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ThumbPrint News

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

NATIONAL
BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH



OCTOBER 2010

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THE NIGHT FILLED WITH PUMPKIN LIGHT

The Thumb Area's Premier Halloween Event

By Louise Allen
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

October is the time of year when haunted houses, scary hayrides and frightening venues of every kind seem to spring up seemingly overnight in buildings that are vacant the other months of the year, in farm yards normally devoted to agricultural operations, in apple orchards suddenly turned into Halloween destinations and in dark woods on lonely roads that form the perfect backdrop for a night of fright.

These places exist to frighten and scare, in a fun sort of way, people of all ages, though many may be just too traumatic for the



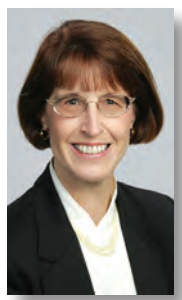
smaller children. Common themes include skeletons, mummies, zombies, bats, spiders and frightening creatures of every kind.

However, in Clay Township, Michigan, there is one truly unique Halloween experience that should not be missed – the Night Filled with Pumpkin Light. On October 22, 23 and 24, for three hours each evening (from 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.) more than 400 uniquely carved and decorated pumpkins are lit

and displayed inside the darkened greenhouse at Foxfire Farm Country Store at 8945 Marsh Road. The effect is absolutely breathtaking. The pumpkins appear to almost float in the air and the fragrance of the straw bales, combined with the pumpkin and burning candles are treats for the senses. Adults and children alike are amazed by the intricate designs and creative masterpieces they encounter. (A rumor has it that this year Foxfire Farm's aim is several hundred more pumpkins than last year – with a lofty goal of 1000 pumpkins!)

Planning for this memorable event takes place many months in advance, culminating in several intense nights of carving by the employees,

See PUMPKIN LIGHT, Page 26



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ThumbPrint News

8061 Marsh Road
Clay Township, MI 48001

Phone Number:
(810) 794-2300

E-mail Address:
ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net

Web site:
www.ThumbPrintNews.com

Publisher:
Al Kodet

Editor:
Diane Kodet
ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net

Advertising:
(810) 794-2300

Graphic Design:
Nancy Birch
Amanda LaBelle

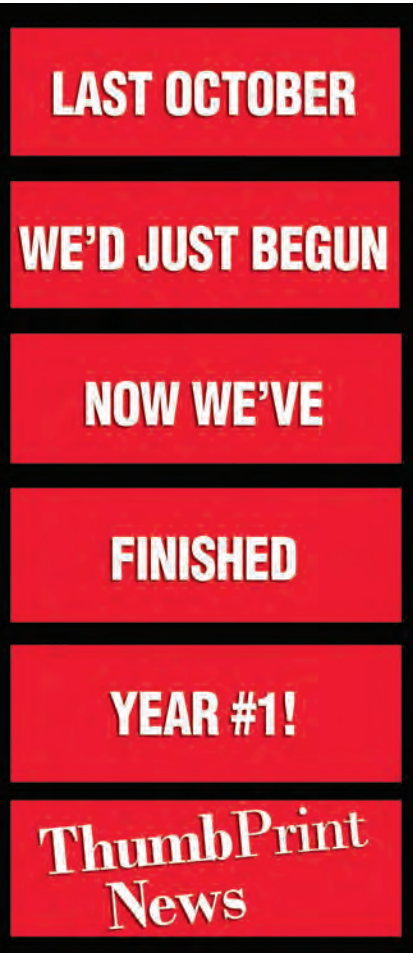
Newspaper Staff:
Louise Allen
Laura Irwin
Keith Kodet
Ralph McKinch
Shari Nowicki

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



With this October issue of *ThumbPrint News*, we celebrate our one year anniversary. It has been quite a year! We began with a circulation of 15,000 and in just one year have grown to over 60,000!

We have learned a lot from you, our valued readers, when you took the time to send us emails, write us letters or to telephone us about the different articles that you've enjoyed.

We found that there is definitely a large group of people who enjoy a "good news" newspaper, which has always been our intent. There are so many great people, places and businesses in the Thumb area

of Michigan to write about that we hope to continue our publication on this same note for many more years.

We want to continue to receive your letters and suggestions. We still are looking for those who would like to be a guest writer either for one month or on a continuing basis. Tell us what you are interested in writing about and it may just be the perfect match for our paper. As we celebrate our one year anniversary, it also seems right to thank those writers and columnists who have contributed articles to *ThumbPrint News* this past year – some who have appeared in each and every issue so far. You deserve a big "Thumbs Up" and "Thank you" from our entire staff.

I personally want to give the staff of *ThumbPrint News*, including the writers, graphic designers and salespeople, a huge "thank you." We couldn't have done it without you. Your dedication is what has helped to make *ThumbPrint News* so successful.

Articles on the history of the people and places that make this part of the state such a wonderful place to live continue to be the most read and commented on articles of *ThumbPrint News*. Please send us your articles or suggestions for small towns to cover that are big on history.

Often, correspondence we have received has led us to stories or ideas that we subsequently use. Such is the case with an email received from Linda Baker after reading our September issue. Linda wrote:

I enjoyed the article about the Burma Shave signs. When I was a kid, we'd see them along Gratiot Road on our way to eat at Emil's Buffalo Farm. My favorite was:

*He lit a match
To check the tank
Now they call him*

*Skinless Frank.
Burma Shave
Here's a follow-up idea for your article. Run a contest for your readers to submit jingles relating to Foxfire Farm or ThumbPrint News. Here's two examples:*

*Inside this issue
Are tidbits galore.
When you are finished
Our store has lots more.
Foxfire Farm*

*Plants and flowers
And gifts, oh my!
Pumpkins to make
Your Thanksgiving pie.
Foxfire Farm*

Linda, thank you for your idea! We love it! So, dear readers, we are going to take her suggestion and run a contest for "Burma Shave" type jingles for either *ThumbPrint News* or for Foxfire Farm. Please submit your jingles, along with your name and address, to thumbprintnews@comcast.net no later than December 10. Two lucky winners will each receive \$50 gift certificates to spend at Foxfire Farm Country Store at 8061 Marsh Road in Algonac – just in time for Christmas shopping! One winner will be chosen who uses "Foxfire Farm" as the last line of their jingle and one winner for using "*ThumbPrint News*" as the ending. Good luck! We will print the winning jingles and maybe a few of the others in the December edition of *ThumbPrint News*.

Please keep those emails, letters and ideas coming! We want *ThumbPrint News* to continue to be the newspaper you choose to read and enjoy for another year and years to come.

DIANE KODET
Editor, *ThumbPrint News*

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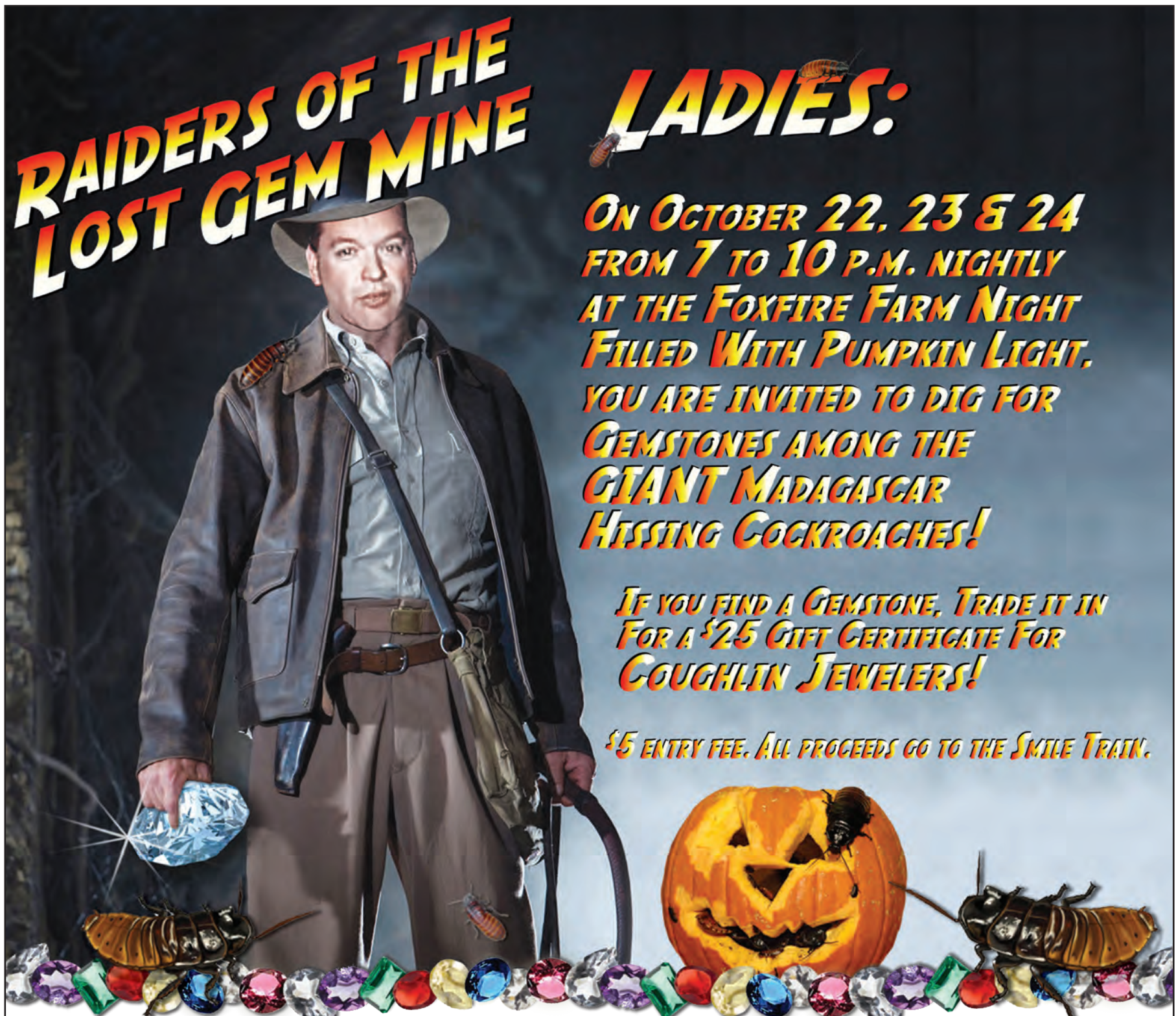
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Spotlight on a Small Town: Waldenburg

By Ralph McKinch

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Macomb Township today is Michigan's fastest growing major municipality. Downtown Waldenburg, a small village located in Macomb Township, has a rich history that has almost disappeared due to the rapid urban sprawl that surrounds it today. What is left of the old town is pretty much confined to the four corners at 22 Mile Road and Romeo Plank.

Macomb Township played a large part in the lumber and logging industry of southeastern Michigan. Logs would be sent down the Clinton River from Wolcott Mill in Ray Township to sawmills farther south. The route traveled was known as Romeo Plank, which is the same name as the modern-day road that runs the same route.

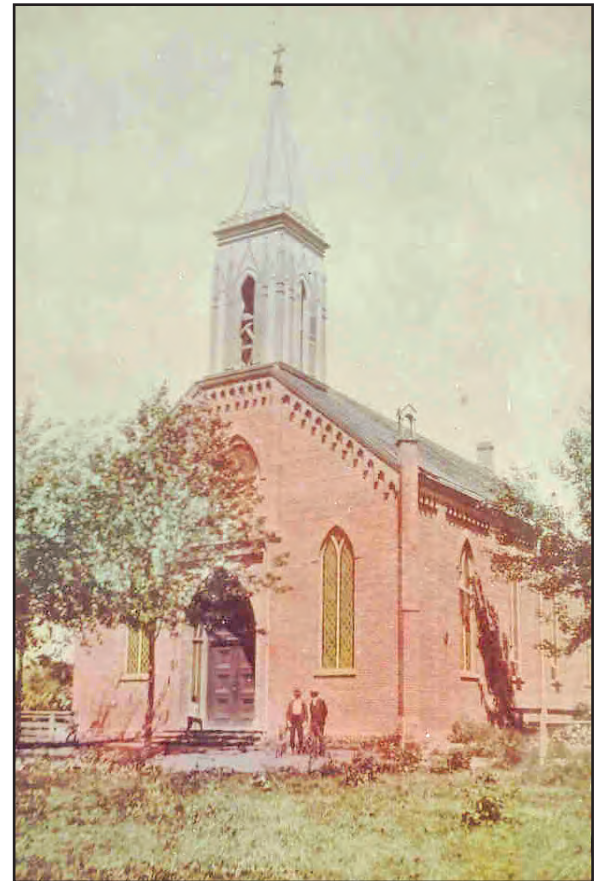
During the 19th century, Waldenburg was one of several stops along the plank toll road that connected Romeo to Mount Clemens, which were the two early centers of business in Macomb County. Every few miles small towns, such as Waldenburg, had stations to collect the tolls, get water for the horses, and to provide rest for weary travelers.

By the 1830s, German immigrants arrived to farm the fertile area around the Clinton River. The area now known as Waldenburg was settled. Waldenburg's first business was a steam sawmill and planing mill and then expanded to include a tavern, a wagon shop, a general

store, a blacksmith shop, a hardware store and others. A school and Lutheran church were also established. The town was named Waldenburg after Waldenburg, Germany, from which some of the settlers had come. (A local story that is told says that when the town was going to be named, the person that brought the beer to the meeting got to name it after their home town.)

In 1853, a group of strong religious settlers from Germany established the congregation that is Immanuel Lutheran Church today. The first official record appeared that year with the baptism of Emil Wolf in November.

In 1855, the first church was built. It was a frame building that served as the residence for the pastor. In the back were the church and the German school. As the congregation grew, the church became too small and a new brick church was built in 1866.



Immanuel Lutheran Church, circa 1866



The tombstones reflect the early German heritage of Waldenburg.

Once again, the congregation expanded and the church was again enlarged and dedicated in 1920. The church is still in existence today on 21 Mile and Romeo Plank. The tombstones in



The old German schoolhouse



Downtown Waldenburg as it appears today.

See WALDENBURG, Page 38

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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.
- Call ABC immediately!**

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 as 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.



Tell us you saw this ad in the *ThumbPrint News* and receive \$20 off your yellow jacket treatment. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer and is for the treatment of yellow jackets only. One discount per household.

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Melanie Duquesnel

Scammers Target Job Hunters in Weak Economy, Warns Better Business Bureau

Stay safe on the hunt by looking for seven red flags

By **Melanie Duquesnel**

President and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan

As the unemployment rate hovers around 10 percent, the Better Business Bureau warns that scammers are taking advantage of the opportunity by preying on the unemployed. Identifying the common red flags of a scam is one way for job hunters to protect themselves and their wallet.

According to the Labor Department, new jobless claims in mid-August unexpectedly jumped to 500,000, an increase of 12,000 over the previous week. Not only did jobless claims rise suddenly, but the length of unemployment is bleak for many. According to a July report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, nearly 45 percent of unemployed Americans had been out of work for more than six months.

"The dismal employment rate means that a lot of people are desperate for work and may be grasping for any job which creates a great opportunity for scammers," said Melanie Duquesnel, President and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. "Not thoroughly researching a job opportunity can make a bad situation even worse and a victim can lose hundreds or even

thousands of dollars to any number of job-related scams."

BBB recommends looking out for the following seven red flags when searching for a job:

The employer offers the opportunity to become rich without leaving home

While many legitimate businesses allow employees to work from home, there are also a lot of scammers trying to take advantage of senior citizens, stay-at-home moms, students and injured or handicapped people looking to make money conveniently at home. Job hunters should use extreme caution when considering a work-at-home offer and always research the company with their BBB first at www.easternmichiganbbb.org.

The employer asks for money upfront

It is rarely advisable for an applicant to pay upfront fees or make a required purchase to get a job. BBB often hears from job hunters who paid a phony employer for supposedly required background checks or training for jobs that didn't exist. Always research the job thoroughly before opening up your wallet. Also, be wary of job placement companies that ask for large upfront fees to find you a job.

The salary and benefits seem too-good-to-be-true

The adage holds true for job offers: if the deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Phony employers might brag about exceptionally high salary potential and excellent benefits for little work and no experience necessary in order to lure unsuspecting job hunters into their scam.

Employer e-mails are rife with grammatical and spelling errors

Online fraud is often perpetrated by scammers located outside the U.S. Their first language usually isn't English and this is often evident in their poor grasp of the language which can include poor grammar and the misspelling of common words.

The employer requires you to check your credit report

After posting their resumes online or responding to online job listings, many job hunters received what they thought was good news: an e-mail from an interested employer. In order to be considered for the job, the applicant has to check his or her credit report through a recommended website. The truth is the e-mail is just an attempt to get the job hunter to divulge sensitive financial information or sign up for credit monitoring services.

The employer is quick to ask for personal information such as Social Security or bank account numbers

Some job seekers have been surprised to learn they've gotten a job without having to do a single interview. However, when the employer then asked for personal information in order to fill out the necessary paperwork, suspicions were raised – and rightly so.

Regardless of the reason, a job applicant should never give out his or her Social Security or bank account numbers over the phone or email and only after they've confirmed the job is legitimate.

The job requires you to wire money through Western Union or MoneyGram or receive and forward suspicious goods

Many phony jobs require the employee to cash a check sent by the company through the mail and then wire a portion of the money on to another entity. Reasons given for this requirement vary from scam to scam. Whatever the reason though, the check might clear the employee's bank account but will eventually turn out to be a fake and the employee is out the money he or she wired back to the scammers. BBB also warns against receiving and mailing suspicious goods – such as electronics or luxury items – overseas.

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. Visit www.easternmichiganbbb.org for more information. 📍



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They Made It!

By Diane L. Kodet
ThumbPrint News Editor



John Replinger, his wife, Valerie Wildman, and their triplets, Deidre, Ian and Zara, end a 3,307 mile bicycle trip in front of the White House in Washington, D.C.

In our September edition of *ThumbPrint News*, we reported in the article “A Tandem, a Triple and a TransAmerica Tour” on a family of five, John Replinger, his wife, Valerie Wildman, and their three nine year old triplets, Deidre, Ian and Zara, who were bicycling all the way from Portland, Oregon to Washington, D.C. We reported on them when they were traveling through the Thumb of Michigan.

Well, we are now happy to report that THEY MADE IT! On August 26, 2010, they arrived in Washington, D.C., with a total distance traveled of 3,307 miles in 93 days. And, no, they didn’t peddle back home! From Washington, D.C., they flew back home to Portland, Oregon. A big “Thumbs Up” from *ThumbPrint News* for a family that just completed an amazing journey! 🍀

An Interesting Tidbit

Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn’t mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoentn thng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a total mse and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Pettry amzanig huh?

Kozuchowski Barn in Brockway Receives National BARN AGAIN! Award

By Ralph McKinch

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer (based on information submitted by Mitchell Kozuchowski)

The Michigan Barn Preservation Network was founded in 1995 to promote, appreciate, preserve and rehabilitate Michigan barns, farmsteads and rural communities. Heritage barns are increasingly being restored, sometimes completely relocated, and given new lives in modern agriculture and for adaptive reuse.

The Kozuchowski barn in Brockway was built in 1868 and was used for livestock until the 1980s. After it was no longer needed for cattle, the barn began to fall into disrepair until Mitchell Kozuchowski began commuting from his work in New York as a television producer to restore the barn with the help of his family. The restoration,



The Kozuchowski barn in Brockway as it looks today.

according to the family, began as “only a coat of paint to spruce it up.” But then, “The project took on a life of its own and became a labor of love.”

The barn received one of six national Barn Again! Awards from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in partnership with *Successful Farming* magazine for 2009. Only one other barn to date in Michigan has

See BARN AGAIN!, Page 48

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Short Time Buck

By **Bryon McClain**
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

It was the 9th of October, and my first time in the woods since bow season had opened on the first of the month. I was working at the local grain elevator as an agronomist at the time, and soybean harvest had started. Time off for hunting was almost impossible, so I made the best of it and got out when I could. It had rained the day before and put a lull in the harvest, so I took the following morning off to hunt. Little did I know that before that morning was over I would have taken my first buck with a bow.

The weather couldn't have been better. The rain had passed and left the ground soft and silent. I got out of my truck and headed back to my stand with about an hour before daylight would paint its beautiful fall picture. I got up in the stand, strapped in and raised my bow with my rope. It was time to hunt. I sat quietly with my bow in my lap waiting for first light. The day was calm, almost perfectly still with only a hint of a breeze blowing from the northwest. After about half an hour of listening to only silence, the birds started waking up and the dogs starting barking at the farm a half a mile up the road.

Soon the sky was turning lighter shades of grey and the trees appeared as black outlines on the horizon. "Soon enough." I thought to myself, "soon enough." Within minutes, the night gave way to day and the sun was warming my right shoulder as it lit up the autumn leaves all around me, creating a display of all of nature's colors at once. From the green grasses and weeds below to the reds, oranges and yellows of the trees all around me. I don't believe there is anything more beautiful and relaxing

than a fall sunrise in Michigan. I was on the edge of a small clear-cut in the woods that had some scrub brush and apple trees scattered about, but not much more.

It was light enough now that I could see a few hundred yards pretty clearly; I settled in and waited for what I hoped would come. Just then, I caught something moving to my left about 70 yards away. It was a buck! I put the glasses on him and could tell immediately that he was a shooter. I slowly stood up and got into position for a shot if it presented itself. The buck was heading straight north from where he was, not good for me. If he stayed on this course, he would vanish into the woods 60 yards from my stand – not close enough for a shot with my bow.

Feeling for sure that I wouldn't get a shot at this buck, I started to relax a little. About that time, I heard an old single engine airplane start up over at the little grass strip about two miles from where I was sitting. I didn't pay much attention to it as I was fixated on that buck that was getting farther and farther from me with each passing second. The buck, however, did pay attention and didn't like what he was hearing. As the pilot put the throttle to it to take off, the buck changed course and started heading right toward me! He stopped about 50 yards out to look back towards the noise that spooked him and then kept coming in. At about 30 yards, he was broadside to me, but still walking at a pretty good pace. I drew my bow and let out a quiet grunt. The buck stopped perfectly broadside and looked in my direction.

I took a deep breath, settled the pin and let it go. I saw the lighted nock hit its mark and the buck jump straight up in the air. I got him! I

watched as he ran straight south out of the clear-cut and into the plowed wheat stubble field and out of sight. I was so excited I was shaking! I sat down and collected myself as best I could, which

I'm sure wasn't very good, but I tried anyway. I waited for about an hour and decided I'd head back to the truck and call my brother-in-law, Sean, and see if he'd seen anything.

On my way out, I saw a big brown clump about twenty yards from the truck in the plowed field. It was my buck! He ran about two hundred yards straight at my truck and piled up right there! It doesn't get much better than that! I spent a few minutes with the deer and then jumped in my truck to go get Sean, who was hunting about a mile east of me on another farm. I had my buck! It just goes to show that no matter how much time you have, you can still be successful by being in the right place at the right time. Hopefully this

year brings another success story on my end and yours! Best of luck this hunting season! Be safe, and I'll see you at the buck pole! 🍀

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 or call (810) 359-8550 for more information.



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Good night, sleep tight, Don't let the bed bugs bite.



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Good Night, Sleep Tight! Don't Let the Bed Bugs Bite!

By **Ralph McKinch**

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

This nursery rhyme is no longer a cutesy quip to recite as you tuck your children into bed at night. Now, it is a warning not to take lightly. Bed bugs had virtually disappeared for decades in the United States, but are now back with a vengeance. Reported attacks are up 5000 percent nationwide. Many people have never experienced bed bugs before and are unaware of what they should be looking for and how infestations of bed bugs can best be prevented.

There are several different theories as to why the occurrence of bed bug infestations is increasing so dramatically. One says that the elimination of DDT and other stronger pesticides has contributed to their increase. Another says the increase in international travel and the greater movement of people in general is a primary cause. Michael Potter, Ph. D., an entomologist at the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, says, "There has been a total loss of awareness and lack of vigilance. People in the old days knew to check their hotel beds, their clothing when it was back from the laundry and what their kids brought home from camp. We have a whole new generation that thinks stuff doesn't bite you when you're sleeping. We opened the door and

allowed them to come roaring back."

Finding bed bugs in your home or business has nothing to do with poor hygiene. Only one bed bug can hitch a ride on you or on an object and end up infesting your living or working space.

The name "bed bugs" is misleading as these insects can be found not only in beds, but in chairs, rugs, curtains, tiny cracks in furniture, as stowaways in luggage, purses and briefcases, movie theaters, retail stores, libraries, firehouses, hospitals and nursing homes, apartments and in used clothing and furniture stores, etc.

Allen Kodet, owner of ABC Home and Commercial Services in Clay Township, says his pest control division is receiving increased calls weekly related to bed bug infestations in the Thumb area of Michigan. In some cases, the infestations have been so severe, sometimes due to people attempting to get rid of the bed bugs on their own, that the cost of successfully eradicating the insects has been driven up higher than it would have been if a professional pest control company had been called originally. Here is some basic information people should know about bed bugs:

What are bed bugs and what do they look like?

Bed bugs are small, oval, non-flying insects that belong to the insect

family Cimicidae. There are three species that bite people. While in the juvenile stage, called nymphs, they can be as small as 1.5 mm. As adults they can reach between 5-7 mm in length. Bed bugs resemble small ticks or cockroaches and are sometimes mistaken as such. Bed bugs feed by sucking blood from humans and animals. They can survive for months without feeding, so they can even be found in vacant homes.

What are the symptoms and signs of bed bug bites?

Bed bugs are most active at night and will bite exposed areas of skin while an individual is sleeping. Although the bite is painless, small, flat or raised bumps on the skin are the most common sign; redness, swelling and intense itching commonly occur. Thirty percent of the victims show no symptoms. One peculiarity of bed bug bites is the tendency to find several bites lined up in a row. Infectious disease specialists refer to this as the "breakfast, lunch and din-



Bed bugs resemble small ticks or cockroaches.

ner" sign, signifying the sequential feeding that occurs from one site to another. Bed bugs are not known to transmit any human diseases.

How are bed bugs spread?

Any items that are moved from one place to another may contain bed bugs or their eggs. Boxes, suitcases, furniture and clothing may all be unknowing vehicles for bed bug travel from one place to another.

How do I detect infestation?

Some physical evidence that may be present, other than the existence of bites, may be fecal stains, egg



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- Vehicles
- Furniture
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- Libraries
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
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Bed bugs are active at night, biting exposed areas of skin while an individual is sleeping.

cases and shed skins in crevices or cracks on or near beds. Live bugs may also be observed. Other areas, such as under wallpaper, behind picture frames, in couches and other furniture and even articles of clothing after returning from a trip should be examined. Professional assistance from a pest-control company should be used in order to determine if your home, apartment or business contains bed bugs.

How can I prevent infestations?

Knowledge and avoiding infested areas and objects is the method for prevention. Although sometimes difficult to do, recognizing the signs of infestation and proper treatment of known affected areas will control the spread of these nuisance insects.

When traveling to hotels and motels, always inspect the undersides of the mattress and bed



Physical evidence can be found in crevices or cracks on or near beds.

boards for signs of problems. If any exist, notify the management immediately. If possible, check travel websites before booking a hotel to check for any previous comments left by past guests in relation to bed bugs. (Remember that a report could mean that the problem was isolated to one room and that the management has since had the bed bugs exterminated.)

What is the treatment for bites?

First and foremost, the source of the infestation must be determined and eliminated. This is not an easy process and most cases of bed bug infestation will require treatment by a pest-control expert. He or she will advise you on the best treatments for your situation. As far as the bites on the skin, your doctor can advise if steroid creams or oral antihistamines should be used for symptom relief. Usually, once the infestation is cleared up, the symptoms from bites will also gradually disappear.

How can I obtain more detailed information about bed bugs?

The pest control experts at ABC Home and Commercial Services are offering a *Bed Bug Training & Educational Seminar* on November 10, 2010. (See the ad on this page for more information.) Individuals wishing to understand how to identify bed bugs at their different stages of development for use in their own preventative programs or persons wishing to gain knowledge to help control the spread of bedbugs in businesses, nursing homes, adult and child daycare facilities, community buildings, apartment complexes and hospitals or while on duty as public safety officers are encouraged to attend. For more information call (810) 794-5678.



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A Chance Meeting with World Champions

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

It was the perfect fall day for a drive from Algonac to Boyne City, Michigan, where my husband and I were headed for a family reunion. Driving a van that I had recently inherited from my father afforded us a better view than we would have had from my very low to the ground convertible. Everything seemed perfect until we were just pulling off the expressway in Roscommon when the van stalled. It was out of gas! Apparently, the gas gage did not work correctly.

Coasting down the ramp, we were able to get off to the side of the road before we completely came to a stop. It was a gorgeous view down the road – of cedar trees, but little else. This was going to be fun, trying to find someone to get one of us into town for a gas can. Across the street was a DNR office, so we thought about walking over there to see if anyone could help.

It was just at that moment that a pickup truck pulling a trailer loaded with long thin boats pulled into the DNR driveway. My husband decided to walk across the road and see if the driver could perhaps help us out of the jam.

Little did we know that we were going to have the opportunity to meet four World Champions!

Kathleen Stenersen, Kris Miller, Denise Bakken and Shirley Drow had just finished competing in the World Masters Rowing Competition that was held in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada and were on their way home to Hudson, Wisconsin.

All four women are members of the St. Croix Rowing Club of Hudson, which is on the border between

Minnesota and Wisconsin. Kathleen helped start the club. The club began in 2001 and owns one 4- person boat (a quad), two 2-person boats (doubles) and four 1-person boats (singles). There are 24 members in the club. The club does not have a coach so, as Kathleen says, "We are all coaches to each other." The four women we encountered today had been rowing together in the quad for the past three summers.

In the St. Catharines' competition, Kathleen, Kris, Denise and Shirley raced in the C-category (average age of the boaters being between 43 – 49), and came in first in the wave of seven boats. Later, it was found out that they had the top time among all women's C-category boats – 42 boats total. Additionally, they had the fastest time of ALL women's quads, including boaters much younger than themselves. They had earned the right to call themselves World Champions!

When not rowing or racing, Kris is a physical therapist, Denise works for the 3M Company, Shirley volunteers as a museum tour guide at a Twin Cities' art museum and Kathleen works for St. Jude Medical, a medical device company.

All four women cheerfully drove my husband into town to get a can full of gas and brought him back again. Once we put the gas in our car, we were on our way again. What could have been a dark cloud over the day turned out to be a chance to meet four very helpful and friendly young women – who had a great story to tell. I have to think that maybe it was fate that we both ended up in front of the DNR office at the same time on the same day in Roscommon. Thank you so much, ladies, for helping us out! 🍀



World Champion rowers, from left to right, Kris Miller, Kathleen Stenersen, Denise Bakken and Shirley Drow

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Blue Water Prohibition

By David Gillis
ThumbPrint News Columnist



The eastern Michigan geography known as the Blue Water Area is rich in recorded history dating back to pre-Revolutionary War times.

There are stories of the fur-trading and lumber businesses. We know how farming and boat-building were major enterprises. Some are aware of how the area supported the Underground Railroad to free the slaves and of the area's importance to the unlawful distribution of liquor.

"But, wait," you might say. "I was following your story until you mentioned how illegal alcohol played a part in its history." Allow me to continue.

This October will mark the 91st anniversary of the congressional passage of the Volstead Act. There are few acts of Congress that had a more profound affect on the Blue Water Area than the enactment of this law to enforce the 18th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which banned liquor sales. Once in effect, the "noble experiment," as it was termed, continued until its repeal in 1933.

The illegal sale of alcoholic drinks coupled with the proximity to Canada created a tremendous opportunity for organized crime and others who didn't agree with the federal ban. The entire border between Lake St. Clair and Lake Huron became a major national distribution center for the unlawful importation of liquor that was sold in saloons tagged as "speakeasies."

During this period many Canadian provinces, including bordering Ontario, also created laws to prohibit the retail sale of liquor. The Canadian federal government, however, licensed distilleries and breweries to produce and export alcoholic beverages. Records indicate that about 50 such businesses existed in Ontario alone.

The international border waterway is narrow at various points along its miles of shoreline. An example is at Robert's Landing where a ferry became a popular means for smuggling and automobiles carrying illegal liquor could bolt from the barge to escape quickly down Robert's Road into the countryside.

The miles of shoreline provided numerous hiding spots such as the reeds off Dickinson, Russell and Harsens Islands. Belle and Pine Rivers were also known as escape routes. It isn't difficult to understand how the area quickly became a "rum-runners" dream.

Stories told by those who remember suggest that the St. Clair Flats was a central point for smuggling. Numerous "speakeasies" existed in the Algonac/Clay Township area and, due to the lack of adequate law enforcement, bootlegging flourished during that era.

It has been said that three-fourths of all liquor smuggled into the United States during Prohibition arrived through the waters of Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers.

The smugglers of that day were ingenious. Illegal contraband was stored in hidden automobile compartments and added gas tanks. Passengers on private boats, excursion vessels and crossing ferries would use false bottomed suitcases and disguised containers. Whatever the imagination would allow was used. Divers can still find evidence of the heavy trafficking of illegal liquor at the river's bottom.

There are also tales of larger liquor cargo being dragged on sleds beneath boats on the St. Clair River. Tunnels between shoreline boathouses and residences formerly used for slave traffic to Canada were reopened and used for illegal liquor cargo from our foreign neighbor. There were even well-constructed underwater cable systems.

At the beginning of Prohibition, enterprising individuals reaped the rewards of selling illegally obtained liquor and beer. My own maternal grandmother is said to have maintained a small and profitable bootleg business from her boarding house. But, for family relations sake, I'll just end my comments there.

As Prohibition continued, the appetite for alcoholic beverages increased. Individual encroachment into the federal prohibition was soon subordinated by a larger, more organized crime-related effort. Soon, corruption involving police, judges and politicians became a part of the "business of illegal alcohol." The smallest smuggler residing in the Blue Water Area, the hundreds of "blind-pigs" throughout the entire Michigan Thumb, and the Detroit-connected gang element all sought to reap illicit fortunes. Flaunting of the unpopular law was said to be a pandemic.

Yes, there's much about the history of our country that can be found in the Blue Water Area. Possibly, none more profound or profane than its place as a "bootlegging distribution center" for the nation. 🍀

October is Adopt-A-Shelter-Dog Month

Expert Reveals How to Choose The Best Shelter Dog For Your Family

Submitted By Russ Handler

Dr. Diane Pomerance wants to show everyone how to make your family happier – and save a life at the same time – in October. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) sponsors October as Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog Month to encourage Americans to turn their houses into homes by adopting a shelter dog. Each year, millions of dogs enter our nation's shelters, yet of the almost 59 million owned dogs in this country, fewer than 20 percent are shelter adoptees.

Pomerance, an activist who has owned more than 40 shelter dogs in her lifetime, thinks it's a shame that more people don't adopt from a shelter, because the most faithful, healthy and loving dogs are waiting there for new homes.

"People sometimes don't go to animal shelters to adopt a dog because they have a lot of misinformation about these animals," said Pomerance, author of seven books about pets, including *Our Rescue Dog Family Album* (www.animalcompanionsandtheirpeople.com). "They think, 'I don't want to inherit someone else's problem,' or they simply think all the dogs there are abused or hard to train, or that they won't be able to find the breed that they want. All of those notions couldn't be further from the truth. In fact, up to nearly 60 percent of

dogs in shelters are not strays, but pets whose families had to give them up because of a loss of income or a change in location. These are faithful, loving dogs who just need a home and some love."

The key is to know how to choose the right pet for your family, and Dr. Pomerance offered these tips to help families do just that:

Breed – Check online about the different breeds, their temperament, health and physical characteristics. Find out all you can about the specific animal from shelter workers and volunteers.

Lifestyle – Think about your lifestyle and personality in terms of the kind of dog that would be more compatible with your home and your living situation.

Activity level – Assess the activity level and exercise requirements of the dog you are considering. Are you able to walk your dog several times a day and play with him?

Age – Figure out what age of the animal is best suited to you and your family. Which is more compatible with your age and lifestyle? Do you want an active puppy that needs attention and training, a middle-aged dog with established behaviors, or an older, less active dog?

Time – Do you have enough time for a quality relationship with a dog? Like children, they require attention, companionship, patience

and interaction. They also require socialization and obedience training.

Budget – Research the costs of not only adopting a pet (adoption fee), but veterinary care, including spay/neuter, vaccinations, potential injuries or illness, regular checkups, toys, accessories, etc. Factor in costs of food, pet sitters or boarding while you're away. Keep in mind many pet shelters offer these services as part of the adoption fee, or at a discounted rate because many are not-for-profit organizations supported by private donations.

Space – Do you have sufficient room for a dog to move, eat and sleep comfortably? Further, are you legally allowed to have a dog on the premises/in your community? If you rent, make sure you are legally allowed to have a pet.

Shelter – Find out as much about the shelter from which you are adopting your pet as possible – what is its reputation? Is it a kill or no-kill shelter? What is the track record of the successful adoption of its dogs?



October is Adopt-A-Shelter Dog Month

"Adopting a shelter dog is a lifetime choice, as these pets will likely spend the rest of their lives with you, and it is not something that should be taken lightly," Pomerance added. "That being said, it is a positive choice, and one that will bring joy and love into your home and provide your family a loyal, caring companion." 🐾

About Diane Pomerance

Diane Pomerance has a Ph.D. in Communications from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and is widely regarded as a pet expert. She has written seven books about animals including the Animal Companions Series and her new book *Our Rescue Dog Family Album* (www.animalcompanionsandtheirpeople.com). She created, established and currently directs the pioneering and flagship Pet Grief Counseling Program for the SPCA of Texas in Dallas.



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Ask the Audiologist

By Lisa Bont

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Why can't I hear on the telephone without my hearing aids squealing?

If you can't get the telephone up to your ear without squealing or feedback, it is because the hearing aids' microphone is active. You will have this identical squealing when/if you place your hand over the hearing aid while in your ear as well. If your hearing aid has a telecoil, you can couple the phone directly to the ear and eliminate most squealing. With a telecoil, you may be required to move the phone around to locate the best position for optimum hearing and to reduce the characteristic humming that can sometimes be heard from the coil. The telecoil is an added option that must be ordered for custom hearing aids and is often standard on most behind the ear hearing aids. A telecoil is a coil placed in the hearing aid that picks up the electromagnetic field (EMF) from the telephone. To activate the telecoil it is necessary to push a button or adjust a switch.

Newer technology is available for telephone use and can be very effective in eliminating hassles with the telephone. One new option

is an autophone response that is ordered for your aid. When the phone is near the hearing aid it will recognize the strong EMF and automatically change into a telecoil mode. This is often signaled by a beeping or melodic beep to let you know that it has become active. You now won't have to push or switch anything! Another option is a remote microphone shell style hearing aid. The microphone is actually removed from the shell and housed at the fold of the ear, called the helix. This area shields the microphone and, since it is away from the hearing aids' receiver, it is less likely to cause squealing or feedback with phone placement. This very unique shell style offers many more benefits than telephone usage! There is also wireless Bluetooth compatibility that is available on higher end technology hearing aids. You can access this by the push of a button on a neck worn streamer or now a wireless device that clips to your clothing. If you are unable to purchase any of these new options, try using a speaker phone. Although this is not as beneficial, it may prove helpful. Ask your audiologist for your telephone options!

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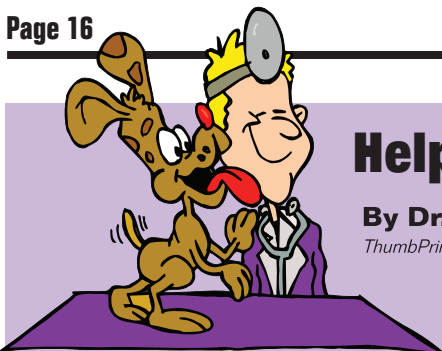
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Helping Your Senior Pet to Maintain Vitality and Good Health

By Dr. DiBenedetto
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

In the United States, about six out of every ten pets are overweight. Obesity is one of the major factors contributing to joint pain and to many disease processes, such as diabetes and pancreatitis. Dogs and cats that are not overweight can sometimes live up to two years longer than those that carry extra pounds, especially as they age. Different breeds of dogs show signs of aging at different times, and much of this variation is associated with size. Larger dogs generally appear "old" sooner than smaller dogs. The table below lists the approximate age at which the various age groups should be transitioned to senior foods. New research has led to groundbreaking nutrition for senior pets.

| WEIGHT RANGE | AGE TO START TRANSITION |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| More than 90 lbs. | 5 years |
| 51 to 90 lbs. | 6 years |
| 21 to 50 lbs. | 7 years |
| Up to 20 lbs. | 7 years |

Cats don't vary as drastically in size as dogs. They generally are considered seniors at 7 years.

Specific nutrients have now been identified that can help your senior pet maintain vitality and good health. Nutrients, such as gamma linolenic acid (GLA) and fish oils,

provide the fatty acids that give your pet's coat an excellent shine and also help with a variety of skin problems. Antioxidant blends of vitamin E, lutein and beta-carotene help boost the immune system. Special fiber sources, such as beet pulp and fructooligosaccharides (FOS), are used to stabilize a senior dog's digestive system and support a healthy intestinal tract. Special carbohydrate blends of healthy grains for sustained energy and glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate to help lubricate stiff joints and decrease inflammation within the joint are also helpful. Older, less active pets can be more prone to weight gain. Controlling their weight will help protect them against the potentially negative health effects associated with obesity. You'll see optimal results with weight-control diets offering these key characteristics: reduced fat levels, L-carnitine, which is a key nutrient that helps burn fat and maintain muscle mass during weight loss, and special carbohydrate blends that help maintain energy while managing weight loss.

When picking out a food that is best suited for your pet, here are some guidelines to consider. Experts on pet nutrition point out that suggested serving sizes are just that – suggestions. Calorie needs vary greatly depending on your pet's breed, size and activity level. Pound for pound, the well-known brands

sold in supermarkets and major pet food chains are certainly less expensive. However, many pet-nutrition experts say that the initial cost difference doesn't tell the whole story. According to these experts, the higher-quality ingredients in premium foods mean your pet will actually eat less compared to a less expensive brand of food. Furthermore, according to the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine, looking for a certification label by the Association of American Feed Control Officials is a very important factor in choosing a pet food. In order for a pet food to be labeled "a complete and balanced" diet, it must be substantiated for nutritional adequacy by one of two means: either by being tested following the AAFCO Feeding Trial Protocol or by containing ingredients formulated to provide levels of nutrients that meet a specific profile set by AAFCO. Another important aspect is choosing a food that has whole meat or whole meat meal (lamb meal, chicken meal, etc.) as its top ingredient. Grain sources should also be whole grains, as opposed to processed products. Avoid meat by-products, meat-and-bone meals and look for preservatives like tocopherols (vitamin E) or vitamin C (ascorbate).

Exercise is an important part of weight and disease management.

Low impact forms of exercise, like leash walks and swimming, may be necessary if your dog has arthritis. Doing several short periods of exercise as opposed to one long

period will also help decrease any discomfort from arthritis. In addition, most overweight dogs will not naturally walk at a pace that generates the elevated heart rates needed for sustained aerobic activity. Walking for weight loss is very different from walking for pleasure. Here is a sample schedule to get you started:

Week 1: 30 minutes total 10 minutes brisk followed by 20 minutes casual pace.

Week 2: 30 minutes total 15 minutes brisk followed by 15 minutes casual pace.

Week 3: 30 minutes total 20 minutes brisk followed by 10 minutes casual pace.

Week 4: 35-40 minutes total 30 minutes brisk followed by 5-10 minutes casual pace.

Week 5+: 35-60 minutes total, two 20- to 30-minute walks per day: 15-25 minutes brisk followed by 5 minutes casual pace.

Any of these routines can be split up into multiple shorter walks throughout the day.

For cats, using a mouse-on-a-string or other toys that can stimulate activity, like those that release kibble as they roll around or a laser light, can be helpful. 🐾

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

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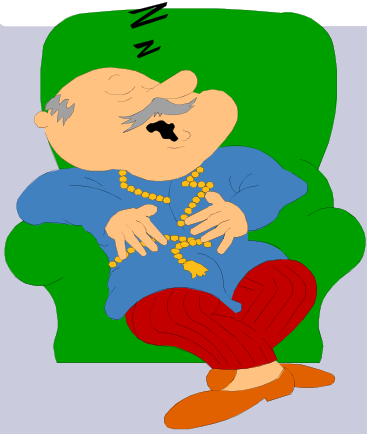
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Memoirs from The Restless Retiree

Refrigerator in the Garage? Yes! Yes! Yes!

By Gabriel Jones, ThumbPrint News Columnist

A few weeks ago we had a very pleasant family gathering under our gazebo on our patio. Everything went well, even though it rained in the middle of the day. We were outside for a while, inside when it rained, and outside again in the dry area under the gazebo. Everyone had a good time.

However, if we have another gathering on our patio, we still have to do the following preparation again: we had to have THREE ice-filled coolers on the patio to place beverages in. Soft drinks in one, beer in

another and juice drinks in the third for the smaller ones in the crowd.

Preparation and heavy lifting from the refrigerator in the basement: **Ouch!**

Refrigerator in the garage: **Yes!**

Going in the house to get snacks, cheese dips, herring, etc. from a refrigerator (either in the basement or in the kitchen): **Ouch!**

Refrigerator in the garage: **Yes!**

Dirt on your shoes, going back and forth from patio to refrigerators in the kitchen or the basement: **Ouch!**

Refrigerator in the garage: **Yes!**

Just imagine what a refrigerator in the garage can do for the well

being of the family.

You don't dirty up the floors of the house going back and forth, you have more strength and well being to enjoy a get-together.

Yes! Yes! Yes! I have solved another problem!

Put a refrigerator in the garage to save your health and sanity in planning another family gathering outside.

Wife in background:

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Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🍂

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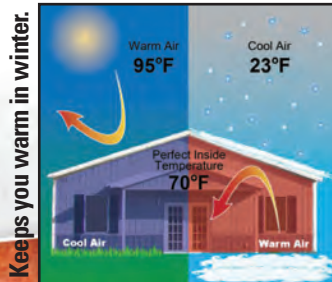
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Mountain Dulcimer? What's That?

By Linda J. Baker
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Growing up, my husband, Aaron, and I were surrounded by music. Mine was big band and classical with Mom and I playing the French horn.

Aaron's was old-time with Granddad on the fiddle, Grandma on the autoharp, Dad on the

guitar and several uncles playing various stringed instruments. Their venues included weddings, barn dances and appearances at Emil's Buffalo Farm. Both families danced a lot. When my husband and I retired, a new hobby was in order. In 2006, an Elderhostel's mountain dulcimer class seemed to peak our interest. During that week in Kentucky, we discovered that the mountain dulcimer is very simple to learn and to play, and it can be enjoyed by musicians and non-

musicians, adults and children.

The word "dulcimer" was created by combining the Latin word dulcis meaning "sweet" and the Greek word melos meaning "sound". It's also referred to as an Appalachian dulcimer, lap dulcimer, mountain dulcimer, fretted dulcimer, Kentucky dulcimer, dulcimore, dulcymore, harmony, harmonium and hog fiddle. The mountain dulcimer is America's oldest folk instrument and a truly authentic American creation with an Appalachian look and sound. Its European ancestors include the Swedish Hummel and Norwegian Langeliek, the French Epinette des Vosges and the German Scheitholt. Variations spread from the Appalachians of southern Pennsylvania into Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina.

Many of the traditional mountain dulcimer songs are rooted in the English and Celtic tradition, as many of the late 1700s/early 1800s settlers of western Carolina and eastern Tennessee were of English and Scots-Irish descent. The dulcimer design produces a droning sound which the Scots and Irish settlers liked and the English found to be an appropriate accompaniment to their ballads. Since wire was scarce in the wilderness, the dulcimer was limited to only 3 or 4 strings, which also made it

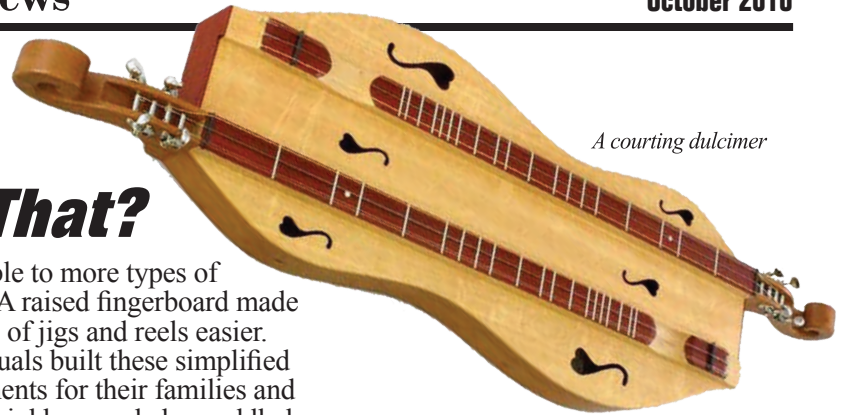
adaptable to more types of music. A raised fingerboard made picking of jigs and reels easier. Individuals built these simplified instruments for their families and close neighbors and also peddled them along with staples such as salt, needles and other items.

The rediscovery of folk music in the 1950s and 60s saved the instrument from obscurity with the help of Kentuckian Jean Ritchie, who introduced the instrument to New York

City audiences. Since then, the dulcimer has gained popularity outside of the mountains and is played by amateur and professional musicians alike. Most songs are finger-plucked or strummed using a plastic pick, while some require the use of a "noter" (wooden stick) to produce an old-timey

twang. Chording, rather than picking a single string has become commonplace.

In Kentucky, Aaron and I used cardboard dulcimers which had surprisingly good sound and volume. Used primarily for teaching purposes, they're rugged and inexpensive. Dulcimers are built using a variety of woods, plywood, laminates and some experimental carbon fiber. Each variation produces a different voice (sound). Options to consider are: number of strings, sound hole shapes and the basic shape of the dulcimer. One unusual shape is the "courting



A courting dulcimer

dulcimer" which has one large body and two separate fingerboards. The instrument is laid across the laps of two individuals who are facing each other and used to play duets. In times past, young courting couples were allowed to be alone only while playing the courting dulcimer. That assured parents that no mischief was going on as long as they could hear music. Toes could touch, but all hands were needed to play the dulcimer!

At a luthier's suggestion, we bought dulcimers made of different woods which would produce different but complimentary tones: my walnut's deep warm sound complements Aaron's brighter cherry tone. Beyond the basics, there are many playing styles, techniques and accessories which we felt needed an instructor's guidance. However, finding one locally was difficult. A common response to our search was, "What's that?" After a while, self-motivation waned and our beautiful instruments gathered dust.

Two years later, while browsing through the St. Clair County Library's newsletter, I read about a mountain dulcimer Christmas concert at the Algonac/Clay branch. We eagerly attended and just as eagerly signed up for the beginners' class under the tutelage of Bernadette Hughes.

It seems that while we were looking for an instructor, Bernie was also searching for dulcimer players. This "snow bird" had been pickin' and grinnin' down in



Aaron Baker playing the mountain dulcimer



Linda Baker's hobby is playing the mountain dulcimer.



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Alabama, but now, after returning to Algonac, was without playmates. Venturing into the Algonac/Clay Library, she inquired about local mountain dulcimer groups. Like us, she received the same response: "What's that?" After a quick trip to her car, Bernie produced her dulcimer and gave a short demonstration. People saw that it's a beautiful instrument, to both the eye and ear, and the library offered to sponsor the class if Bernie gave lessons. The rest is history.

Since, November 2007, our group, the "River Strings of St. Clair County," has gathered 20 members and each one is as unique as their instrument. We play primarily mountain dulcimers, with a banjo, mandolin, bass, guitars, penny whistle and a few silly "toys" rounding out the sound. (We would love to have a fiddler!) We have various backgrounds, skill levels and ages. Five are couples. We come from Algonac, China Twp., Harsens Island, Marine City, Marysville, Memphis, Riley, Romeo and Rochester Hills. Occasionally we're joined by groups from St. Clair Shores and Lexington. If you

are interested in meeting or joining us, we meet Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., at the Algonac/Clay Library. There are no dues or fees thanks to the library's sponsorship.

Our River Strings play list consists of old-time folk and gospel melodies, ballads, gentle waltzes, rowdy fiddle tunes, holiday music and sing-alongs. When we're all together, we can produce a sound suitable for large events. Due to the dulcimer's soft "voice", quiet inside settings are preferred. As mountain dulcimer ambassadors, we've performed at the Algonac/Clay Library, Algonac Musicpalooza, Big River Grille, Border's Bookstore, churches (Marine City Holy Cross, Algonac United Methodist), Emmett's Day, Lexington's Thumbfest, Red Brick School and Museum and the Washington Life Center. We've also attended national workshops held in Kentucky. Locally, Michigan's annual Evart and Midland dulcimer fests offer valuable information, classes and great music presented by excellent instructors. Much information can be found on line.

We invite you to come and discover the mountain dulcimer's



The River Strings in Kentucky

charms Saturday, October 2, as we host nationally renowned instructor Stephen Seifert. He'll present a day of mountain dulcimer workshops from 10:30 a.m.-5:45 p.m. at the St. Catherine's Activity Center, 1106 St. Clair Blvd. in Algonac. Fees are payable at the registration table (\$20 for 1 class; \$35 for 2 classes; \$45 for 3-4 classes). Stephen's 7:00 p.m. concert is free to all workshop

attendees or is \$8 for non-attendees (\$20 per family of 3+). Following the concert, Stephen has invited the public to jam with him. Bring your acoustical instruments or just tap your toes! Stephen's books and CDs will also be available for purchase. For more information, class descriptions and registration, e-mail albaker@glis.net or call (810) 488-1395. 🌱



Fall Open House

Saturday, October 23 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



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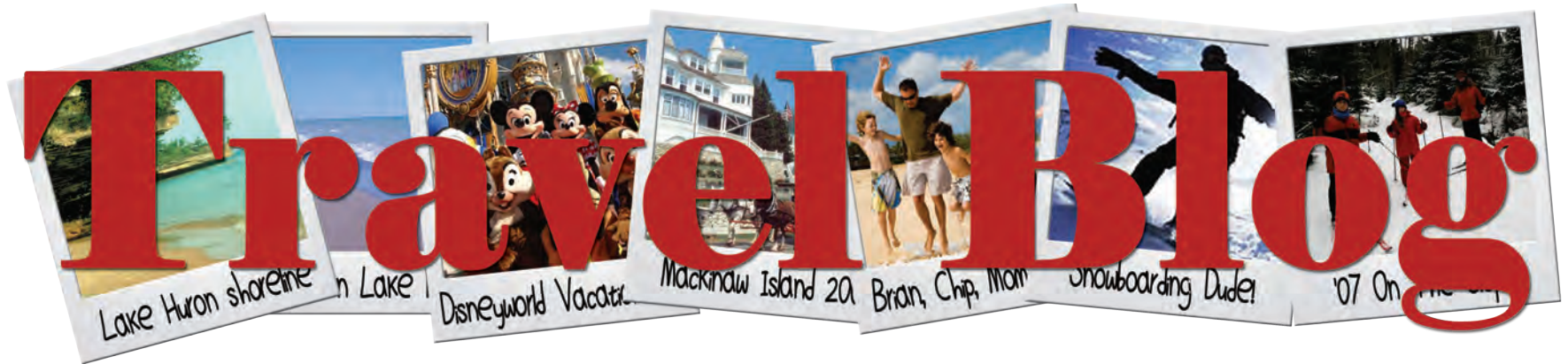
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| | 2000 Dodge Dakota V6., 5-Speed Sale! \$3,585 |



Fall Harvest Campout at Algonac State Park



The perfect fall family get-away would be a camping trip to the lovely Algonac State Park, located right on the gorgeous St. Clair River, where freighters from around the world pass by several times a day.

Even better would be to plan the trip for the weekend of October 8 through 10, when the State Park celebrates its annual Fall Harvest Campout! This weekend of camping fun involves events for the whole family to enjoy.

On Saturday, October 9, there are free coffee and donuts at the host sites in the Riverfront and Wagon Wheel campgrounds in the morning. At lunchtime local donors will be providing free hot dogs, fruit drinks and popcorn at the sites, until they run out. Campers go all out to decorate their camp sites and voting for the best decorated site takes place throughout the day, with one voting ballot being given to each site. The winner is declared on Saturday evening. The winning site and the runner ups will receive prizes donated by local merchants.

The culmination of the fun takes place from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday evening, when all of the trick-or-treaters visit individual camp sites for candy and goodies.

All events for the Fall Harvest Campout, including the trick-or-treating, are open only to registered campers and their bona-fide visitors. More details can

be had by contacting the Park directly at (810) 765-5605. Call now for your camping reservations, as this is a very popular event weekend! 🌲

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Educational Programs at Whispering Pines

Whispering Pines Animal Kingdom offers a "class act" program with rare and unique animals from around the world. We bring about a dozen animals including a young monkey, sloth, hedgehogs, reptiles and more! This animal experience will amaze and educate children of all ages! The program is also great for birthday parties, nursing homes, church functions and more! Don't forget we are still open through the end of October for tours at the facility.

810.359.0039
www.whisperingpinesanimalkingdom.net

PUMPKIN LIGHTS: Family Fun

Continued from Page 1



Over 400 intricately carved pumpkins will be on display at the Night Filled With Pumpkin Light.

family and friends of Foxfire Farm and ABC Home and Commercial Services – and a few volunteers as well. This year added talent will be pooled as a pumpkin carving contest has been added. A top prize of \$150 will be awarded to the winner in the ages 20 and older class, a \$100 prize for ages 13-19 and a \$50 prize for ages 12 and under. All of the entries will be displayed at the Night Filled with Pumpkin Light. (For details on the contest and an entry form, see page 30.)

The Night Filled with Pumpkin Light is anticipated to be bigger and better than ever, with lots of new activities added, including three bounce houses – the Princess House, one based on the *Pirates of the Caribbean* and one from the Disney movie *Cars*. In addition there will be a Creepy Crawly Bug Display (with actual giant spiders, tarantulas, and other insects from around the

world), a straw maze, games and the ever popular Kiddiepillar ride. Food vendors, including Achatz Soups, the Algonac Coney Island with hotdogs, Paul's Bakery with luscious baked goods, Richmond Meat Packers with barbeque, the Sweet Tooth with candy galore and others, will be set up to satisfy the hunger pangs of young and old alike.

Scarecrows entered in the brand new *ThumbPrint News* Scarecrow Contest will also be on display, from traditional figures to contemporary imaginative creations. The contest is open to all ages and there is a \$150 prize for first place! (See the Scarecrow Contest ad and entry form on page 31.)



A highly anticipated new event has been added for those ladies who are brave enough to partake – the Raiders of the Lost Gem Mine. Those daring women who want a chance to earn a \$25 gift certificate to Coughlin Jewelers in St. Clair will be blindfolded and will reach into a tank filled with giant hissing Madagascar cockroaches. The contestant must feel around for a gemstone hidden in the tank to win. How many will dare? We'll have to wait and see! Contestants will make a donation of \$5 in order to participate, which will go towards the Smile Train, a charity which provides free surgery for children around the world who are born with cleft palates. (Foxfire Farm in the



Ladies attending can try their luck at the Raiders of the Lost Gem Mine (see ad on page 3). If you're brave enough to reach into a tank of Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches, you could win a \$25 gift certificate to Coughlin Jewelers. Proceeds for this game will go to the Smile Train.



past has been able to send enough money to the Smile Train to provide for surgery for five children through the kind donations of Foxfire Farm's customers and employees.)

Tickets for the Night Filled with Pumpkin Light are \$4.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children ages 2-12 if you buy your tickets ahead of time. Tickets sold at the door will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 2-12. Children under the age of two are free. Because the popularity of this event has grown tremendously and the crowds are expected to turn out in droves, there will be no parking available at Foxfire Farm. The parking lot will be closed off for the various activities. Instead, parking will be available at 8557 Marsh Road in Clay Township, which is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile south of Foxfire Farm Country Store. This is the former Seaway Drive-In property that is currently owned by the Algonac Baptist Church. The cost for parking is a \$5 per vehicle

donation, which will go to the church. A shuttle will be waiting to drive people to Foxfire Farm and the Night Filled with Pumpkin Light.

For those families looking to do something different this Halloween, the Night Filled with Pumpkin Light in Clay Township is the one event they don't want to overlook. It is sure to become a yearly tradition. 🎃



Pumpkin carvers get ready for the Night Filled with Pumpkin Light.



Family Fun at Foxtire Farm



**AT FOXTIRE FARM'S THIRD ANNUAL NIGHT
FILLED WITH PUMPKIN LIGHT
(SEE AD NEXT PAGE)**

WE'LL HAVE PUMPKINS & MORE!

- 3 Bounce Houses!
- Creepy Crawly Cool Bug Display
- Straw Maze!
- Games!
- Food!
- Kiddiepillar Rides!

**Pumpkin Carving Contest!
Cash Prizes!
(see ad page 30)**

**Scarecrow Contest!
Cash Prize!
(see ad page 31)**

OCTOBER 22, 23 & 24 FROM 7:00 - 10:00 P.M.



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(810) 765-4323

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- CAKES
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Algonac Coney Island

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Foxtire Farm Country Store
8061 Marsh Road • Clay Twp, MI 48001

For more information contact us at 810-794-5108 or email us at ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net

Foxfire Farm's Third Filled with Pumpkin

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

**Foxfire Farm Country Store
Clay Township, MI**

For Presale Tickets call 810-794-5108

Presale Tickets: **\$4.50**
Adults.....
Ages 2-12..... **\$2.50**

Tickets at the door will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for ages 2-12.

Under 2 are free!



Annual Night Light

Plenty of activities for the whole family to enjoy!



Foxfire Farm's Third Annual Night Filled with Pumpkin Light will be held on October 22, 23 & 24 from 7:00-10:00 p.m. There will be more than 400 uniquely carved and decorated pumpkins lit inside our warm greenhouse for the viewing pleasure of everyone in the family! Our goal this year is to get 1,000 pumpkins! This is an event you don't want to miss!



Parking

No parking will be available at Foxfire Farm. Parking for this event will be at The Algonac Baptist Church Events Area, 8567 Marsh Road in Clay Township (¾ mile south of Foxfire Farm, former Seaway Drive-In property). Cost for parking is a \$5 donation that will go to the Algonac Baptist Church. A shuttle will be waiting to drive you to Foxfire Farm and the Night Filled with Pumpkin Light!

RAIDERS OF THE LOST GEM MINE

LADIES:

DIG FOR GEMSTONES AMONG THE GIANT MADAGASCAR HISSING COCKROACHES!

GEMSTONES CAN BE TRADED FOR A \$25 GIFT CERTIFICATE AT COUGHLIN JEWELERS IN ST. CLAIR.

For more information, contact us at (810) 794-5108 or Email us at ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net.





ATTENTION



PUMPKIN CARVERS!

ThumbPrint News Has A Contest Just For You!

Entry fee is \$5. Register by October 20. Your finished, basketball-size pumpkin must be received at Foxfire Farm between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on October 22. All pumpkins will be displayed from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on October 22, 23 & 24 during Foxfire Farm's Third Annual Night Filled With Pumpkin Light.

- \$150 prize for 20 & Older!**
- \$100 prize for Ages 13-19!**
- \$50 prize for 12 & Under!**



ThumbPrint News Pumpkin Carving Contest

8061 Marsh Road • Clay Township • (810) 794-2300

Registration Form: Please include a \$5 payment for each pumpkin entered.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____ Email Address: _____

I will enter _____ pumpkin(s) in the 12 & Under 13-19 20 & Older Category

Payment Method:

- Check (made payable to ThumbPrint News)
- Cash (if mailing or faxing, do not send cash)

| | | | | |
|--------------|------------|----------|------|--|
| VISA | MASTERCARD | DISCOVER | AMEX | Fax this form with your credit card information to 810-794-3288 |
| CARD # _____ | | | | |
| | | | | Expiration date 3 digit code |

Registration forms and fees must be received by October 20. Registration fees are non-refundable. Finished (carved) pumpkins must be at Foxfire Farm Country Store at 8061 Marsh Road in Clay Township on October 22 by 3:00 p.m. to be eligible. Pumpkins must remain at Foxfire Farm from October 22-24 for the Third Annual Night Filled With Pumpkin Light display. Winners will be announced and prizes will be awarded on October 24 at 8:00 p.m. Foxfire Farm and ThumbPrint News are not responsible for the condition of the pumpkin after the event.

Put Your Best Scarecrow Foot Forward!

Scarecrow Contest



Enter your homemade scarecrow in the ThumbPrint News Scarecrow Contest

Traditional Harvest Figures

These scarecrows typically are old-fashioned figures constructed from throwaways from the farm. Clothing, hay, stuffing, burlap, farm implements, farm produce (corn husks, vegetables, pumpkins, etc.) are a few things the traditional scarecrow is made of.

Contemporary Scarecrows

These scarecrows are inspired by storybook characters, cartoon figures, crazy characters, and out of the ordinary situations. This modern scarecrow may also be made of materials using art methods or electronics of today. Collage, ceramics, metal sculpture, plastics, etc., are examples of components that may be utilized. The composition and utilization are limited only by one's own imagination.



Show Us Your Creativity!
\$150 Prize for First Place!

Registration fee is \$5. Minimum size for scarecrow entries is a height of 4 feet, maximum height is 8 feet; and the maximum circumference area is 8 feet. The entire structure is considered to be the dimension of the scarecrow, not the dimension of the actual scarecrow within the exhibit. Your exhibit may include more than one figure but no more than four.

ThumbPrint News Scarecrow Contest

8061 Marsh Road • Clay Township • (810) 794-2300

Registration Form: Please include a \$5 payment for each scarecrow entered.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____ Email Address: _____

I will enter _____ scarecrow(s) in the contest

Payment Method:

- Check (made payable to ThumbPrint News)
- Cash (if mailing or faxing, do not send cash)

| | | | | |
|--------------|------------|----------|-------|--|
| VISA | MASTERCARD | DISCOVER | AMEX | Fax this form with your credit card information to 810-794-3288 |
| CARD # _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | |

Registration forms and fees must be received by October 20. Registration fees are non-refundable. Finished scarecrows must be at Foxfire Farm Country Store at 8061 Marsh Road in Clay Township on October 22 by 3:00 p.m. to be eligible. Scarecrows will be displayed at Foxfire Farm from October 22-24 for the Third Annual Night Filled With Pumpkin Light display. Winners will be announced and prizes will be awarded on October 24 at 8:00 p.m. Scarecrows become the property of Foxfire Farm and may be used throughout the year at the Foxfire Farm Botanical Gardens.



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Mommy Gets Schooled

By Maggie Lamond Simone

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

It was a weird kind of quiet.

The kids were back at school after a long summer and we both had the morning off. After the last bus pulled away we were faced with an almost otherworldly quiet; even the pets seemed to know it was an unusual morning and called a truce to their usual sleep-fueled quest for world domination. My husband and I were drinking our coffee in our usual spots, me in my office and he in his reading chair in the family room.

But it was dead quiet. As the morning progressed, we moved about the kitchen like ghosts, not quite running into each other but not quite acknowledging each other either. There was no tension or anything; there was just . . . quiet.

When I finally spoke, it was as though I were shouting. "Hi," I said. It actually echoed.

"Hi," he replied.

"Um . . . I'm Maggie," I said, putting out my hand.

He shook my hand and replied, "Damn nice to meet you."

"Want to go shopping or something before your afternoon meeting?" I asked.

He was thoughtful for a moment and then said, "That's a good idea. We need to do something together. It seems that we just go from one thing to the next with the kids and don't make any time for us anymore."

It was true. I silently went over the layout of our weeks for the last several months: Mondays and Wednesdays were the girl's karate nights, Tuesdays and Fridays were the boy's workout nights, Thursdays were my teaching nights. By the time Saturday nights rolled around, about the last thing we wanted to do was go out.

And so we rarely, if ever, spent time alone together. Even at nighttime, after the kids go to bed, our conversation is limited by our own different bedtimes; I have found that he's infinitely more agreeable when he's sleeping, but I guess that doesn't really count as conversation. I mean, by definition, it's supposed to go two ways, right?

I think this may partly explain why, that morning, the house was so quiet. It seems we're not used to talking to each other anymore unless it is around the children or about the children or with the children.

We may have actually communicated more when the kids were younger, because we each appreciated the adult conversation the other provided. Now that the kids are providing what is frighteningly close to adult conversation (the occasional "stupid hair" soliloquies of the girl notwithstanding), we have gotten lazy in our efforts with each other. All of our promises to continue dating after the kids were born, to continue celebrating ourselves as a couple, faded away with the business of our children's lives.

When we faced each other across the Kitchen of Echoes, we knew it was time to make a change. So I asked my husband out to dinner, for which I may even wear something other than sweats, and we'll get a babysitter and stay out late like we used to. And then, in a couple weeks we'll do it again – maybe even sooner. Depends on how good a time I have. (Ha! Kidding, honey.)

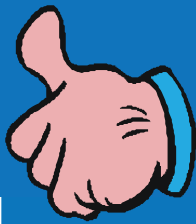
We are so lucky we had that morning off together, because who knows how much longer this would have continued without our even noticing? We could have woken up to a quiet house ten years from now, when the kids are off in college, and realized then that the conversation was gone – and then it may have been too late. Relationships, I continue to learn, are tricky; if you don't work at them, then poof! Someday they could disappear. So don't mind us, kids. Mom and Dad are going to start dating again.

Nothing personal, but we need to make our own noise.

This I've learned: Relationships are a journey, not a destination. Find that person you once couldn't stand to be without and tell him about your day, or ask her about her day, or go shopping together for new dishes. Don't go quietly into that good night!

Editor's Note: Maggie is the author of the book From Beer to Maternity, which captures the wit and wisdom of her adventurous life as a late-blooming adult, and then wife, and then parent, and through it she shares the intelligent and wonderful insights she's acquired with the rest of us. Her 600 to 800 word columns cut through the chaotic clutter of modern life and offer up witty, engaging, funny and occasionally wisdom filled essays on topics that haunt people who balance work, parenting and being married with children. Her articles are warm, heartfelt, thought-provoking, and emotionally enjoyable, almost always laugh out loud till your sides ache commentaries on topics that include dating, spouses, work, marriage, pregnancy, motherhood, kids, parents, and menopause, all carefully developed with the caustic wit and healthy disrespect for perfection – her trademarks – that is uniquely contained therein. 🍀





A Big Thumbs Up to Grandmother Rose

100 Roses for a 100th Birthday

John Shinske of St. Clair recently stopped in to Foxfire Farm Floral Shop in Clay Township to purchase 100 red roses for his Grandmother Rose's 100th birthday. Congratulations, Rose, and *ThumbPrint News* wishes you many, many more years filled with happiness.



John Shinske of St. Clair buying 100 roses for his grandmother's 100th birthday.

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| Price for Fish Dinners: \$8.00 For adults \$4.00 for 5-12 yrs old Free under 5 yrs old Carry-outs available for \$8.00 | | | Price for Chicken Dinners: \$9.00 for adults \$8.00 for seniors \$4.00 for 5-12 yrs old Free under 5 yrs old Carry-outs available for \$8.00 |
| Flea Market 4:00p.m.-8:00p.m. | | | Hooligan Booth Children's Games Concessions 12:00p.m.-5:00p.m. Flea Market 11:00a.m.-6:00p.m. |
| | | Country Store Saturday, October 2nd 12:00p.m.-7:00p.m. Sunday, October 3rd 7:00a.m.-6:00p.m. | POLKA MASS 11:30a.m. Mass with "Big Daddy" After mass, come join Big Daddy under the tent from 1:00p.m.-5:00p.m. |
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**ThumbPrint News
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ThumbPrint News Business Directory

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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.

EXPERIENCED RETAIL STORE MANAGER with at least 10 years experience in management. Managing 10-12 person staff. Fax resume to: (810) 794-3299.

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Messages Carved in Granite

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

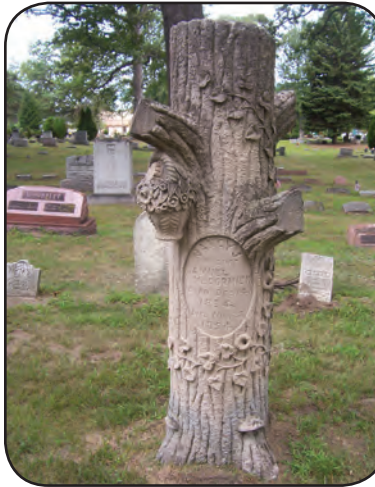
Wandering through a cemetery, especially one that spans a couple of hundred years or more, will yield a wealth of various designs that have been carefully chosen by the living to be carved in to the headstones of their departed loved ones. These religious and secular symbols and emblems can be found on tombstones throughout history. The symbols may represent attitudes towards the hereafter, religious beliefs, membership in an organization, a person's military involvement or the trade in which the deceased was involved. Some of the symbols can be purely for decorative reasons. However, certain symbols and their interpretations are commonly agreed upon by gravestone experts. Here are just a few of the many symbols that can be found:



A bundle of wheat is symbolic of the harvest. Death, in many cultures is known as the reaper, the harvester of souls. The wheat has been harvested and so has the dead person's soul.



A hand with index finger pointing upward symbolizes the hope of heaven.



A tombstone in the shape of a tree trunk is symbolic of the brevity of life. The number of broken branches appearing on the tree trunk may indicate deceased family members buried at that site. Morning glories symbolize the beginning of life.



The urn is commonly believed to testify to the death of the body and the dust into which the dead body will change, while the spirit of the departed eternally rests with God.



The downward-pointing hand signifies a sudden death or the finger of God coming down to select someone to take to heaven.

The most common of the Masonic symbols is the compass and square standing for faith and reason. The letter G usually found in the center of the square and compass is said to represent "geometry" or "God."



The shroud-draped urn is believed to mean that the soul has departed the shrouded body for its trip to heaven.



Laurel fashioned in the shape of a wreath is a common symbol found in cemeteries. It can represent victory, distinction, eternity or immortality.



Many different symbols, including the American flag, soldiers, eagles and the Statue of Liberty, are used to adorn the tombstones of soldiers and to give honor to their service for their country.



A lamb usually marks the grave of a child. The lamb always stands for innocence. Christians go a little further and associate it with the Lamb of God, meaning Jesus.



Love, beauty, hope and unending love are associated with the symbol of a rose.



Ivy carved into a tombstone is said to represent friendship, fidelity and immortality.



Many unique items adorn the tombstones in cemeteries that have special meaning to the families involved, such as this small pair of shoes and socks that decorate a child's grave.



A castle-shaped tombstone is a reference to the Kingdom of Heaven.



Angels found in the cemetery are a symbol of spirituality. They guard the tomb and are thought to be messengers between God and man.



A handshake represents a farewell to earthly existence and God's welcome into heaven.



Seen in both Christian and Jewish cemeteries, the dove is a symbol of resurrection, innocence and peace. An ascending dove, as pictured here, represents the transport of the departed's soul to heaven.



Many external markers adorn the grave of soldiers, such as this one that honors the service of a soldier in the War of 1812. Some are placed there by family members, but many others are placed years later by groups who have done historical research on the graves in their town's cemetery.



The anchor was regarded in ancient times as a symbol of safety and was adopted by Christians as a symbol of hope and steadfastness. The anchor also represents the anchoring influence of Christ. The anchor can also be a symbol for seamanship and may mark the grave of a seaman or be used as a tribute to St. Nicholas, patron saint of seamen.



The mighty oak tree, often represented as oak leaves and/or acorns, signifies strength, honor, longevity and steadfastness.



A book found on a cemetery tombstone can represent many different things, including the book of life, often represented as the Bible. A book on a gravestone may also depict learning, a scholar, a prayer, memory or someone who worked as a writer, book seller or publisher.



The Celtic or Irish cross, taking the form of a cross within a circle, generally represents eternity.

Editor's note: All of the photographs used in this article were taken at Oaklawn Cemetery between Smith Street, Fruit Road and Cemetery Road in Algonac, Michigan. The cemetery was established in the early 1800s and over 400 tombstones can be found standing today.

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Saturday, October 9

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Sunday, October 10

- ◆ Annual Charity Car Show (registration from 8-11:30 am)
- ◆ Live entertainment by Jammin' Jerry
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- ◆ Euchre Tournament: 1:30p.m.

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For car show information or festival sponsorship opportunities, see our website at www.armadafallfest.org or email armadacarshow@gmail.com

Waldenburg: Spotlight

Continued from Page 4

the cemetery behind it reflect many of the names of the early German settlers.

In March of 1860, the Macomb post office was moved to Waldenburg where it remained until 1903. It was connected by a semi-weekly mail line.

Just a little north of Waldenburg proper was located the Waldenburg Skimming Station which ran in

connection with the Chesterfield Creamery, which was the market used by the prosperous farmers in the area.

In addition to Waldenburg, there was a North Waldenburg (located at 23 Mile and Romeo Plank) and a South Waldenburg (located at Hall Road and Romeo Plank), which was also known as "Bobcean's Corners." Today, a park near 23 Mile and Romeo Plank has been named for that settlement. The park sits on 17 acres and offers a children's play area, picnic pavilions, a basketball court, two sand volleyball courts, restrooms and a walking trail.

Waldenburg's fertile farm lands are giving way to ever growing numbers of subdivisions. The four corners now have little left of



Urban sprawl threatens historical areas of Waldenburg, such as the original cemetery.



early Waldenburg. Stier's Hardware store, which was in business for over 50 years, is now closed. The Waldenburg Bar is still a local favorite as it has been for over 50 years. Originally located on the opposite corner where a party store now stands, it's upstairs housed a dance hall that was the gathering spot of the community in it's time.

Other than the few remaining buildings, modern urbanization is creeping in, from the gas station, to the fast food restaurant, to the strip mall that threatens to put the last remaining visions of old Waldenburg permanently out of sight and out of mind as has happened to so many other small towns in the Thumb area of Michigan. That would be a shame. 🍀



A party store now operates in the building that at one time held the community dance hall.

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Thumb Area Residents Receive Their Mail in Style!

By Ralph McKinch

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Mailboxes have been the accepted receptacles for receiving letters for over 450 years. In 1653, a Frenchman, De Valayer, established a postal system in Paris. He set up mail boxes in select locations and would deliver any letters that people placed in them – providing that they used envelopes that only he sold! His business ended, however, when a competitor of his started depositing live mice into the mail boxes!

By the late 1700s, mailboxes were being used throughout Paris, France. They were not in wide-spread use in Europe until the late 1880s when the British Post Office began mail delivery and asked customers to install mailboxes instead of picking up the mail at the local post office.

The oldest recorded mailbox in the U.S. was set up in East Quogue, New York, at the corner of Boxtree Rd. and Lewis Rd. It is now displayed in a local museum.

The Rural Free Delivery (RFD) was introduced by the U. S. Postal Service in 1896. Because the rural customers' homes were so scattered, it was proposed that mailboxes be placed at the edge of the road to save time and money in delivering. These early mailboxes were often just tins, baskets or wooden boxes in which the mail could be deposited.

In 1915, Roy J. Joroleman, a postal employee, invented the curved, tunnel-shaped mailbox that is the most common form today. It was designed to keep water and snow from collecting in the mailbox. By 1923, the U.S. Postal Service required that every

household have a standard mailbox to receive mail, rather than a container of their own choice. Since that time, the U. S. Postal Service has had the authority to approve all curbside mailboxes, which are always stamped with "U.S. Mail" and "Approved by the Postmaster General."

Regardless of that, Thumb area residents have come up with some very creative ways to receive their mail. Take a look at the photo essay below of unique mailboxes that were photographed in the *ThumbPrint News* delivery areas – and, if you have a mailbox that you think beats these, please send an email and a photo of the mailbox (in jpeg format) to thumbprintnews@comcast.net. You may just see YOUR mailbox in a future edition of *ThumbPrint News*. 🍀



Thumb Area Activities & Events for October 2010

If you have an event in November that you would like listed in the November issue of *ThumbPrint News*, please email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by November 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

Davison – October 8 & 9

Pumpkin Festival, downtown area. Picturesque downtown Davison is the setting for Davison's annual Pumpkin Festival. This annual festival begins on the second weekend in October on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. with the Do Da Parade and ends with the Pumpkin Drop on Saturday night. There are family activities for all ages. Lots of great food! Other activities include demonstrations, games, craft vendors and musical entertainment. Fill your senses at this awaited traditional event. (810) 653-2191.

Goodrich – October 30

Howl'o'ween Pet Parade. For more information call (810) 636-2857.

Huron County

Caseville – October 2 & 3

8th Annual Pumpkin Fest, County Park Village downtown. Previous events have included pony rides, music in the park, bike drawings, a pumpkin seed spitting contest, pumpkin decorating and much more. (800) 606-1347.

Pigeon – October 10

Tasting Pleasures of the Thumb, Laker High School, between Elkton and Pigeon on M-142, 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. This benefit "tasting" event is sponsored by the Scheurer Hospital Auxilliary. Thumb area restaurants will be contributing their time and talent to make this the best event yet. Tickets are \$15 each and may be purchased in advance at Scheurer Hospital, Thumb National Banks, Independent Banks and Bay Port State Banks in the Thumb area. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Scheurer Hospital Equipment Fund.

Lapeer County

Almont – October 9

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

Lapeer – October 30

Pumpkin Fest & Treat Walk, Courthouse Square and various downtown businesses, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Carve

a free pumpkin on the Courthouse lawn then collect treats from downtown businesses. Call (810) 272-7202.

Macomb County

Mt. Clemens – October 2

Cemetery Walk, Crocker House Museum, 15 Union St. A separate funeral tea will be held. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. www.crockerhousemuseum.com.

Richmond – October 2 & 3

St. Augustine Country Store, Parish garage, 68035 Main St. Hours are Saturday from noon-7:00 p.m. and Sunday from 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Garden produce, a bake sale and crafts, a quilt raffle, Christian faith articles and handmade rosaries by the Parish Rosary Makers will all be available. Call (586) 784-4128.

Fraser – October 3

Barn Sale Clearance Sale, Fraser Historical Commission, Baumgartner Museum, 18577 Masonic, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Mt. Clemens – October 9

17th Annual Historic Homes Tour. Buses depart from the Roskopp Parking Lot next to the Anton Art Center at 125 Macomb Place. Tours begin at 9:00 a.m. and run every 20 minutes thru 2:00 p.m. Tour lasts approximately two hours. Tickets \$12.

Richmond – October 13

Seminar on Residential Care Facilities, Lois Wagner Memorial Library, 25200 Division, 11:00 a.m. A 30 minute presentation followed by a 20 minute Q & A session will be conducted by a presenter from the Attorney General's Senior Brigade Program. (586) 727-2665.

Oakland County

Oxford – October 3

Michigan Military Moms, American Legion Hall, 130 E. Drahn Rd., 1:00 p.m. We are a support group for moms with sons and daughters serving in the United States Military. For more information visit www.michiganmilitarymoms.org.

Holly – October 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 & 30

Holly Shop of Horror – 7 Lakes of Terror, Seven Lakes State Park, 14390 Fish Lake Rd., 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. each night. Adults are \$10, children 12 and under are \$5. Unlimited weekends pass is \$25. This year's charity is Children's Village of Oakland County. www.hollyshopofhorror.com.

St. Clair County

Smiths Creek – October 1

American Legion Post 525 Fish Fry, 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, \$6.50 for adults. Soft drinks are available for purchase.

Marysville – October 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Farmers Market, Marysville Knights of Columbus #9526, corner of Range Rd. and Ravenswood, rain or shine. Plants, vegetables, arts and crafts, garage sale items, and baked goods are available. Call (810) 364-6800.

Algonac – October 2 & 3

21st Off Our Rocker Variety Show, Algonquin Middle School, 9185 Marsh Rd., 7:00 p.m. on Saturday and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday. Show is presented by the Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St. in Marine City. Ticket prices are \$8 for adults and \$3 for children 10 and under and may be purchased ahead of time at the Washington Life Center, or at the door before the show. Call (810) 765-3523.

Avoca – October 3

62nd Annual Harvest Turkey Dinner, Avoca Community Hall, 5396 Kilgore Rd., 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Adults are \$10, ages 6-10 are \$6 and ages 5 and under are free. All you can eat! Many different baskets are also being raffled off. We are also looking for crafters for the November 13 Christmas Bazaar. Call (810) 324-2257 or (810) 324-2895.

Marysville – October 3

All You Can Eat Bacon, Egg & Pancake Breakfast, Marysville Masonic Center, 1569 Michigan Ave., 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Adults are \$5, children 4 and under are free. Call Al Johnson at (586) 907-7125.

Clay Township – October 5

Algonac Lions Lioness Club Fundraiser, McRae's Big River Grill, 9715 St. Clair River Rd., 11:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m. A portion of proceeds from food sales at McRae's during these times will be donated to the Algonac Lions Lioness Club, which helps the club continue their work in supporting various community charities. Call (586) 948-5465 or (586) 295-6504.

Marine City – October 5, 12, 19 & 26

Farmer's Market, Parker and High Streets, next to the Marine City Library, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Fresh local produce, mums, pumpkins, apple cider, bread, baked goods, handcrafted birdhouses, potpourri, handmade soaps, Michigan honey, maple syrup and more are available. A hot dog stand is on site. The event is sponsored by the Marine City Chamber of Commerce. (810) 765-4501.

Port Huron – October 5, 12, 19 & 26

Knitting Classes, Port Huron Senior Center, 600 Grand River Ave., 1:00 p.m. Supplies are included to get you started. A donation of \$2 per class is suggested. Call (810) 984-5061.

Port Huron – October 6

Regular Meeting of the Great Lakes Nautical Society, Maritime Center, 51 Water St., 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested

or might be interested in building model boats are welcome to attend. Visit www.glns.org for more information.

Kimball – October 6, 13, 20 & 27

Bingo, Marysville Knights of Columbus Hall, 4521 Ravenswood, 6:30 p.m. (Doors open two hours prior to the start of Bingo.) For more information, call (810) 364-6800.

Lakeport – October 7

Fire Department Visit, Burtchville Township Library, 7097 Second St., 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Join us as we learn about fire safety and climb aboard the "big red truck"! Meet Fire Chief Mark Harrington! Call (810) 385-8550.

Port Huron – October 8

Homeschool Open House, Port Huron Library, 210 McMorran Blvd., 10:00 a.m. Find out what your library has to offer homeschooling families! Tour the library, meet other families and enjoy refreshments. Registration is required. Call (810) 987-7323.

Algonac – October 9

Flag Retirement Ceremony, Algonac State Park, M-29, 2:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 296 of Marine City will be collecting worn and tattered American flags at two locations, the Marine City Fire Department, 200 S. Parker St. and the Marine City United Methodist Church, 102 N. Main St. People can also drop off flags with Troop 296 members. Call (810) 765-1482.

Port Huron – October 9

Scary Halloween Hallow 5K Cross Country Run, Central Middle School, 200 32nd St. The cost is \$20.00 for adults and \$15.00 for students. There will also be a 1.5 mile fun run/walk at a cost of \$12.00. For more information visit <http://home.comcast.net/~phhsrunning/>.

East China – October 10

Sentimental Journey, Red Brick School House, 696 Meisner Rd., 2:00 p.m. Jean Bastian will be talking about playing in all-girl bands during World War II. This retired Marine City High School band director will also discuss her life-long musical education, inspirations, East China School District's first music program, theatre and community bands. Donations are accepted. Call (810) 765-4663.

Algonac – October 12

Genealogy Lecture: Castle Garden, by historical genealogist Robert Brenner, Algonac-Clay Branch Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 6:00 p.m. Follow our German ancestors as they arrived by ship and were processed through the Castle Garden Immigration Center during the period 1855-1890. See the New World as the emigrants themselves saw it when they first set foot on American soil. Registration is required. Call (810) 794-4471.

Marysville – October 12

The World of Frank Lloyd Wright, Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware,

6:30 p.m. This informative travelogue by Michael Artman will feature homes like the Meyer May House in Grand Rapids, Taliesin West in Scottsdale, Arizona and Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania. Also featured is a literary travelogue on Loving Frank by Nancy Horan. Sponsored by the Marysville Friends. Call (810) 364-9493.

Capac – October 12 & 26

Small Wonders, Capac Library, 111 N. Main, 11:30 a.m. Let us introduce your child to the world of literature! This rich assortment of stories, poems, nursery rhymes and simple crafts can stimulate their imaginations and enlarge their world. Also helps to develop important skills in listening and group behavior. For ages 3-5. (810) 395-7000.

Port Huron – October 13

New Fall Classes Starting in Sign Language, Port Huron Senior Center, 600 Grand River Ave., 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. every Wednesday for six weeks, with sessions ending on November 24. (There will be no class on Wednesday, October 27). Please RSVP at (810) 984-5061.

Fair Haven – October 14

Astronomy Night, Ira Township Branch Library, 7013 Meldrum Rd., 7:00 p.m. Observe the moon, Jupiter and Uranus through binoculars and a telescope. Call (586) 725-9081.

Marine City – October 14

Mom's Night Out, Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker, 6:30 p.m. Mom – do you need a night out? Join us for an hour of crafts and girl talk! (810) 765-5233.

Kimball – October 16

Art & Craft Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 4521 Ravenswood, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. A bake sale and used book sale will also take place. The event is sponsored by the Marysville Knights of Columbus Council #9526 Ladies Auxiliary. (810) 364-6547 or (810) 364-5064.

Marine City – October 16

Love Letters, United Methodist Church, 102 N. Main St., 7:00 p.m. In honor of Sweetest Day GEM Theatrics announces a one night only performance of A. R. Gurney's Love Letters. This will be a great evening out, with a dessert reception following and a chance to mingle with friends and meet the actors. Ticket prices are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. For advanced tickets contact Chris Finsterwald at (810) 765-4492, or mail a stamped self-addressed envelope with the number of tickets requested and payment to Chris at 421 S. Elizabeth, Marine City, MI 48039. Sales at the door are cash/check only. Log on to www.gemtheatrics.com.

St. Clair – October 16

Slimy Saturday, St. Clair Library, 310 S. Second St., 11:00 a.m. Make some slimy, gooey, slippery concoctions using everyday household items! Ages 5-11.

Yale – October 16

Paint a Pumpkin, Yale Library, 2 Jones St., 10:30 a.m. Have fun decorating a real pumpkin that you can take home and enjoy with your family! Ages 12 & under. This event is

sponsored by the Friends of the Yale Library. Call (810) 387-2940.

Marine City – October 21

Dinner with the Doctor, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 6:00 p.m. In honor of Spinal Health Month, Dr. Christopher Zimmer from Zimmer Chiropractic will be doing a presentation with time afterwards for questions and answers. Dinner is a delicious vegetable lasagna. The cost is \$8.00 per person and reservations must be made no later than Monday, October 18. For questions or to make a reservation call (810) 765-3523.

Algonac – October 22, 23 & 24

Annual Night Filled With Pumpkin Light, Foxfire Farm Country Store, 8061 Marsh Rd., 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. each night. Enjoy more than 400 uniquely carved and decorated pumpkins lit inside a warm greenhouse. Other activities include three bounce houses, a creepy crawly bug display, a straw maze, games, food vendors and kiddiepillar rides. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children ages 2-12. Under 2 are free. (There is a small charge for some of the additional activities.) Also, don't miss digging for gemstones inside the cage of the giant Madagascar hissing cockroaches! If you find a gemstone, you can trade it in for a \$25 gift certificate at Coughlin Jewelers in St. Clair. No parking will be available at Foxfire Farm. Parking for the event will be at the Algonac Baptist Church Events Area, 8567 Marsh Rd. Cost for parking is a \$5 donation that will go to the church. A shuttle will be waiting to drive you to Foxfire Farm and the Night Filled with Pumpkin Light. For more information, call (810) 794-5108.

Casco – October 23

St. Peter Lutheran Church Market Place and Craft Show, Perch Point Conservation Club, 7930 Meisner, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Lunch will be soups and chili, a bake sale, a cookie bar and pie by the piece. Tables are available for \$25 each. Call (810) 765-8161.

Port Huron – October 27

St. Clair County Family History Group, Port Huron Museum, 115 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. DVD presentation by Bob Cambell with Lake Huron Lore interviewing the late Bob "Lighthouse" Handford on the Huron Lightship. Mr. Handford worked at the Fort Gratiot Light Station, Port Huron, and died on Friday, June 4, 2010. It is also Family History Month and there will be door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Anyone interested in local history or researching their family tree is encouraged to become a member of the group or to just attend one of the programs. More information can be found on the web site www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miscfng/ or call (810) 989-0399.

Marine City – October 29

Trunk or Treat, Holy Cross Church parking lot, 610 S. Water St., 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Come and join us for some Spooktacular fun! The cost for the event is \$2 per child and includes a bounce house, entertainment, games and prizes for the best decorated vehicle

and best costume. Space is limited. For more information call (586) 405-5432.

Marine City – October 29

Fall Fest, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary, 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Enjoy Good Ole' Country Days with dinner, dancing (with the COA's Country Band), bingo, euchre, a craft, line dancing and Texas cards. The cost is only \$8.00 for everything! Sign up now at any of the four COA senior centers county wide. Call (810) 765-3523.

Memphis – October 30

Halloween Party, Memphis Library, 34830 Potter St., 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. You don't have to wait until dark for the fun to begin for the whole family! Creepy crafts, ghoulish games, spooky snacks and a costume contest! For more information call (810) 392-2980.

Sanilac County

Lexington – October 9 & 10

Oktoberfest Weekend, downtown area. Come and have fun with the whole family – music, dancing, brats, beer, wine and German food. Call (248) 705-0260.

Port Sanilac – October 16

Boofest, Port Sanilac Museum front lawn, 228 S. Ridge St., 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Fun activities for the whole family to enjoy. Call (810) 622-9946.

Lexington – October 23

Fall Flannel Festival, downtown area, 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Crafts, kid's games,

costume and dog contest, cider, donuts and entertainment are all available. This event is sponsored by the Lexington Business Association. (810) 359-7201.

Tuscola County

Vassar – October 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 & 24

Mid Michigan Renaissance Festival, 7464 Frankenmuth Rd., 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. each day. Ages 13 and older are \$9, ages 6-12 are \$7 and 5 and under are free. Call (810) 208-1766 for more information or visit www.midmichiganrenfest.com/Web/.

Caro – October 6 – 10

30th Annual Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival, downtown area. This annual festival is the premier fall festival in the Thumb of Michigan. Painted and decorated pumpkins from area schools are on display. In addition there are five full days of activities for the whole family to enjoy, including a kick off tailgate party, euchre tournament, free matinee at the Strand Theatre, White Pumpkin 5k road race, dragsters and funny cars, annual car show, craft vendors, fine art display, fireworks, bake off/cook off of pumpkin recipes, a pancake supper, a food court, scarecrows, inflatables, children's crafts and face painting, pumpkin pie sales, an entertainment tent, a grand parade and much, more more. Visit www.tuscolapumpkinfest.com/schedule.php for a calendar of events for each day.



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What Happened On This Day in History?

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

October

1 On this day in 1908, Henry Ford introduced the Model T car at a cost of \$825.

2 On this day in 1955, *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* premiered.

3 On this day in 1863, President Lincoln designated the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.



4 On this day in 1648, Peter Stuyvesant established America's first volunteer firemen.

5 On this day in 1947, the first Presidential address was televised from the White House (Harry S. Truman).

6 On this day in 1893, Nabisco Foods invented Cream of Wheat.



7 On this day in 1913, Henry Ford instituted the moving assembly line.

8 On this day in 1944, *Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet* debuted on CBS radio.

9 On this day in 1915, Woodrow Wilson became the first President to attend a World Series game.



10 On this day in 1971, the 5th Country Music Association Award was given to Charlie Pride.



11 On this day in 1811, the *Juliana*, the first steam-powered ferryboat, began operation.

12 On this day in 1609, the children's rhyme *Three Blind Mice*, was published in London.

13 On this day in 1792, *Old Farmer's Almanac* was published for the first time.

14 On this day in 1980, Bob Marley put on his final concert.



15 On this day in 1860, 11-year-old Grace Bedell wrote to President Lincoln, telling him to grow a beard.

16 On this day in 1869, a hotel in Boston became the first to have indoor plumbing.



17 On this day in 1919, Radio Corporation of America (RCA) was created.

18 On this day in 1867, the United States took formal possession of Alaska from Russia (\$7.2 million).

19 On this day in 1879, Thomas Edison demonstrated the electric light.



20 On this day in 1817, the first Mississippi "Showboat," left Nashville on its maiden voyage.

21 On this day in 1868, there was a severe earthquake at 7:53 a.m., centered in Hayward, California.



22 On this day in 1819, the first ship sailed by the Erie Canal (Rome-Utica).

23 On this day in 1915, the first national horseshoe throwing championship took place (Kellerton, Iowa).

24 On this day in 1901, the first woman went over Niagara Falls in a barrel (Anna Taylor).

25 On this day in 1825, the Erie Canal opened linking the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean.

26 On this day in 1774, Minute Men were organized in the colonies.

27 On this day in 1925, water skis were patented by Fred Waller.



28 On this day in 1858, Macy's Department Store opened in New York City.



29 On this day in 1929, the stock market crashed (Black Tuesday), triggering the "Great Depression."

30 On this day in 1873, P T Barnum's circus, "The Greatest Show on Earth," debuted in New York City.

31 On this day in 1962, Barbra Streisand's "People," album hit #1 for five weeks in a row.

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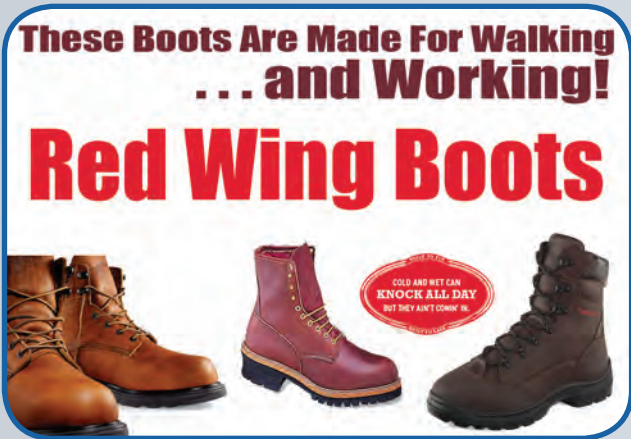


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ThumbPrint News Contest

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 November edition as well as information about the object or place. The top photo is of last month's object. Several readers were close in their guesses, thinking it was a noise maker, but no one correctly identified it as a Victorian bird scarer.

This month we are asking the question, "Where is it?" Identify where you can find the spooky tree in the photo on the right. 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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October 22, 23 & 24 – Third Annual Night Filled with Pumpkin Light
 See our ad on Page 28.

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
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December 16-23, Every Night from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. The Seventh Annual History of the Christmas Tree Walk
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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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 - 4) A plugged filter
 - 5) The field

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BARN AGAIN!: Kozuchowski Barn

Continued from Page 7

been singled out for this award – the Fitzpatrick Barn in Beaverton, owned by the Leo Fitzpatrick family.

Editor's Note: Below is the information Mitchell Kozuchowski submitted to ThumbPrint News about the timeline of the restoration.)

The farm proper, located in Sanilac County, Michigan, has been in the Kozuchowski family for over eighty years. My grandparents had originally purchased the farm – a farmhouse, barn and some outlying buildings – in the mid-1920s, intending to use it as a retirement home. The barn was completed on July 13, 1868. I discovered a very worn front page from a local newspaper on one of the walls in the barn. The builders had pasted it there. The date is still (albeit barely) legible.

At the height of the Great Depression my grandmother lost her husband, her retail business (a grocery store) and her house in Detroit in quick succession. In what friends thought a foolhardy move, she packed up her belongings and, with my then seven-year-old father, her only son, moved out to the property permanently to attempt to set up a full-time farming operation.

Nicknamed “Little Orphan Annie” by the locals, my grandmother often relied on transients made homeless by the Depression for labor, offering them food and shelter for a day’s work. In those days the barn housed cattle and horses and was used for hay storage. My grandmother and father survived by milking cows and raising turkeys and chickens.

From the late 1940s through the late 1980s my father, my mother and

eventually six siblings ran a thriving dairy farm, which supported between 50 and 60 cows. The barn was used for daily milking, housing calves and hay storage and had an attached pen barn for young heifers. Over time, several new buildings were added to the complex.

In the late 1980s, with most of us kids grown and moved away, my parents sold the livestock and ceased all work on the farm. Neglect accelerated the decline of the farm buildings, which by now comprised the barn, a farmhouse, a granary, several shanties, four silos and a 40’ x 80’ tool shed. In the mid-1990s, the fields (160 acres) were rented to a crop farmer.

In April of 1999, shortly after my father passed away, I began preliminary renovations on the farm. I had just left my corporate staff job as a TV producer in New York City and had the luxury of time on my hands. By then the barn had sat in disrepair for well over a decade.

With my mother’s encouragement and support I decided, as a tribute to my father’s life work, to attempt to bring the family farm back to its former glory. I would fund, oversee and work on the re-construction of the farm myself with the help of some local friends.

We worked on most of the buildings and the property at the same time. I have separated our efforts into separate chapters.

The Barn Story

The first project was to cut off the lean-to/pen barn, which was on the verge of collapse and threatened to take the entire barn with it. When we began this project, the barn was leaning 16 inches. We stabilized the barn with industrial cable and slowly pulled it back in to plumb.

We then repaired major crossbeams and poured cement to replace the flat rock that the major vertical support beams were originally built on. We also removed the old silo room lean-to on the north end of the barn.

Next we replaced the rotten (and in places non-existent) exterior boards with new tongue-and-groove boards. Almost all of the exterior lumber was sourced locally from an Amish lumber yard 15 miles away. We also commissioned to be built two wood/metal sliding doors to replace the old wooden ones, which fell apart years before.

Other early renovations included reframing all of the barn windows and putting in plexi-glass to replace the broken glass. Outside shutters were built and installed for protection against vandals. Once the wood and window work was finished we repainted the outside of the barn and began roof repairs.

The exterior of the barn hadn’t seen a paintbrush in over 30 years. We applied a minimum of five coats of paint by hand. We painted the roof with silver/metal paint, tarred the valleys on the barn and added

new lightning rods with cable. We replaced all of the old roofing nails with galvanized screws with rubber washers. The screws did a great job sucking in the tin and the rubber washers covered old leaks.

I decided to rebuild the old barnyard fence, purely for aesthetic value. I purchased about eighty 10’ x 6’ posts and the lumber for the boards at the Amish lumber yard. A half bag of Quik-Crete went into each posthole. We used screws instead of nails the entire length of the fence. As a final touch I added new metal gates.

Next we rebuilt and re-latched most of the barn doors and hay mound doors were rebuilt and re-latched. Virtually every major horizontal support beam was replaced. We also added smaller support beams throughout the barn and replaced large sections of the hay mound floor. We re-wired the entire building, put in new light sockets and added lights in the hay mounds.

Another major project was painting the interior of the barn. The barn hadn’t been whitewashed in the past 20 years, but since there were no plans to resume full time milk-



The Kozuchowski barn before restoration began

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ing, I felt that it was best to paint the interior rather than whitewash it. That would also help keep down the fly and spider population. Clearing out the barn proved a lengthy undertaking – over the years of neglect lumber, hay, straw and numerous odds and ends had piled over knee high inside.

The clearing was followed up by several days of power washing the entire lower interior and ceilings. After waiting a month for the building to thoroughly dry out, we painted the barn interior with three thick coats of white paint. Subsequently I added rain gutters to the roof to help keep water away from the structure.

Eventually I decided to take down the lone silo on the south end of the barn. It was beyond salvage. The bands were slipping and the inside chute was infested with wasps. I found an Amish farmer who was skilled at “dropping” silos. He chopped it down in short order; much in the way one would fell a tree.

Some of the most recent work completed was to the east end of the barn. The three floor mounds were cleaned down to the clay ground

(probably the first time in 50 years) so more cement could be poured for the main interior vertical support beams. We also poured cement to go around the end of the barn and ground level hay mounds, replacing the old rat wall.

Once this was finished I brought in several hundred yards of sand to level the mounds and also poured a new exterior walkway. The wall between the mounds and the barn still needs to be rebuilt. These ground level mounds will eventually be turned into a small horse stable.

In addition we ran a water pipe from the well to the milk house and put in a new cement floor, which includes a new drain. I added a water heater, a sink with hot and cold water, a wash tank and a shower.

I added two crushed-limestone drives. One goes into the barnyard and the second goes from the road to the ground hay mounds. We are now able to easily bring equipment in and out of that area of the barn.

The Tool Shed Story

When I began working on the tool shed (80x40), it was filled with old rusted junk equipment, used tires

and tractors that hadn't run in over a decade. The first order of business was to clean out enough room to operate. Hundreds of tires were taken out and properly disposed of. The junk equipment had to be pulled out and placed outside to be scrapped.

All of the tractors were overhauled – except for the IH 806 Diesel, which was still in good condition. We bled the fuel lines, fixed the radiator, installed new tires and batteries and sold it. I also sold an old IH “H”-tractor with loader. The tractors that I overhauled and still have are a classic McCormick-Deering W-30, an IH – “M”, and an IH – “H”. They are all in perfect running order and are regularly used.

After the tool shed was cleared, I tore out the shanty inside of it and added several hundred yards of sand and put in a five-inch cement slab floor. The floor has a dual drainage system for easy drainage when the shed gets its regular power washing. I then built a new workbench and added shelving units to properly store parts, tools and equipment that were still useable.

We then built and installed new metal sliding doors for each end of the structure. Both the doors and their ends of the building were insulated and finished. We also reframed the windows and added plexi-glass to replace broken panes. The front and back exterior walls were painted by hand several times.

Like the barn, we painted the roof with silver/metal paint, tarred the valleys on the barn and added new lightening rods with cable. We replaced all of the old roofing nails with galvanized screws, which had rubber washers.

I ultimately put in a new crushed limestone driveway in front of the

tool shed. It has held up well over eight years, handily eliminating the mud and water puddles that were a constant problem in accessing the building. I then cleaned out the back yard of the shed. I scrapped the junk equipment, brought in hundreds of yards of sand, then topsoil and re-seeded it with grass.

Eventually I re-did the electric, and put in a refrigerator, a wood stove, and a Brunswick tournament pool table. It's something that I always wanted to own and it's a great way to wind down from a hard day's work on the farm. The tool shed is (as it always was) the hub of activity on the farm

The Property Story

The farm consists of 160 acres. There is a road that runs through it and splits the property in half. On the south end of the property the road runs into another road to form a “T”. In effect there are 80 acres on one side of the “T” and 80 acres on the other. The barn and tool shed sit on the east side of the road and the house sits opposite.

In the mid-1990s, my father began renting the fields to a crop farmer who did a wonderful job of turning the (then) eight small fields into (now) two large ones. Fence and tree lines were taken out to neaten up these uniform wide-open parcels of land. However the areas immediately surrounding the house and barn were in shambles.

I began my landscaping efforts by scrapping or selling the junk equipment and old vehicles that littered the property. Several industrial sized dumpsters were brought in to dispose of other scrap metal. We filled at least a half a dozen. This was an ongoing project for many years. 🌱



The home that sits on the property.

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 425 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 Nevada, in Georgia and in California!

This month, Clarence Van Camp took a copy of *ThumbPrint News* to the American Trap Association Grand American AIM Nationals competition in Sparta, Illinois (see article following), where he earned a silver medal. Congratulations Clarence!

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

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!



Clarence VanCamp took a copy of *ThumbPrint News* to Illinois.

Local Shooters Score at the American Trap Association Grand American AIM

By Jean Van Camp

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

On August 7 and 8, 2010, over one thousand shooters, ages nine to twenty-three from all over the USA, took part in the American Trap Association (ATA) Grand American AIM (Achievement – Integrity – Marksmanship) Nationals held at the World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta, Illinois.

Eleven members (a Graduate team, a Junior team and an alternate) of the Huron Pointe Sportsman's Association Youth Shotgun Program participated. The Junior team consisted of Dominique Ruggirello of Romeo, Henry Stallman of Lenox, Adam Castleman of Durand,

Lance Adams of Durand, Nicholas Krasny of Grand Blanc and alternate Matthew Davis of St. Clair Shores. The Graduate team members were Clarence Van Camp of Marysville, Mike Sintebin of New Baltimore, Ben Wallace of St. Clair Shores, Steve Hawley of Macomb, and John Adams of Durand. The Graduate team who took first place in the Michigan State AIM shoot continued their winning streak by placing second in the Nation earning silver medals. Clarence Van Camp also earned an individual silver medal after taking part in a tie breaker by shooting 25 birds straight and Mike Sintebin won first place in Graduate Class C. Steve Hawley's

name was drawn to receive a \$1000 ATA scholarship to use at the college of his choice. The proud coach of this team is Vaughn Van Camp, with team coordinator Jean Van Camp.

If it weren't for the club members, parents, families and donors to the HPSA Youth Shotgun Program, these youngsters would never have had an opportunity like this. Next

year they are hoping to defend their title and hoping that their other teammates get a chance to share the excitement. For more information about or to make donations to the HPSA Youth Shotgun Program, please contact the Van Camps at (810) 364-6321. For additional information about the National ATA AIM program, check out their website at AIM4ATA.com. 🇺🇸



From left to right: Johnathan Adams, Clarence Van Camp, Steve Hawley, Coach Vaughn Van Camp, Mike Sintebin, Ben Wallace



From left to right:
Lance Adams,
Nicholas Krasny,
Dominique Ruggirello,
Adam Castleman,
Henry Stallman



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Halloween Double Trick or Treat Word Search



Try to fill in the answers to the Halloween riddles below. Then, find all of your answers in the pumpkin word-search below. If you can't figure out some of the riddles, the answers can be found on page 54.

1. What is a vampire's favorite fruit? _____
2. What does Frankenstein do on Mother's Day? He sends a dozen roses to the _____ company.
3. What kind of boat do vampires like best? _____ vessels.
4. What holiday do vampires celebrate to show their gratitude for all the good food they've had this year? _____
5. What should a person do if they are afraid of dying in bed? Run to the _____ room.
6. What's the best way to get into a locked cemetery at night? Use a _____ key.
7. Why is the letter "E" like death? Because it's always at the end of _____.
8. Why does Frankenstein love good riddles? Because they keep him in _____.
9. Why are vampires crazy? Because they are all _____.
10. What did the doctor give the witch who had a sore throat? _____ drops.
11. What do you get when you cross a witch with an iceberg? A cold _____.
12. What kind of witch lives by the sea? A _____.
13. What do lady ghosts put on their skin? _____ cream.



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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KIDS KORNERS

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Hey, kids, did you know that October is National Pizza Month? Americans eat billions of slices of pizza every year; in fact, the average person consumes 23 pounds of pizza annually! According to a recent Gallup Poll, children aged three to eleven prefer pizza over all other foods for lunch and dinner.



So, in honor of National Pizza Month, let's take a look at some interesting pizza facts:

- The word "pizza" was originally spelled "pitsa".
- "Pizza" means "pie" in Italian.
- Pizza was created over 500 years ago by the women of Naples, Italy.
- Saturday night is traditionally the biggest night of the week for eating pizza.
- More pizza is eaten during Super Bowl week than any other week of the year.
- America's favorite pizza topping is pepperoni and the least favorite is anchovies.
- Mozzarella cheese was originally made from the milk of water buffalo.
- Americans eat 90 to 100 acres of pizza per day.
- In the United States alone there are about 61,269 pizza restaurants.
- The world's first pizzeria opened in 1830 and the pizzas were baked in an oven lined with lava from a real volcano.
- The first American pizzeria opened in New York City in 1905.
- The first American pizzas were known as Tomato Pies.
- American soldiers stationed in Italy during World War II (1941-1945) returned home after the war with a growing taste for pizza.
- Frozen pizza accounts for 7.4 percent of the total frozen food sales in a grocery store.
- The largest pizza company in the world is Pizza Hut.
- The largest pizza order ever came from the VF Corporation in North Carolina who ordered 13,386 pizzas for its 40,160 employees nationwide.
- The largest pizza ever made was on December 8, 1990 at the Norwood Pick 'n Pay hypermarket in Johannesburg, South Africa. According to the Guinness Book of Records the pizza was 122 feet 8 inches in diameter and weighed 26,883 pounds!
- The longest pizza ever made was in Krakow, Poland, on August 30, 2010 when a 1093 yard long pizza was created by the Chefs from Magillo Pizzeria. They used 3.5 tons of flour in their creation. Proceeds from the project will go to charity.

Did you know that there are many, many children's books that have been written about pizza? October would be a great month to pick up a few at your local library or bookstore. Here are three of my favorites:



Pizza Kittens
By: Charlotte Voake
ISBN # 0763616222

If you are a cat lover (or even if you are not), you will enjoy the madcap adventures of the story of this cat family as the adult cats have differing ideas from the kittens on what is good to eat for dinner. The story communicates love, tenderness and caring – and the benefits of compromise. The wonderful illustrations can be enjoyed by even the youngest members of the family.



Pete's A Pizza
By: William Steig
ISBN # 1591127408

Pete is unhappy. He wants to go outside to play ball with his friends, but it is raining. To cheer Pete up, his father decides to pretend to make Pete into a pizza! As father and son interact in a silly, but charming way, Pete's mood begins to improve, to the point where he breaks out laughing. By the time the sun comes out and Pete can go outside to play, you almost wonder if Pete would rather stay inside and continue enjoying this wonderful game with his father.



"Hi, Pizza Man!"
By: Virginia Walter
ISBN # 0439199867

While waiting for their pizza to be delivered, Vivian and her mother wonder who will deliver it to their door. Will it be a pizza man or a pizza woman – or could it even be something more unusual, like a pizza cow, a pizza dinosaur, a pizza snake or a pizza duck? Even more hilarious are the ways Vivian imagines she would greet a pizza creature, should one show up at her door.

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Bring Back the Summer Memories and Share Them with Your Kids

(ARA) - Remember the summer days when you held a camping adventure under the stars in your own backyard, played board games with your parents or enjoyed an ice cream bar on a hot night? Do you remember learning to ride a bike through the neighborhood, waving to everyone sitting out on the front porch or working on their landscaping?

Now that you have children of your own, summer is a great opportunity to repeat those memories and share them with your kids. Here are two ideas to bring back the memories:

Camp in the backyard

Remember making s'mores and chasing fireflies while camping in your backyard? Recruit help from your kids to set up the campsite and then spend the afternoon playing games, looking at the clouds and talking about bugs. After grilling out and roasting marshmallows over a fire pit, make the experience an educational one and teach your children about the planets and stars they'll be sleeping under.

Decorate the sidewalk

Who hasn't drawn oversized pictures on the sidewalks and driveway? Bring the kids outside for a day of fun and creativity. Decorating the sidewalk with chalk drawings is a creative outlet for young artists. Trace the outlines of your kids' bodies and teach them about different body parts. And there's easy clean-up - either wait for rain from Mother Nature or wash away the art with a hose for a clean canvas 🌱

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