 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Holiday Open House**  
Food, fun, and great pre-Christmas sales. Children come in and decorate a Christmas ornament for FREE while parents shop!

**December 16-23, Every Night from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. The Seventh Annual History of the Christmas Tree Walk**  
Over 50 Christmas trees decorated with ornaments from the 1850s until the present, all displayed inside a 9,500 sq. foot log home! Discounts given for advance ticket purchase!

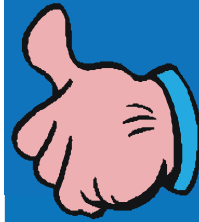



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**A Big Thumbs Up to  
 Ted & Noreene Meldrum**

The Meldrums celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary on August 17. They were married at Holy Cross Church in Marine City and now live in East China. Their honeymoon was spent in the Upper Peninsula at Tahquamenon Falls. They have four children and four grandchildren. Ted was spotted taking advantage of Foxfire Farm Floral Shop's special price on rose arrangements to give to his wife for their special day.



*Ted Meldrum buying roses for his wife, Noreene, for their 53rd anniversary.*

See our ad on page 36.

**Dealt a Good Hand!**

In a past issue of *ThumbPrint News*, we invited our readers to send in photos of their boats along with the clever names they have for them. Judy Goodhand of Camlachie, Ontario, Canada sent in these photos. The boat's name, *Good Hand*, is a play on their family name. Thanks, Judy, for sharing your photos!



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Ink & More (formerly Rapid Refill) is founded on the idea that we could turn used, empty inkjet and laser toner cartridges into useable products for our customers, all while saving them money. This was a great idea then and an even better idea today. While our business has certainly grown to many new products, services and stores spanning across the country, our belief in recycling is still put to work every day.

Our Ink & More store collects used, empty inkjet and laser toner cartridges, saving them from reaching landfills. Many cartridges that aren't returned to companies like Ink & More for recycling end up incinerated or placed in landfills around the world — destroying a large amount of fully reuseable products and negatively impacting our environment.

Recycling is more than a slogan; as part of our mission to promote environmental responsibility our Ink & More store uses recycled materials wherever possible. Our product retail slat wall is made from recycled wood products, the countertops are made from crushed sunflower seed shells, and we use recycled paper whenever possible.

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A septic tank is a holding tank that is designed to accept the waste produced by a household (800-1500 gallons average per tank depending on the tank size). The liquid is the most important part of a tank function. The liquid is energized with billions of rich anaerobic (good) bacteria that live, breed and feed on the solids that come into the tank from your home.

If a tank is pumped completely out, you are removing all the good liquid, and in less than a week, the tank will be filled again from standard household use (shower, toilet, laundry, dishes, etc.). The state of Michigan estimates that a person will use 60 gallons per person per day. If a four person household uses 240 gallons a day multiplied by seven days, that equals 1,640 gallons. A tank will, on average, fill back up in less than one week. Only a small amount of liquid goes to the field each day. The rest remains constantly in the tank and holds the good anaerobic bacteria that continually eat the solid waste.

If there is a problem with your system, it may be one of five things for 95% of most gravity-fed systems:

- 1) Blockage from the home to the inlet
- 2) Build up of solid material because anaerobic

- bacteria may have been killed off from household chemicals (cleansers, bleach, etc.) that may require more frequent removal
- 3) Blockage or broken baffle from the outlet to the field
  - 4) A plugged filter
  - 5) The field

The field can become oversaturated due to heavy rains or poor drainage, which can cause the tank to fill back up as we are pumping it. This liquid needs to be removed for proper tank function, which will incur an additional charge. A normal working system needs only the scum and solids removed (that the anaerobic bacteria cannot consume), but the option is up to the consumer. If pumped completely, start-up bacteria should be used to help jump-start the system again. This can take a long time. A healthy system needs the billions of bacteria to consume the solids entering the tank. This keeps the tank function working properly.

Call ABC Septic Services at (810) 794-5678 during business hours. After hours, call (810) 614-8034 or (810) 533-4003.

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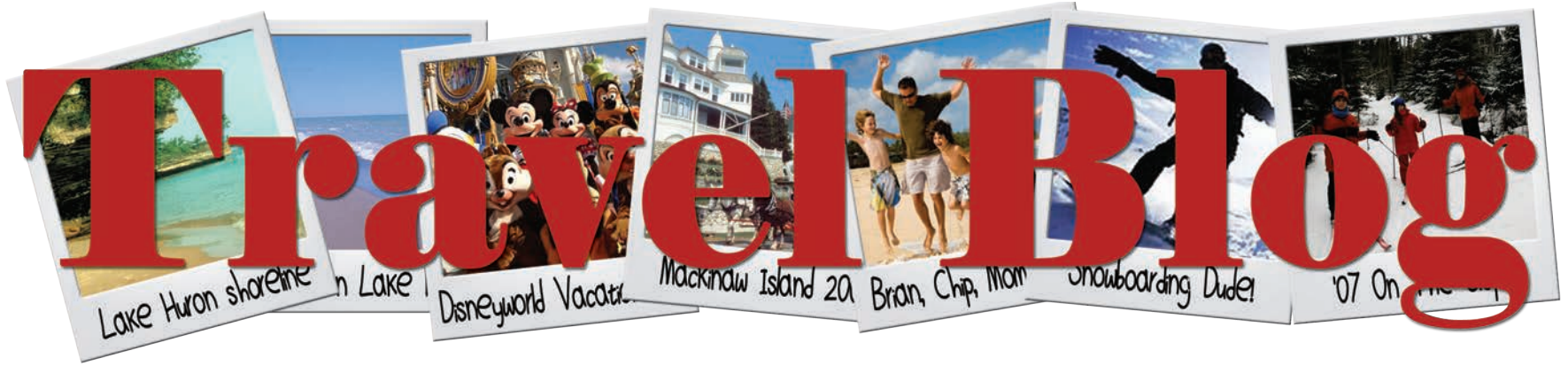
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## In the Thumb



### Gagetown

Gagetown is a very small village of less than 400 residents located in the northern section of Tuscola County just below the Huron County line. It is well worth the drive just to see the Thumb Octagon Barn, which was built in 1924 by George and John Munro for James Purdy and his family on their homestead of 520 acres, which became known as the “Mud Lake Estate.” The barn now houses the Thumb Agricultural Museum as well. Throughout the year, various activities are held inside the barn. Details are available on the website [www.thumboctagonbarn.org](http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org). On September 11 and 12, Fall Family Days are being held in the barn and on the grounds. It is advertised as being a festival where visitors can step back in time and see what farming and rural life were like in the early 1900s through the many activities, displays and demonstrations. Some of those activities include children’s barrel train rides, farm machinery in operation, hands-on rope splicing, a flea market, horse drawn wagon rides, music and dancing in the barn on Saturday night, a threshing demonstration, an apple cider press and much more. A day trip from anywhere in the Thumb to experience one of the few remaining octagonal barns and to pay tribute to the Thumb area’s rich agricultural heritage is a great family adventure.

## Outside the Thumb



### Grand Rapids

Grand Rapids is a large metropolitan city on the west side of the lower peninsula of Michigan. Like most large cities, it offers a wide range of cultural opportunities, restaurants of all kinds and great shopping districts. However, no visit to Grand Rapids would be complete without a visit to Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. A whole day could be spent exploring all that the gardens have to offer. Outdoor nature trails allow close-up encounters with a huge variety of botanical plantings. A children’s garden provides hours of fun for the younger members of the family. World-class sculptures abound in the Sculpture Park. The Carnivorous Plant House is always among the favorite remembrances from a visit to the gardens. From September 17 through October 31, an annual fall celebration at the gardens highlights thousands of flowering chrysanthemums in both outdoor and indoor settings. The Michigan Farm Garden will be a kaleidoscope of color, with heirloom vegetables, herbs, corn, gourds and giant pumpkins. Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park is totally barrier-free with ramps and paved paths in all garden locations. Frederik Meijer Gardens is located at 1000 East Beltline Ave. N. E. Information on the gardens and other seasonal events can be found by visiting their website at [www.meijergardens.org](http://www.meijergardens.org).

## Outside the State



### Key West, Florida

Key West, Florida is about as close as you can get in the Continental United States to a tropical vacation. After a very long but extremely scenic drive to the end of Interstate 1, you will come to the sleepy resort town of Key West. Everything seems to operate in slow motion there – especially during the intense summer heat. Key lime ice cream bars seem to be the perfect refreshing sweet treat on a day like that. A short walk from the middle of town will lead you to the southernmost point in the United States. But the real reason I like Key West is because of the Hemingway House – the one time home of the author, Ernest Hemingway. The home is open for touring and is the epitome of an old southern home. Many homes such as these would have a sleepy old tomcat lying on the porch in the shade, but this home has CATS. Hemingway was a cat fanatic and had lots of cats living on the property with him. Today, more than 60 descendants of those original cats live a life of luxury, cared for by their own staff. The grounds even include a cat cemetery for those that have gone on before. Some of the original cats were polydactyl, which means they had extra toes which made them appear to have a thumb. The interbreeding of the cats has caused this trait to show up in 50% of the remaining animals. Today, cats with this trait are often called Hemingway cats. A visit to Key West for a cat lover wouldn’t be complete without stopping in to say “hi” to the remaining cuties at the Hemingway House.

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## Pumpkin Roll Game



Photo from Family Fun Magazine

**Materials Needed:** small, round pumpkins, one for each player. Sturdy brooms, one for each player

**Directions:** Determine where a starting line and a finish line will be. Pieces of rope work well to mark them both. Each player sets their pumpkin behind the starting line on its side. Someone says, "Ready, set, GO!" and the players began using their brooms to push their pumpkins toward the finish line. The first one over wins.

This is a great outdoor game where there aren't as many possibilities for breakage as there may be inside the house.

## The Leaves of the Trees

(sung to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus")

The leaves of the trees turn orange and red,  
orange and red, orange and red.

The leaves of the trees turn orange and red,  
all through the town.



The leaves of the trees come tumbling down,  
tumbling down, tumbling down.

The leaves of the trees come tumbling down,  
all through the town.



The leaves on the ground go swish, swish, swish,  
swish, swish, swish, swish, swish, swish.

The leaves on the ground go swish, swish, swish,  
all through the town.

-Irmgard Guertges



## Design Your Own Leaf Placemat



**Materials needed:** Handfuls of colorful fall leaves that are flat and not too dry and crispy. (Placing a book on the leaves on a solid surface for a couple of hours will help to flatten them if necessary.)

Two placemat sized rectangles (approximately 10" x 16") cut out of a roll of clear contact paper for each placemat to be made. Scissors, either regular or pinking. Optional glitter, paper sprinkles, or other small thin flat objects.

**Directions:** Remove the backing paper from one sheet of contact paper. Lay it on a table, contact side up. Carefully place the flattened leaves onto the contact paper in a pleasing arrangement, being careful not to overlap the leaves. Leave at least one inch around the outside edge that doesn't have anything on it. The optional other items can be added, if desired.

Remove the backing paper from the second sheet of contact paper and line up with the first sheet carefully. Place on top of the first sheet and smooth carefully with your hands. (If they do not line up perfectly, you can cut the excess off and make the corners square.)

*You now have a great placemat that can be wiped clean with a damp cloth.*



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## Where Has Your *ThumbPrint News* Been?

*ThumbPrint News* has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb (over 400 businesses in eight Thumb counties are now drop locations for the newspaper), but *ThumbPrint News* has been seen on television, in Bonaire, in Mexico, in Utah, in California and in Nevada! This month, this interesting character was caught reading the *ThumbPrint News* in AmericasMart in Atlanta, Georgia in front of the Aurora Showroom.

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](mailto:thumbprintnews@comcast.net). (The photo should be in jpeg format.) Please tell us a little about the photo and include your name, address and phone number in case we have further questions.

At the end of 2010, our staff will choose the grand prize winner to receive a wonderful prize from *ThumbPrint News*. If you are a business, we will do a feature story on your business for FREE in the January 2011 edition!



*I just love the ThumbPrint News!*

## Wordsearch **Back To School Word Search**

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Bats are interesting creatures. They are the only truly flying mammals and are generally considered beneficial because of their appetite for insects. Even so, stories of the famous vampire bat of Central and South America continue to frighten children and adults alike. This fear is not entirely unwarranted as even insect-feeding bats will bite and rabies may occur in 4% to 6% of some bat populations. In addition, bats harbor the bat bug, which bites humans and is very similar to the bed bug.

Bats will remain in the same location year after year. If that location is your home, this poses health risks from both the bat guano and the urine. Also, these waste products attract other insects and contaminate your insulation, thereby causing expensive pest control costs and replacement bills.

A few species of bats found in Michigan prefer to roost in structures and will often be seen at dusk flying in and out of attic vents and soffits. In fact, any opening  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch or larger is a suitable entrance for a bat.

The best way to get rid of bats is to exclude them from your structure while they are not in it. Since bats spend June and July raising their flightless young, those months are not the time to exclude due to the possibility of sealing babies inside and creating a potential odor problem or their forcing entry into the main part of your home.

Exclusion for bats begins in the fall and can be done throughout November and December as well. In late spring, exclusions will be taken down and the opening sealed.

Bat exclusion can be difficult and tiring, and carries a slight disease risk, so let the professionals do it. For bat removal and/or exclusion, call **ABC Home and Commercial Services**. Remember, we are A Better Choice for all of your pest control needs!

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