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# ThumbPrint News

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SEPTEMBER 2012



## Inside This Issue

**PAGE 5** Cow\$ & Football



**PAGE 8** **FREE** Yellow Jacket Treatment



**PAGE 23** We Get Letters!



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## PLANES, MOTORCYCLES AND AUTOMOBILES

### STARRING THE KODET FAMILY OF EAST CHINA

**By Keith Kodet**

*ThumbPrint News Staff Writer*

I am an adventurer. Whether by bike, on foot, by car, whatever, I have a deep need to travel. My wife, Katie, says I have "gypsy blood." Over the years, I've built up a shipping business that allows me to feed this need.

I was contacted a while ago to do a charter trip offering round trip service for bikes (motorcycles) to Alaska this past July. I jumped at the opportunity and decided to make this a family vacation that my children, Preston (age 8) and Abigail (age 5), pictured here at the Alaska state welcome sign, would not soon forget!

The first leg of the trip was to run from my home base

See *ALASKA TRIP*, Page 14



The article below originally appeared in our August 2012 edition of *ThumbPrint News*. However, we inadvertently gave credit for the article to Charles Homberg (Mr. Homberg submitted the wonderful article "The First Public School to Fly the US Flag" which appeared on page 9 of the August issue). The byline should have gone to William Easton. Mr. Easton has been a guest writer for our newspaper on numerous occasions and we thought it only right to reprint his story with the proper byline. Our apologies to Mr. Easton, and our thanks to Mr. Homberg for pointing out our error.

## Gratiot is a Familiar Name In Our Area, Although Difficult for Outsiders to Pronounce

**By William Easton**

*ThumbPrint News Guest Writer*

The name Gratiot that appears so commonly from Detroit to the southern tip of the Thumb was that of Captain Charles Gratiot Jr. who was responsible for the construction of Fort Gratiot, located near the mouth of the St. Clair River in St. Clair County, Michigan. Although the fort is long gone, the subsequently built lighthouse and the

prospering township both bear his name.

Gratiot was born in 1786 in the city of St. Louis in the Missouri Territory. At that time, it was still owned by Spain, although with the Louisiana Purchase from France, it became integral to the new nation's western expansion. His

See *GRATIOT*, Page 32



*Fort Gratiot Light Station at the turn of the twentieth century*

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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 Manager:**

Scott Zimmer (810) 794-2300

**Graphic Design:**

Nancy Birch Paul Bujak

**Newspaper Staff:**

Louise Allen Keith Kodet

Laura Irwin Ralph McKinch

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

We are so excited that we can't even wait to share the news with our readers near the end of this month's newspaper.

Drum roll please . . .

*ThumbPrint News*, in our quest to have it travel with our readers around the world, had been to six of the seven continents. Now it has finally made it to the seventh – ANTARCTICA!

Trying to get a photo from Antarctica was quite a challenge but, thanks to the combined efforts of Nancy Birch, one of our graphic designers, and Elaine Hood, the ASC Communications Specialist and Antarctic Photo Librarian from Colorado, it happened. When our request for an Antarctica photo with *ThumbPrint News* in it reached Elaine's desk mid-summer here, but mid-winter in Antarctica, this is the reply we received:

"Your request has reached my desk and yes, I am sure we can help you. It is the middle of winter darkness and isolation at the South Pole right now, with a few dozen hardy souls working mostly indoors due to the 24 hours of total darkness outside.

I would like to suggest that we ask someone at Palmer Station, which is 'under' South America. Palmer has about an hour of

sun visibility this time of year and therefore a photo taken outside would not be such an outlandish request.

Since we cannot mail anything this time of year (no flights/no transportation = no mail) we will have to rely on PDFs."

Thank you to Elaine and to the wonderful people at Palmer Station who gave up part of their only hour of daylight that day to take this wonderful photo!

Ken Keenan, Palmer Station Winter Site Manager, handled the logistics on their end. In the photo, (from left) Bruce Carpenter, Rachel Javorsek and Sean Bonnette are in a boat south of Anvers Island in the Southern Ocean (close to the Bismarck Strait). Bruce is the one holding *ThumbPrint News*. Clair Von Handorf is in another boat taking their picture. We appreciate them taking the time to do this, especially during the brutally cold weather in Antarctica.

*ThumbPrint News* has REALLY been traveling the world! *ThumbPrint News* has been to the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada,

See FROM THE EDITOR, Page 22



SAVE  
THE  
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9TH ANNUAL  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
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### December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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A large underwater photograph showing a red and white fishing bobber on the surface. A fishing line extends from the bobber down to a large, brilliant-cut diamond ring that is hooked on a fishing hook. The background is a clear blue sky with light clouds, reflected in the water's surface.

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# YUM in the THUMB

By Ralph McKinch

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

In the Letter from the Editor in the August edition of *ThumbPrint News*, it was suggested that we should start a new column devoted to reader recommended eateries in the Thumb of Michigan. This is our first column and highlights a few of the responses that we have received. Remember, these are READER recommendations. The staff of *ThumbPrint News* may or may not have eaten at the featured restaurants and cannot vouch for the recommendations given, but apparently some of readers think these establishments are among the best.

To start off with, we received this letter in support of the idea of our new column:

Dear Editor,

*I just read your letter in the latest ThumbPrint News and I like your idea. My wife, a culinary graduate, and I enjoy dining-out and have talked about co-writing critiques on local eateries.*

*The 2008 downturn in the housing market caused many to reassess the allocation of their disposable incomes and led to institutional lending reform which was felt across the business sector. Fortunately, that is not what my wife and I have experienced in the last few years. The places that we visited have been busy. Some prices have increased and some coupons have diminished. Many times beverages and menu items have been sold out.*

*It would appear that many of the unique restaurants come and go primarily with the changes in our local transportation infrastructure and business demographics (location, location, location). Also, a few previously family-owned and operated*

*restaurants in the Clay and Ira townships, some historical, have closed or are struggling due to mismanagement of new inexperienced entrepreneurs.*

*Perhaps your query from readers will provide valuable information to restaurant owners of customers' expectations in order that they may provide a pleasant experience and the owners will be cognizant that they may be reviewed in a local paper by everyday customers and that may change their mindset in a positive manner so they may thrive. A benefit for all communities. Good luck!*

Ed Hadam

Next we heard from Suzanne Stasa from Imlay City, Michigan, who counts as one of her favorite places to eat **Tony Cavis' Pioneer Bar & Restaurant** on 5600 Lapeer Road in Kimball, Michigan, (810) 984-1635. She says:

*Tony Cavis' Bar & Restaurant has great Reubens! They use real corned beef. They also have great steak for a super price and fantastic onion rings. I drive 35 miles one way just to get their Reubens and order several and take them home to freeze and eat later. The atmosphere is just a little hometown diner, and the locals love this place!*

Chris Kemp who lives in White Lake, Michigan, but spends the summers in Lexington, had this to say:

*Love your idea about places in the Thumb. We live in Lexington during the summer, and it's slim pickin's for restaurant choices!*

However, Chris does offer a few of her favorite picks in Lexington:

- **Beck's** for breakfast (Beck's Village Café & Ice Cream), 5349 Main St., (810) 359-8686



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- **Wimpy's Place** for great gut bomb food, 7270 Huron Ave., (810) 359-5450
  - **Steis'** for out of sight pizza (Steis's Village Inn), 5523 Main St., (810) 359-5090
  - **A&W** (always tasty and no surprises), 5309 Main St., (810) 359-8522
- She also suggests the nearby eatery:
- **Chicken in the Rough** in Port Huron, 1535 Pine Grove Ave., (810) 985-9838

Chris would also like to see us compile a booklet of Thumb Area Eateries, which is something we may consider if our readers continue to send in their recommendations.

So, do you have a favorite eatery to recommend in the Thumb area of Michigan? If so, please tell us all about the restaurant. What makes it special? What kind of décor does it have? What would be your menu recommendations? Please include the name of the restaurant, the address and phone number as well. If there is a website, that is always helpful. We also need your name and city of residence. If you can take a photo or two of the inside and outside of the restaurant, or of one of the menu items you are recommending, that would add to the column. Email your information to [thumbprintnews@comcast.net](mailto:thumbprintnews@comcast.net).

Bon Appetit! 🍴



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# OF COWS AND FOOTBALL

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

What is September without high school football? According to my father, the answer was “nothing,” but the cows almost prevented him from playing the game he loved so much. Possibly, I should explain.

I am the first in my family’s genealogy extending back several hundred years to have not been raised on a farm. It would be difficult, if not impossible, for me to have anywhere near a meaningful discussion about life on a farm if not for the stories of my paternal grandmother and her oldest son, my father.

I can recall Grandma telling of her experiences raising a family on a farm near Richmond, Michigan. Most of her tales related to the 1930s, obviously the most difficult period for her family as well as many others depending on farming during the Great Depression.

My grandparents never owned a farm and relied on renting land with a house to serve as both their home and source of income. Most of her days would be consumed with canning fruits and vegetables, cooking and baking on an old wood stove, washing clothes on a washboard, then drying them on a clothesline, butchering chickens, collecting eggs, churning butter and so on. Certainly not the way most of us would want to spend our waking hours.

My grandfather spent most of his day, as long as there was light, in the fields working the farm he depended so much on. From time to time he would find temporary employment as a carpenter, which took him from the daily tasks that a working farm demanded. It was during these periods of time, especially, that he required so much of four of his five children – the boys. My father was the oldest and was given a greater share of the jobs to be done on the farm.

As I was growing up Dad would occasionally talk about his younger boyhood tasks of hoeing corn in the hot sun or having to rise early to milk the cows before going to school and to do it again when he returned home. He enjoyed the times he could escape for a few hours in the local swimming hole or just playing in the woods. That was his life, and then something happened – football.

I suppose it was difficult for a high school football coach to field a team in a farming community. Many of the boys, big and strong enough for the sport, were needed on the farm, especially during

harvest time, which conflicted with the football season. It was no different for Coach Ben Boldt of the Richmond High School team.

The coach encouraged my father to become a member of the team. At nearly 200 pounds, he was just what the team needed at tackle. Dad told the coach that his chores would preclude him from joining the team. The coach, however, decided not to accept no for an answer and paid a visit to my grandparents.

To shorten my story just a little, the coach convinced Dad’s parents that the team would be so much better with him as a member and how much it would help my father’s development of competitiveness. He said that Dad’s oldest brother, Fred, could assume the cow-milking chores during football season, something I’m confident my uncle wasn’t happy with. The coach must have been an effective salesman because my father became the team’s starting left tackle in his freshman year.

Although Dad loved football and talked about the game often, it was my grandmother who proudly expounded upon his ability to play the game. She seemed to remember each game he played and I suspect that she was really part of the coach’s sales effort in convincing my grandfather to allow him to play.

Many of the memories of that time, including newspaper articles and memorabilia regarding the football team, were lost in a small chest in which my mother was saving them. My sister, Linda, recently completed a research project that produced copies of several *Richmond Review* articles that supported what my grandmother so enthusiastically talked about. Her pride was not misplaced.

One article from September 1935 related how Wes Gillis intercepted a pass to set up a play that won a game against rival Yale. He repeated the play in another game with St. Clair four weeks later. In 1936 and again in 1937, the year he co-captained the team, he was named to the All-Thumb and the Tri-County grid teams. An article in the December 1937 issue of the *Review* said of his selection, “In making these teams



Richmond High School Football Team, Blue Devils, circa 1935 – known also as the “Boltsmen,” according to several news articles of the time. Wes Gillis is third from the left in the middle row and Coach Ben Bolt is on the far right.

Wes was probably the outstanding lineman of the group . . . without a doubt, is one of the best linemen to ever represent the Richmond school . . .”

Richmond High School produced a number of excellent football teams during

the late thirties and early forties. But, none were as great as those on which my father played according to his greatest cheerleader – my grandmother. And to think, a cow may have prevented that all from happening. 🐮



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## YOUR INCREDIBLE, EDIBLE BACKYARD

By Stella Otto

ThumbPrint News Columnist

### Fall is a Great Time to Divide and Conquer

By early fall many of our gardens are past their prime and even the most committed gardener is tiring of keeping up on the endless picking of fruits, veggies and flowers. There is, however, nothing quite like the satisfaction of conquering some of the over growth of a successful season. September, with its cooler temperatures and more reliable rain, offers the perfect time for dividing perennials, such as daylilies, iris and hosta. Planting bulbs in anticipation of spring is also ideally done this month.

When you are dividing large overgrown clumps you have several choices - dig up, thin out and replant in the same location; give the excess away to a neighbor or trade for plants you don't already have; or start additional flower beds.

Dividing can be done in four easy steps. When starting a new planting, it is important to first have a prepared bed ready and waiting for the new divisions. To start your division, cut the old, fading foliage back to about six inches. Be careful not to damage any new growth that is starting to emerge from the center of the flower fan. Cutting back the foliage will make the clump easier to handle. Removing old leaves will also reduce disease spread once the divisions are replanted.

Next, with a good spading fork, loosen the clump all the way around. For large deep rooted plants, don't be surprised to find that you may have to dig down 12 inches or more. Once it is loose enough,



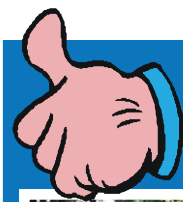
lift the complete clump up out of the ground. Sometimes it is easiest to set it on a tarp or open newspaper as you shake off the excess soil around the roots.

Now, with two spading forks back to back, insert them into the center of the clump and scissor them back and forth to pull the clump apart. You may need to use a knife to cut

some of the intertwined roots on a really large clump. Then divide each section a few more times until you have clumps with healthy roots and three to four fans of foliage. The youngest and most viable replants will usually come from the outside of the original clump. The old woody center can be added to the compost pile.

To keep roots from drying out, plant immediately into the newly prepared bed or refresh the old bed with aged compost and replant. Set plants about two feet apart, spreading the roots out. Cover with about an inch of soil and water well. 🌱

*Editor's note: Stella Otto is an award winning author, horticulturist, and Master Gardener instructor. Her books The BackYard Orchardist: A complete guide to growing fruit trees in the home garden and The BackYard Berry Book: A hands-on guide to growing berries, brambles, and vine fruit in the home garden are available as signed copies at her website [www.stellaotto.com](http://www.stellaotto.com). Also at her website, find The Backyard Fruit Gardener with information and a subscription "Ask the Expert" Q&A resource for all of your fruit gardening needs.*



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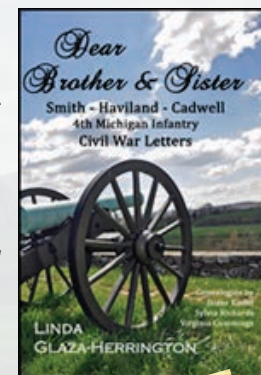
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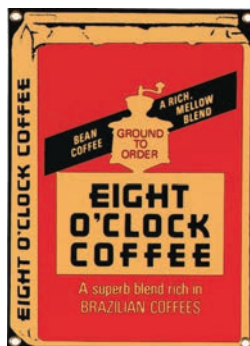
## LIFE LESSONS LEARNED AT THE GROCERY STORE

By William Easton

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

I watched the young man roll carts back into the supermarket where I shopped. I was reminded of those high school years when I had worked at a small grocery. Those two years were profitable – not only for the college savings – but also for the business experience lasting my working lifetime. No, I did not continue in the grocery business, although having watched the movie *Iron Lady*, I was impressed that Dame Margaret Thatcher rose from helping out at her father's grocery to become Britain's Conservative Party Prime Minister.

The county seat where I was raised had a population of about 5,000. At least four small chain grocery stores did a brisk business in the 1950s. Also, there was a meat market and a bakery. My mother didn't drive, so for the years my father was in World War II military service, she often took me, her youngest, on the almost daily trip to bring home provisions we could carry. If I had been a good helper, my reward was one of those bakery jelly donuts sold two for a nickel. My parents shopped at the A&P store closest to our home. When I got a job at the smaller Grand Union store in the next block, they switched patronage, although my dad missed his "Eight O'Clock Coffee."



Both of those groceries had begun in the mid-Nineteenth Century as tea importers. The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company (A&P) and Grand Union, its name capitalizing on the victorious side in the Civil War. Apparently the settlers from Great Britain still preferred tea, so long as it was not taxed. During that period there were separate shops that sold meat (butchers), produce (green grocers), and dry products, including canned goods. So customers walked from store to store on a daily basis, necessary because this was before the electric or gas refrigerator. Eventually, these shops merged into a full service grocery. But grocers still picked out the requested items from shopper's lists, something my store continued to do for a few customers in the 1950s. The first self service supermarket might have been a Piggly Wiggly in Memphis, Tennessee, about 1916.

My Grand Union was a small store with just two main aisles, but it still offered a variety of foodstuffs, including produce, meat and dry goods. Besides the manager, its payroll included a couple of matron cashiers (who wrapped sanitary napkins in plain brown paper when not ringing up the cash register). There usually were a couple of part time high school boys like me. We worked after school, on Saturdays – including Saturday night when the neighboring farm families came to town to shop, hear the village band play, and compare notes on milk prices. We were needed on delivery day when tractor trailers pulled into the back alley to unload boxes down a chute into the back door. Some of the contents went immediately to replenish depleted shelves, while others were stored in the basement. I dawdled down there sometimes so I could sneak a warm soft drink and cookies or crackers from a damaged box.

I was schooled in the grocery business; how to fill customer's orders, how to arrange produce, how to bring dairy products forward so old ones sold first. Another "trick" was to repackage cold cuts so the freshest looking slices were on the outside. Price changes had to be made weekly as directed from the regional headquarters. That meant erasing inked numbers with a damp cloth or steel wool and stamping on the new price. Most of all I learned to be polite to customers, applying courtesy I had learned at home. I found merchandise they wanted, carried bags to cars parked along the street or in the back alley. I was told that not all soft rotting produce was to be discarded but to be saved and sold at a reduced price for



A look at a vintage Grand Union grocery store

elderly patrons such as my relative whose teeth couldn't manage firmer pieces.

One of the proudest moments of my young life was when the manager took an unusual few days off leaving me in charge, or so I thought, since I had the key to open and close and knew where petty cash was hidden over night – behind the Libby's peas, maybe. Referring to this assignment, the manager wrote in a letter of support for a college scholarship, "I delegated authority to him because I knew that he was honest, trustworthy and capable to take responsibility." (I should have felt guilty about that purloined soda

and cookies that he must have known about).

I hope that the high school student I saw pushing grocery carts receives similar training and experience. There is much to be learned from grocery store employment. 🌱



Vintage 1949 A&P advertisement

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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 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 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 of pressure, as you could puncture a hole through the drywall.

**Call ABC immediately!**

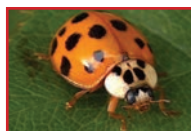
## CLUSTER FLIES & MULTI-COLORED ASIAN LADY BEETLES!

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).

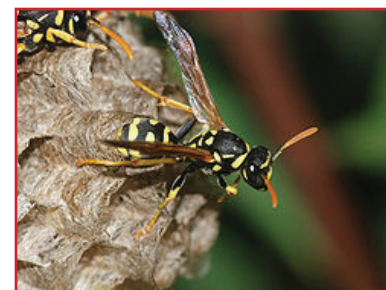
These flies make irritating, buzzing noises, spin around and move sluggishly. They can also leave a greasy spot on upholstery, carpets, wood, and other surfaces.

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.



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This offer cannot be combined with any other offer and is for the treatment of yellow jackets only. One discount per household. Free offer is for a one-story yellow jacket nest. Additional nests found will be treated for an extra charge. A separate estimate will be provided if the yellow jackets have broken through the drywall and are entering into the home. Free yellow jacket treatment offer expires September 30, 2012.

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## JOE KNOWS

**FORECLOSURE - YOUR RIGHTS AT A GLANCE**

**By Joseph McKoan**

*ThumbPrint News Columnist*



Many good people are still finding themselves in a desperate struggle to keep their principal residence. As a result of the still lagging economy, unemployment and underemployment, you may be one of those people who are potentially faced with a pending foreclosure.

How do you cope? What assistance is out there? Is there anything you can do?

If you find yourself in this difficult situation, I strongly advise you to take advantage of the Michigan foreclosure relief law, implemented to assist homeowners in retaining their home.

First, be aware of the 90-day pre-foreclosure negotiation period. This requirement was implemented in 2009 and is effective until December 31, 2012.

Essentially, this puts the burden on the lender to negotiate, in good faith, with the homeowner in an attempt to avoid foreclosure. The lender is required to send to the borrower a notice. Essentially the notice must comply with seven specific requirements and time frames. It is advised to consult with an attorney or other qualified individual familiar with these statutory requirements to be assured the lender has completely complied.

Once the borrower has complied with a notice requirement, it is up to you, the borrower, to respond within 30 days from the date of mailing. If you do not respond within the specified time limit, the presumption is that you have opted out of this process and the lender has the absolute right to proceed with foreclosure by advertisement.

Your response should include a request for a meeting with the lender or lender's designated agent. The borrower, attorney or housing counselor can do this. Once the borrower or its designated representative contacts the lender's designated agent in writing, the borrower desires to negotiate a loan modifica-

tion and a meeting will be scheduled.

Within 60 days of the mailed notice, the borrower must provide the lender's designated agent (not the lender or servicer) with specific documents for the purpose of helping to decide whether the borrower is eligible for a loan modification.

At the meeting, insist that someone is present who has the authorization to modify the loan and offer other loss mitigation alternatives in order to satisfy the intent of the law. If the borrower does qualify for a loan modification, relief can be but an agreement away. However, if the borrower qualifies, but does not sign a loan modification presented in good faith within 14 days after it is offered, lender may pursue foreclosure by judicial action.

Keep in mind that even though the lender is not obligated to enter into a loan modification, the lender is obligated to completely comply with the process. And the law is geared to give the lenders the necessary incentive to comply, negotiate in good faith and come to a fair agreement with the borrower. So, become educated and informed of your rights if you find yourself in this situation, and avail yourself of the relief of which you are entitled. 🌱

*Attorney Joseph McKoan is the third generation of his family to practice law. The McKoan family has served the Thumb of Michigan for more than 65 years and Joe continues this tradition by helping Thumb area residents with their legal issues. Joe can be contacted by telephone at (888) 818-3446, or email Joe at JMcKoan@mckoanlaw.com.*

*The information within this article is for general information purposes only. It is not legal advice and should not be relied upon as legal advice. You must not rely upon any of the information provided within this article as an alternative to legal advice from a lawyer.*

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# THROUGH Laura's LENS

By Laura Smith  
ThumbPrint News Columnist

## Making Vacation Photos Fun and Interesting

Ah yes, vacation time. The time we take our digital camera with us to capture those fun moments or those special scenery shots. Some photographers, when taking photos of people or plants, will use the principle of the rule of thirds. This is where one imagines breaking a rectangular image down into grids of thirds (both horizontally and vertically) so there are nine sections. You then center your subject according to the space it occupies in the rectangular grid. However, most people have a natural sense of geometrics, balance and depth perception, and therefore frame the subject or scenery artistically in the frame. Here are some hints for taking scenery and people photographs:

- When people go to some place new, they tend to just point and shoot. For example, I have seen countless Hawaii vacation and honeymoon photos where there are at least twenty five photos of pineapples, coconut trees and Diamond Head. Eventually, people end up throwing those photos out. When doing scenery photography, sometimes at first glance what one might think is a good photo, turns out not to be. I like to study my surroundings and look through the view finder at different angles until I find what I want.
- Most scenes should be wide angle if there is no specific object that is being photographed.
- When photographing plants, animals, lakes or insects, place them in the center of the frame. Also block out the surrounding fauna or other material and zoom in and fill the frame.



- When traveling in other parts of the world, if the local people see you take a photo of them, they may approach you and ask for payment. Best practice is to use a telephoto lens from a distance so the person will not see you. Especially, when it comes to photographing children

— just do not walk up and snap away — parents do not like that.

- When you are visiting a park where there are Indian ruins, pyramids or unique trees and plants, study and look at the textures, composition, and the nooks and crannies. It is surprising what you may see or find. Then zoom in or turn the camera at different angles and take the photo.
- Look at the ground where you are walking — you may see something interesting, such as lizards, snakes or unique insects.
- Look up — you may see unique things such as birds, monkeys or tree tops. It is also a safety factor. Coconuts fall and monkeys throw things at people below.
- When a scene has a mountain in it, try to move the mountain to either side of the frame so it slopes in gracefully into the middle.
- Don't forget to remember to turn the camera vertically and use wide angle when the scene warrants.
- Sometimes people can make a scene interesting. This photo of the bridge spanning the water would be an average and boring photo without the people.



With practice and patience, your vacation photos will be fun to take and become keepsakes forever. 🍀

Laura Smith lives in New Baltimore, Michigan and is a professional photographer who started her business back in 1990. Laura will be offering tips to photographers of all skill levels — from beginners to professionals. Laura's website is [www.photographyplusbylaura.com](http://www.photographyplusbylaura.com).

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# The Angel Advisor

## What Your Skin is Telling You

By Jeffrey Johnson

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

At birth, we are given this nearly perfect and amazing body – its intricacies and artistry combine to make one fantastic machine. However, unlike most machines, our body is not always easily repaired and parts are not for sale in your local Wal-Mart. As a result, we need to pay attention to what is going on inside and outside our body to avoid, or at least repair, problems as they arise and become insurmountable.

This brief article was taken primarily from a piece found on [www.care2.com](http://www.care2.com), written by Paula Spencer, Senior Editor of Caring.com. Our skin is our body's largest organ and it serves to protect us from bacteria while also providing information on heat, cold, pain, and regulates our body temperature – it is often the first indicator of something wrong on the inside of our body. Below is a list of “red flag skin issues” that could and should be monitored in an effort to maintain overall body health:

1. Yellow skin, orange palms and soles. This could be a result of an underactive thyroid gland (hypothyroidism). This indicates that the thyroid is not processing vitamins as well as it should, resulting in an abundance of beta-carotene (thus the orange color to the skin). Overall, this condition generally corrects itself over time with a good, solid diet. However, if left unattended, it could lead to heart problems.

2. Breaking out in hives (in the sun). Unless you are allergic to the sun (possible, but not common), this condition might indicate the ingestion of a photosensitive drug. Usually limited to areas of the skin exposed to the sun (i.e., forearms, neck, etc.), this condition is often longer lasting and more severe than sunburn. Some of the drugs often associated with this condition are: thiazide diuretics, antihistamines, tetracycline, and tricyclic antidepressants.

3. Long dark lines in the palm. This can be an indicator of adrenal insufficiency (Addison's disease). A result of this skin indicator can be lower blood pressure and a full blown Addisonian crisis, which can be painful, involve vomiting, dehydration, and loss of consciousness.

4. Large dusky blue leg veins. Venous/varicose veins can be nothing more than unsightly; however, they can also be a sign of your veins no longer working properly. The condition can be treated

with simply exercises or may require surgery.

5. Brownish spots on the skin. Often called diabetic dermopathy, it is a condition (often found with diabetics on the front of the legs – where people bang into things frequently) that can often leave unhealed sores. Although not a serious condition in and of itself, diabetic dermopathy can be an indicator of the sufferer having diabetes.

6. Persistent rash that you want to scratch raw. This could be an allergic reaction to gluten. Often found in small clusters on the elbows, knees, back, face and scalp; they could be the classic signs of celiac disease (dermatitis herpetiformis). A blood test and a biopsy of the small intestine may be required to diagnose this condition.

7. Purple stains or splotches. Purpura, or leaking blood vessels, looks like a bruise, but last longer and is often the result of years of neglect or abuse of the skin (i.e., sunburns year after year). Other factors that can lead to Purpura are excessive use of aspirin, Vitamin E or blood thinners (such as Coumadin). It is important to have your physician take a look at these “bruises” to evaluate them in combination with medications you are taking and your life style.

8. Intense itchiness without redness. This may be a sign of pruritis (an early sign of some form of lymphoma – sometimes called “Hodgkin itch”). If accompanied by a swelling of the lymph nodes in the neck, armpit or groin, clearly a doctor's review is warranted.

9. Pallor, especially with blue tinged nails. This may be a form of severe anemia, or iron deficiency. Often poor diets are the cause and correcting your diet can repair such an illness. However, your doctor may prescribe an iron supplement to help alleviate the problem.

10. Tingling skin followed by a rash on only one side of the face or body. Usually diagnosed as “shingles,” this can be a very painful condition brought on by stress, infection, certain medications, or even an aging immune system. These red bumps can appear to be similar to chicken pox, and in reality, are caused by the same virus as those that cause chicken pox. Again, a doctor's visit is called for in these situations.

The old adage remains true to this day: “Take care of your skin and it will take care of you.” 🌿

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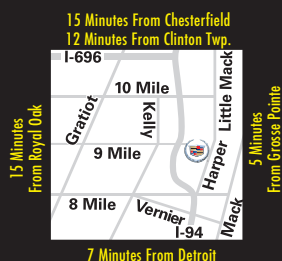
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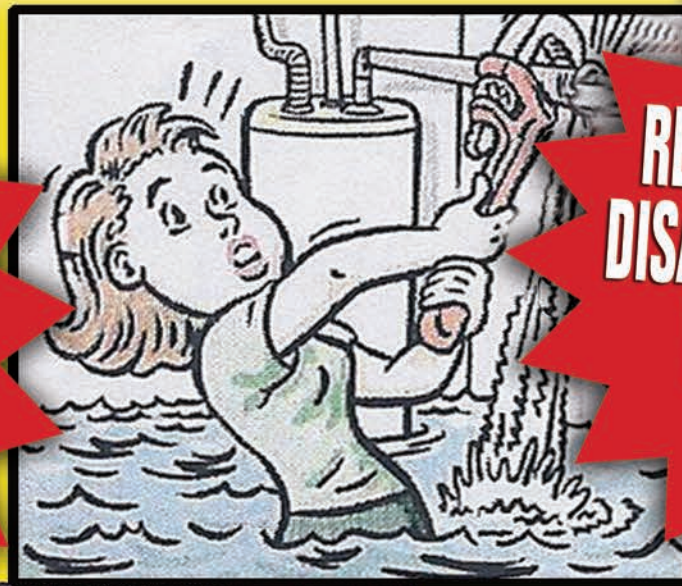
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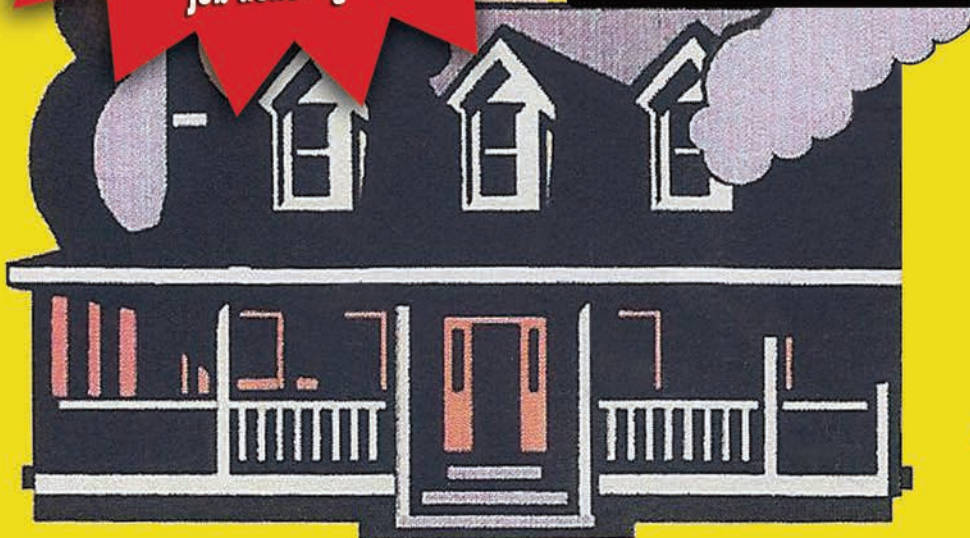
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**ALASKA TRIP**

Continued from Page 1



of Michigan down to Florida and South Carolina to pick up the first group of bikes. The trip down was mostly uneventful. My rig isn't exactly considered "fancy digs." It is a 1997 Dodge Ram powered by a Cummins Diesel engine. The truck, which has been mostly built by me, is about 400 hp with a 2011 6-speed manual transmission. As of this writing, it has 543,000 miles on the ticker. My trailer is a 42-foot enclosed unit.

Once I arrived in Florida, the real fun began. I happened to show up smack dab in the middle of Tropical Storm Debbie. Many areas were flooded. It became impossible to drive in it, so I spent some sleepless time in a flooded rest stop. The weather cleared the next morning, and I was able to drive to Sarasota to pick up the first set of bikes. Shortly after picking up the bikes, nature called. With no bathroom to be found, I turned down an uninhabited road to do my business.

Mid-"business," my legs started to burn intensely. I looked down to find hundreds of red imported fire ants stinging my legs. I attempted to run, dance, finish up, and swat my legs, all at the same time. I probably looked like a crazy guy having a seizure.

For the first few days, I felt only minor itching on my legs from the fire ants. Then, the burning got worse. Bumps appeared on my legs that then turned into boils, which then burst, leaked, bled, etc. It was quite nasty, and my legs took quite a time to heal. I'll spare you the worse of it.

After leaving Florida, I headed to South Carolina to pick up the next bike. The customer's shop was up a steep driveway and the road was angled the opposite way in a deceiving angle. Upon approach, the trailer bottomed out in the road and hung up so all six tires were just hanging over the pavement. I was stuck! Fortunately, my customer had a big floor jack handy and we quickly got the back high enough so I



One of the stops on our journey was Mount Rushmore, which my children loved. And, since I'm on the staff of ThumbPrint News, I made sure we had a newspaper handy for these great photo opportunities!

could back up. It only took a few minutes, but it felt like hours in the +100° heat. But, the bike pick-up was successful and I was able to get back on the road.

A day later, I was back in Michigan. After loading my own bike and my friend's bike into the trailer, I did the final preparations so we could start our trip. While working, I was a bit stiff legged from the ant situation, so I ended up clumsily tripping on a chunk of steel, cutting one of my small toes to the bone. With only hours to go until departure, I didn't have time for an ER visit, so out came the tape and gauze. My patch job seemed to work well enough, so I grabbed Katie and the kids, and off we went.

The first part of our route took us up through the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We picked up yet another bike and squeezed in a visit to the super cheesy but fun "Mystery Spot."



Preston and Abby carefully navigating their way through the Mystery Spot.

After we got back on "level ground," we worked our way over to North Dakota for a delivery, then headed down to South Dakota. This state was particularly important to me, as it was the only state I'd never been to. We celebrated this by visiting Mount Rushmore.

After the Dakotas, we had a stop in Colorado and then on to the Lake Tahoe region to a little town called Incline Village. The truck hated the nine degree and steeper declines and inclines, and we were forced to drive 10-15 mph most of the way. Even running downhill in second gear we

managed to heat up and completely smoke the brakes (they were fairly new, too!) by the time we reached Truckee, California. So, we checked into the very nice, but high priced, Hampton Inn.

The next morning, while my family was enjoying the pool, my rig and I limped down the road to Napa. Parking the rig on a residential side street, I pulled the wheels off and got to work. Both front calipers had seized and the pads were destroyed and warped. The rear drums were slightly warped, but not bad enough to worry about. So, I replaced everything in the front and still got back to the hotel by 11:00 a.m. to get cleaned up.

We then headed into Truckee and visited the JAX Truckee Diner, made famous by Food Network's *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*, and sampled several of their more famous dishes. Everything was great, and I'd highly recommend the pulled pork with Tabasco onions. Yum!



What road trip would be complete without eating at JAX Truckee Diner?

We enjoyed a slow but scenic drive over to Redwood National Park, where we did the main drive, and stopped at a few short hiking trails. We had a fun time exploring the forest and want to go back again when we have more time.

Working our way up to Seattle via I-5 skirting Mt. St. Helens, our first excitement of the day was when we heard a loud siren sound from under the hood of the truck. Upon investigation, I found an inner cooler boot had popped off. A few minutes with a 7/16 wrench got us back on the road.

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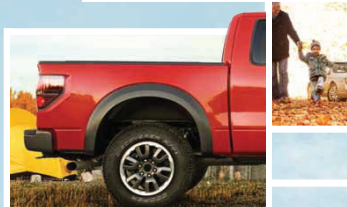
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The top picture shows my family and I (and a copy of ThumbPrint News!) at Redwood National Park. The second picture shows Preston and Abby at the base of the trunk of one of the redwoods.

But, the excitement wasn't over yet! While leaving one of our stops, we crossed some very uneven railroad tracks (had no other way around it as it was a one way street) and the trailer fold-a-step was brutally crushed up into the chassis of the trailer. I never used it anyway, so no biggie. It made a great crunch that the kids enjoyed, though!

We had a few stops around the Seattle area next and then we headed on to Kalispell, Montana, our last stop before entering Canada. The drive between Seattle and Kalispell is only about 300 miles, but it took us most of the day to navigate the winding country roads which made up about half of our drive. It was well worth the trouble. The northern Idaho/Northwestern Montana region is simply gorgeous. The roads are smooth and inviting, and if truth be told, I longed to be on my bike.



The smooth roads and breathtaking scenery of northern Montana tempted me to park the truck and pull my bike out of the trailer (maybe next trip!). I took this photo through the windshield.

Rolling into Kalispell, we found a big horse event was going on. We tried hotel after hotel, only to find them totally booked up. My ever-resourceful wife, Katie, found us a room at the Outlaw Inn. As luck would have it, the pole dancing contest at the inn wasn't until the following week!

The Outlaw Inn is a huge complex including a casino, a pool area complete with a padlocked sauna and two cemented in hot tubs (although they left the ladders sticking out of the ground), a boarded up steakhouse and all kinds of relics. This was supposedly THE place to be back in its day, which I'm guessing was around 1970.

In all honesty, the place was kind of cool. Yes, it is worn down and half closed up, but the kitsch is just deep enough that, with a little imagination, you can see the polyester clad bikers of yesteryear smoking Lucky Strikes in the lounges.

The aquatic area was interesting. One advantage of staying in hotels every night was that my five year old daughter learned to swim. Here in the eight foot deep, 75 foot long pool at the Outlaw Inn, she could now easily swim several laps.

After our stay in Kalispell, we headed north on I-89 and up through Glacier National Park. Although it poured all day, we were treated to some impressive sights.

The border crossing took some time. First there was a long wait, then when it was our turn, the officers seemed to have a hard time understanding that this trip was business AND pleasure. After answering the same questions from all different angles for a half an hour, I showed them the bikes and they finally let us through.



Abby and Preston are standing side by side, but each of them are in a different country. A plaque nearby reads: "This unfortified boundary line between the Dominion of Canada and the United States of America should quicken the remembrance of the more than a century old friendship between these countries, a lesson of peace to all nations."

We headed up Highway 2 in Canada. Between the breaks in weather, we enjoyed the miles and miles of mustard fields. We planned to make it to Edmonton by nightfall, but traffic backups due to the severe weather put us way behind schedule so we decided to stop in Red Deer for the night.

The next morning was spent catching up on laundry in Red Deer. We let the kids hang at the hotel pool, so we got a late start. Heading out Highway 43 west of Edmonton, the weather was good and the roads were fairly nice and flat, although there wasn't much to see. There were

See ALASKA TRIP, Page 16



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### ALASKA TRIP

Continued from Page 15

dozens of elk and moose crossing signs, but all we saw were cows and horses. Abby spent the uneventful afternoon catnapping in the truck.



During a restroom stop, we discovered one of our tires was shredded. Finally, bringing my children along had paid off! I sent Preston out to change the tire.



Just kidding! But it was a little father-son bonding time as I showed him the ins and outs of proper tire changing (without teaching him any new words!).

That night, we stayed in Dawson Creek, British Columbia. We were all very excited as the next day we would begin our travels on the "official" Alaskan highway!

We had planned an early start, but Abby had broken a sandal the previous night, and I had promised to get her a new pair today. We found the nearest Wally World [Walmart] where she proceeded to try on EVERY pair of sandals she could find, including the goofy high-heeled ones. She had lots of fun, but it ate up lots of our time. It worked out in the end, because we needed fuel, and Dawson Creek had been without diesel for several days, just receiving a delivery that morning as we shopped. It was over 150 miles to the next fuel stop and we wouldn't have made it. We topped off our 30 gallon tank and 105 gallon auxiliary tank, and started on our way – \$435 Canadian later!

Entering the Canadian Rockies, the roads were a combination of dirt and tarred gravel, snaking through areas of steep drop offs with only an occasional railing. Towering above us were cliffs so steep even the plant life couldn't hang on. At mile 422 of the Alaskan Highway, we stopped in Toad Creek for a welcomed break and to clown around a bit.



Collection of hats at the Toad River Lodge. Note the sign on the wall, written in dry-erase marker, states that there were 8,168 hats on the day we were there.



Traveling on, the scenery was gorgeous, and finally we saw wildlife – bears and moose! The kids were very excited. They were as close as 30 feet from our vehicle.



After a good 200 miles or so, we were ready for a break. Even though the road was paved, it was in rough shape and quite bumpy. The kids enjoyed some ice cream from the fuel stop/food depot/clothing shop/gun store/campground.

We put a few more miles in before stopping early in Fort Nelson for the night, as this was supposedly the last civilization for 350 miles or so.

We had never heard of the Laird Hot Springs, but three separate people, within an hour of each other, recommended checking it out so we had to stop. The admission price was \$10 per family and one quart of blood per person, extracted by the local mosquitoes during our visit.

To get to the hot springs, we had to walk a half a mile down a boardwalk through a swamp. The water was crystal clear and in two big pools separated by a small waterfall. The water comes into the upper pool at 140 degrees and cools down progressively to about 105 degrees. The pools are two- to four-feet deep, and have stone benches in them for lounging. The water in the pools is silky smooth. We stayed mostly in the lower pool. I tried wandering up to the upper pool, but half way up it was too hot for me!



The mosquitoes chased us out, however, and we got into the truck, wet bathing suits on all, and booked it out of there with the windows down to blow the clouds of bugs out of the cab. My wife's back was





raw with bug bites. Despite the bugs, we all agreed the stop was worth it. Industrial strength, hot water resistant bug spray is a must for that place!

Highway 97 between Dawson Creek and Watson Lake is home to the only wild Wood Buffalo herd left in the world. There are only about 100 left and they are on the endangered list. They live exclusively on the narrow strips of field along the highway, and unfortunately, they frequently get hit by cars.



We pulled into Watson Lake and checked into the only hotel with a vacancy. The water supply in town had broken a few days before, so mud came out of the faucets when you turned them on. The restaurant had nothing on the menu under \$13, so I hit up the food cart out front that was run by an old man and a Taiwanese lady. She recommended the noodles, so I gave them a try. What could go wrong?



*Look closely and you still won't find the beetle that was in my dish of noodles. I had already eaten it when I took this picture.*

The taste was interesting. The brain-looking things were chewy. The ear-looking things smelled like dog, and halfway through I quit eating it when I dug out and ate a large blue and black beetle-looking thing. The shell was kind of sharp and it tasted like burnt hair. Suddenly, I had a craving for the canned ravioli that my kids were eating out of the "emergency" stock in our trailer.

We were at the point now where the kids noticed the extra daylight. Crossing into the Yukon the night before we noticed the sun didn't go fully down until midnight and came up about 5:00 a.m.



After leaving Watson Lake the next morning, we stopped at the Signpost Forest on the edge of town. There were thousands of signs, liberated from places all over the world. It was quite unique.

We made good time to Whitehorse,



*Signpost Forest, located just outside of town in Watson Lake, and yet another opportunity for a picture with ThumbPrint News.*

where we decided to fuel up, as it was pretty much the last "major" city until we reached Alaska. As I finished topping off the truck, I noticed the fuel smelled funny. When I pulled out the nozzle to check it, the fuel was crystal clear. We were pumping kerosene (over 80 gallons of it!) into the truck!

I looked over at the pump, and sure enough, it was labeled "diesel." There was a local-looking guy pumping across from me in his newer model diesel Grand Cherokee. I asked him if he got fuel here often. He quickly responded, "Of course, I own the station."

So I asked him, "Why is the diesel clear and why does it smell like kerosene?"

He just smiled, and said, "I don't brew it, I just sell it." He quickly finished and retreated into the store where he stood back and stared at us with a very uneasy look.

We paid for our "diesel" and left. I'm not sure if the guy was intentionally switching fuels or if he really didn't know his tank was full of kerosene. It didn't matter to me as that old Cummins of mine will run on almost anything that burns. I've mixed in a bit of old kerosene in the past, but this is the first time I'd run it straight. It seemed to have a little less "oomph," but it ran much quieter and was much smoother.

Besides great scenery, there was not much between Whitehorse and Alaska. There did seem to be a theme of indifference in the western Yukon. The roads are poorly maintained, the few open businesses between the ghost towns aren't much to write home about. Most of the places we stopped at to eat or buy a snack were filthy and the people were unfriendly. And, the food was terrible.



*Even the police on the side of the road had an air of indifference!*

We were dead tired by the time we reached Beaver Creek and what looked like a quaint hotel. Checking in, we found it to

be a converted barn. It was little more than a bunkhouse that smelled like a damp basement. It was extremely dirty, everything was stained, and there wasn't even a television. We entertained ourselves by counting the dead bugs squished to the ceiling.

By way of a bit of advice, if you plan on doing much travelling in the western Yukon, take a camper!

Finally, after many long days on the road, we arrived in Alaska.

The trip across to Anchorage went quickly, with views of glaciers and soaring, snow-covered mountains. We spent a few relaxing days with a friend of mine who now lives in Alaska. We ate pizza, attended a local curling match, wandered through the unique downtown stores and craft shops, and toured the local Ulu factory (a universal chopping knife that Eskimos have used for thousands of years). Of course, we couldn't leave Anchorage without having the salmon and reindeer burgers at a local joint (no Rudolph jokes here, my kids will probably read this!).

Our next stop was Fairbanks, where I would be delivering the final bike, a very nice, original '49 Knucklehead Harley.

Then, because we were so close, we headed up to North Pole, Alaska. For those of you in Michigan who have been to Bronners in Frankenmuth, it is a lot like that, only on a smaller scale. While at North Pole, we played 18 holes of miniature golf. My daughter turned out to be a prodigy of sorts at the game,



*Another picture of my cute kids and ThumbPrint News. As you've probably already guessed, I have no shame.*

easily beating the rest of us at most holes. Unfortunately, I never do well with high contact sports. By the second hole I had taken a putter to the face – self-inflicted – giving myself a split fat lip!

Also in Fairbanks, we visited Pioneer Park, formerly called Alaskaland. This is a point of soreness for most Fairbankers, and most renounce the new name. In either case, it is a pretty cool place, similar to Henry Ford's Greenfield Village. They moved dozens of historical buildings onto the property, about half are furnished with period items or converted into museums, and the other half are stores and shops. There is also an art museum, a Native American center that focuses heavily on Eskimo life, a 200-foot paddle wheel

See ALASKA TRIP, Page 20



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## Bubba Watson "Long in Pink" PING Driver Raffle to benefit the Mercy Pink Ribbon Fund

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A limited edition pink PING driver, identical to the driver used by golf professional Bubba Watson during his Masters victory this year, could be yours. St. Joseph Mercy Foundation is proud to present the Bubba Watson "Long in Pink" PING Driver Raffle to support local women who lack health insurance and are in need of advanced breast cancer diagnoses.

The Bubba Watson Pink G20 PING Driver features 9.5 degrees and a regular flex shaft. Valued at \$430, only 5,000 drivers were produced with some made available to raise funds for important community-based events such as the Mercy Pink Ribbon Fund.

The drawing will be held Saturday, October 6, 2012, during the annual Breast Cancer Survivor Luncheon. Currently on sale, raffle tickets are \$10 for one or \$25 for three, and are available in the Mercy Gift Shoppe, located within St. Joseph Mercy Hospital at 2601 Electric Avenue in Port Huron, (810) 987-1045; Golf Country, located at 4730 Smiths Creek Road in Kimball Township, (810) 364-9160; or through the St. Joseph Mercy Foundation.



The Mercy Pink Ribbon Fund provides advanced breast cancer diagnoses for women in the community who lack health care insurance, receive a positive mammogram and do not have the financial resources to pay for their care.

For more information about the Mercy Pink Ribbon Fund, the St. Joseph Mercy Foundation or the Bubba Watson "Long in Pink" PING Driver Raffle, call (810) 985-1675; or visit the St. Joseph Mercy website: [mymercy.us](http://mymercy.us).

## ALASKA TRIP

Continued from Page 17

riverboat under restoration, President Harding's railroad car, and an Alaskan Aviation museum.

That evening, we stayed at the Denali Hostel, near Denali National Park. Our plans were to explore the park the next day. We enjoyed a peaceful sunset view from our cabin's porch, reflecting on what a great adventure our road trip to Alaska had been.

Only a few days remained for our family to enjoy this trip of a lifetime before we would be heading back home – this time by plane. The experiences my kids have had on this family road trip have been priceless. Hopefully, I can include them in many more of my hauling adventures in the future. In the meantime, I am leaving

my rig up in Alaska for a month before I will be returning – this time without the family – to haul another load of bikes back from Alaska. I left my bike and my friend's bike in Alaska on this trip and they will be waiting for us inside my rig when my friend and I fly back. We plan on taking a road trip across Alaska on our bikes before I start the long haul home in my truck. Perhaps I will share my future Alaskan bike adventure with the readers of *ThumbPrint News* in an upcoming issue.

By the way, if you need to have a vehicle transported to a specific destination, call me and I'll start planning my next adventure. Perhaps a tropical destination this time . . .



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## Virtual Gastric Band Hypnosis

**By Rennae Hardy**

*ThumbPrint News Guest Writer*

Obesity is the second largest "preventable" cause of death within the United States. Over 60% of adults and children in America are over-weight. Health-related issues linked to obesity include hypertension, diabetes, certain types of heart disease plus muscle and joint complications. Many individuals wrestle daily with the desire to maintain a healthy weight while continually feeling challenged by the pangs of hunger. A cycle of dieting, weight-loss programs and other methods are engaged bringing little or no success. Hypnosis is an alternative approach that carries its own merit. It is effective, safe, affordable and sustainable.

Contrary to belief, individuals experiencing hypnosis are "not" in a semi-sleep state, but are actually hyper-attentive. A hypnotic trance consists of physical relaxation accompanied and induced by mental concentration. The recipient of hypnosis has absolute free will. Hypnosis practiced therapeutically is referred to as hypnotherapy.

Virtual Gastric Band Hypnosis was pioneered by clinical hypnotherapist, Sheila Granger. Clinical studies in the United Kingdom and the United States have demonstrated its effectiveness. Participants feel as though they have had gastric band surgery in that they perceive their stomachs to have been reduced in size. The result: they become full on less food.

Hypnotherapy deals with the whole person addressing the emotional, psychological, conscious and subconscious aspects. By implementing cognitive-behavioral strategies and tools, one can experience the removal of obstacles, alter their self-limiting beliefs about food, and develop useful positive habits.

Virtual Gastric Band Hypnosis (as seen on Doctor Oz) is a four session course, generally accompanied by two complimentary support CD/MP3 files. Many hypnotherapists also include a 20 minute personal/phone evaluation prior to beginning therapy.

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*Editor's Note: Rennae Hardy is extending a personal invitation to all her readers. If you wish to submit a "topic choice" for a future article, send your request to [radiantheings0112@gmail.com](mailto:radiantheings0112@gmail.com). Rennae will earnestly work to accommodate received requests. Rennae is the owner of Radiant Beings, 25962 Knollwood S. in Chesterfield. Rennae is a certified energy practitioner and offers many choices for alternative healing. You can contact Rennae at (586) 949-0112 or (586) 489-8611.*



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**FROM THE EDITOR**

Continued from Page 2

North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Utah, and to the countries of Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Belize, Bonaire, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Iraq, Jamaica, Kiribati, Mexico, Nigeria, St. Lucia, Spain and Wales. Again, *ThumbPrint News* has now traveled to all SEVEN CONTINENTS!

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



appear in *ThumbPrint News*, as we are receiving a tremendous amount of photos each month! When it does appear, we will send you a complimentary edition.

*ThumbPrint News* still welcomes your travel photos to states and countries where the newspaper has not yet been, but the staff has also decided to try a new twist as well. We are challenging our readers to snap a photo of a famous person or character reading *ThumbPrint News* and submit it to us. Have fun with it! We never expected the response we received to traveling with our newspaper and finding out what our readers come up with should be just as exciting and interesting.

Nancy Birch, our graphic designer, traveled to Disney World in Orlando, Florida, and she started us out on our new quest by tracking down a handful of well-known characters who took time out from their busy entertaining schedules to read an article in *ThumbPrint News*. As you can see by the expressions on their faces, they were loving it! We hope you will enjoy this new adventure seeking out those famous persons and characters as well.

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

**Palmer Station, Antarctica**

According to information found at [www.usap.gov](http://www.usap.gov), Palmer Station, a small biology facility, was established on Antarctica in 1965 and marked the first time extensive work was done on that continent, although the United States has had long historical ties to the Antarctic Peninsula. The current station is located on Anvers Island. Although much of Antarctica has a thick ice layer, Palmer Station was built on solid rock. Two major buildings plus three smaller ones, along with two large fuel tanks and a dock make up the station.

The population is about 44 in the summer and 20 or more in the winter. The housing is similar to college dormitories with community bathrooms down the hall. Everyone

participates in household duties. Food service is cafeteria style.

Vehicles at the station consist mostly of Zodiac boats, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles. There is no live TV or radio. Phone calls, E-mail and internet access are available 24 hours a day.

Palmer Station is ideally located for biological studies of birds, seals and other components of the marine ecosystem and all interactions with wildlife are strictly governed by the Antarctic Conservation Act. The climate of Palmer Station is milder than that of other U.S. Antarctic stations. The mean annual temperature is 27°F with temperatures averaging about minus 14°F in winter.



Palmer Station circa 2010

**Whoops! We Goofed!**

Where was our car expert when we needed him? Oh, that's right, on a family road trip to Alaska!

We have been informed that in two previous issues, photos of antique vehicles were misidentified. The first was in the July issue in the article by Scott Buel, "Local Authors Spotlight Early Marine City in New Book." The photo on page 13 was incorrectly identified as a Model A Truck and two McCormick-Deering tractors. Bob Kohlhausen of Casco, Michigan, brought this to our attention and Keith Kodet, our resident car expert, confirms that the truck is a Model T and the two tractors are Fordsons.

The second error was in the August issue in the article by Louise Allen, "New Book by Local Author Spotlights Emmett Township." One of the photos, on page 10, which was supplied to us by the publisher of the book, states that the truck pictured is a Model T truck. According to Keith, Ford had dropped the Model T designation by that time and the truck is a 1932-1934 Ford.

Would anyone like to be our resident car expert when Keith is on vacation?

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

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September						
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						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To Scott Zimmer:

I just wanted to take a moment to thank Scott for his article in the July issue on the old call exchanges. I, ironically, am the owner of Belvedere Construction and the proud owner of the TY-87100 phone number. I was actually up at our vacation home in Port Sanilac over the holiday and noticed the article. I thoroughly enjoyed it and just to let you know if you dial TY-87100 today you will still get our offices. Please tell Mr. Zimmer I think he "Does Good Work."

*Pete DiVito  
President  
Belvedere Construction*

Dear Editor:

In your July issue, with the story about the City of Marine City, there was a picture of two tractors and a truck from the Crowley Ford Dealer near Belle River Road. The caption read that the two tractors were McCormick Deerings. The tractors appear to be Fordson Model F's (built from 1919-1928). Back in the day, most Ford dealerships handled both Ford cars and trucks, and Fordson farm machinery and tractors. Ford dealers would not carry a McCormick Deering or International Harvester line. Their floor

plan with Ford would not allow it. The "Ford" name alone wasn't established on farm machinery or tractors until 1939 when the Ford 9N rolled off the Highland Park Assembly Line (a joint venture with Ford - Dearborn Motors and Harry Ferguson). Thus the Fordson nameplate was used in earlier models.

Thanks for all the great reading material. Keep up the good work!

*Daniel M. Turke  
Turke Implement Co.  
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Dear Editor:

We have received a few copies of the *ThumbPrintNews* by courtesy of my brother, David Gillis, who writes a column for your paper. My husband and I both agree that it's the best new paper that we

have read. We love the articles and old photos of the area, since we were both 1965 graduates of Algonac High School and both our family lines have been in Southeastern Michigan for about 250 years.

We have lived in Arizona now for about 18 years and miss Southeastern Michigan. We noticed in your paper that it can be mailed for \$2.00 a copy. If that is still possible we could send a check for one year in advance for mailings. If that is possible, please reply with address to send our request and check. Thank you so much, and thank your staff for a wonderful newspaper.

*Sincerely,  
Patricia and Michael Meldrum*

Dear Editor,

Thank you for sending me the July 2012 issue of *Thumbprint News*. It arrived today. It was a real thrill to see my photos on page 26.

It looks though like the captions were mixed up with my earlier ACT photos. The photos published were taken in Sydney. Is there any chance of printing a correction? I would like your school age readers to all pass their geography exams!

Thanks again for publishing the photos.

*Colin Henson  
Australia*

## MILITARY ANNOUNCEMENT



Patrick and Tina Smith of Goodells and Theresa Kohler of Mt. Clemens are proud to announce the enlistment of their son Andrew P. Smith into the U.S. Navy. It has been Andrew's dream to serve his country since the age of five. He will ship out September 6th at which time he will report for boot camp in Chicago. A Sea Cadet alumnus, Andrew enlisted as a Hospital Corpsman at the rank of E3. Upon completing boot camp he will receive his Hospital Corpsman education at A School in San Antonio. From there he plans to serve his country aboard a U.S. Navy ship or submarine.

## LANDSCAPING THE THUMB

### Sprucing up for Fall

By Paul Bujak

*ThumbPrint News Staff Writer*

As summer starts to fade away, we welcome fall here in the Thumb of Michigan. The colors of leaves start to paint the highway roads and beautiful landscapes. We can help compliment our fading flowers by adding some great fall plants to our garden and landscaping areas. There is a wide assortment of colorful flowers and plants we can choose to brighten up our fall landscape. Fall planted shrubs, perennials and trees benefit from cooler air.

One of the most popular autumn plants is the Chrysanthemum. Commonly called "mums," they bloom during September and October. They come in a variety of colors ranging from gold, burgundy, orange and red. Mums must be watered at least three times per week. If they are planted in your garden during September they may come back the following year.

Autumn asters are daisy-like flowers that are actually several flowers, which form together as one. They can be white, blue, pink or red. The center of the aster is always a golden orange color and tends to attract butterflies. When they get too large, they can

be divided to keep them from growing out of control. They prefer a moist soil and plenty of sunlight.

Knockout Roses can provide an abundance of blooming color for the whole growing season. Plant them around shrubs, annuals and perennials to give extra color to your landscaping. They don't require too much care and are very easy to grow. Knockout Roses are heat tolerant and winter hardy. I do recommend covering them with burlap if the temperature gets below 20 degrees. Cutting them down after the last frost is beneficial to their performance come next season.

Purple coneflowers are a robust, drought tolerant perennial native to the Midwestern region. You can find these amazing soft lavender pedal flowers growing in Michigan fields and wildflower areas. The purple coneflower starts blooming in late summer and continues into the late fall months. These stunning flowers prefer full sun to partial shade and require adequate watering during the dry summer months. Let your yard be the envy of your neighbors. Get out there and plant some of these great fall flowers today! 🌱



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## Memoirs from The Restless Retiree A Trip to the Senior Center

By Gabriel Jones, ThumbPrint News Columnist

So, you're retired just like Gabriel. We all now want to do things our way.

We have been told all our life as we worked at our jobs that we had to do things a certain way (if we agreed or not).

We did our jobs to make money to live on and now that we are retired, we can do what we want.

Hmm . . . but what to do to keep busy.

"Gabriel!"

"Yes, love."

"Gabriel, we should visit our Senior Center. I heard that they have lots of activities going on. There must be one or more of those that we might enjoy going to. We should go together and see if there is anything there that might interest us."

"No way! I'm not **that** old. The senior center is for **old** folks, and we're not that old."

"Gabriel, I heard about it from some people at church that they go often and they're our age."

"Well . . . maybe . . . alright. We'll go tomorrow."

"Gabriel, why wait till tomorrow? We're not doing anything today. Let's go and see what they have to offer."

"Dear, sometimes you can be a pain! Alright, get your coat on."

Gabriel and his wife then drive to their local Senior Center. As they enter the center, they are met by a greeter.

"Hello. Welcome to our Senior Center. I'll show you around, but first you have to pay 25¢ each."

"What! We're only here to look around to see what you have to offer for us retirees."

"I'm sorry sir, but everyone who enters here must pay a 25¢ charge. That is if you

are a resident of our community."

"Oh, we're residents alright . . . but we're just looking around, not staying."

"A 25¢ charge is a very small amount for visitors to pay . . . even for looking around. You know we have to have pay maintenance people to clean our facility."

"Oh, alright! Here's our 50¢. Just give me a receipt."

"Gabriel!"

"Well love, if they want us to pay, I need a receipt to show that we paid."

"Here's your receipt, sir. On the shelf behind you are booklets that list all of our activities here at the center."

"Ok, at least I'll get a booklet out of this."

"Gabriel!"

"Just walk down this hallway and you'll find a couple of classes that are already in session. See if any of them interest you."

"We'll do that. Dear, let's see what's going on."

Gabriel and his wife walk down the hall and stop at a classroom. They look thru the glass and see couples stretching and bending slowly in various positions following the instructor in front of them.

"I think they're exercising . . . but in a way I never saw before. What kind of exercise is that?"

"The sign on the door says 'Tai Chi'."

"Hmm . . ."

"Dear, let's go on and see what else they have."

"No, you go. I'm going to stay here and watch for a while."

As Gabriel's wife walks on to see other classes, Gabriel sits down on a couch and starts to read his booklet.

After a while, Gabriel's wife returns and sees Gabriel at a door watching a game of pool.

"Gabriel, you should see all the different classes they have here at the center."

"Yes, I know. I've been reading about them in this booklet. Maybe we could consider joining one of them. Look at this! They have Pinochle and Euchre Card Parties, a Walking Club, Men's and Women's Golf Leagues, Table Tennis . . ."

"And these retirees . . . I can't believe how older people can move and stretch their bodies like that without hurting themselves."

"Well, Gabriel . . . I guess that they don't sit around all day and watch television like some people we know."

"I hope you're not referring to us?"

"Well, if the shoe fits . . ."

Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🐾





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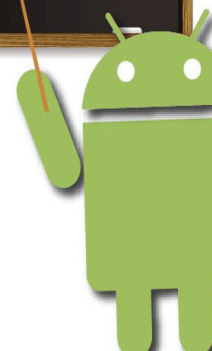


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# Thumb Area Activities & Events for September 2012

If you have an event in October that you would like listed in the October issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net) by Sept. 12, 2012. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some of the events that were submitted to us, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

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

## Genesee

### Clio – September 15

**Clio Festival of the Arts**, 301 Rodgers Lodge Dr., 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Admission \$3 for adults, children free. Fine arts and crafts sponsored by the Clio Area Art Society. Live entertainment hosted by the Clio Amphitheater. Taste of Clio and Best of Cook Off hosted by several local restaurants. For more information call (810) 241-7996.

## Huron

### Port Austin – September 8

**Grand Opening of the Port Austin History Center**, Pointe Aux Barques Rd., 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Ribbon cutting and program at 2:00 p.m. We have several events planned for the day along with a tasty treat to share. Call (989) 712-0050.

## Lapeer

### Almont – September 8

**Euchre Tournament**, Almont Lions Club, 222 Water St., doors open at 6:00 p.m., play begins at 7:00 p.m. \$15 donation, bring a first time player and you and a friend play for \$10 each. Generous prizes to the top three point scorers. Food and refreshments served. Two sets of five games with a break in between. Proceeds benefit area humanitarian projects. Call Don at (810) 798-9609.

## Macomb

### Chesterfield Township – September 6

**Free History Presentation**, Chesterfield Township Public Library, 50560 Patricia, 6:30 p.m. Bob Mack, co-author of a new book on New Baltimore, will show slides of Anchor Bay, Chesterfield and New Baltimore from his extensive collection. Topics will be the tourist boats that used to come to New Baltimore in the early 1900s and Henry Ford on ice near where the New Baltimore city park is today, racing on the ice and setting a speed record. Email Alan at [alannaldrett@yahoo.com](mailto:alannaldrett@yahoo.com).

### Richmond – September 7-9

**Strawberry Shortcake Festival**, Richmond Historical Village, Bailey Memorial Park, Park and Beebe Streets, 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Sit and relax under our tent and for \$5 enjoy delicious, fresh, homemade strawberry shortcake. Historical buildings open from 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. on September 7 and 1:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. on September 8 and 9. Visit [www.richmondhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.richmondhistoricalsociety.org).

### Richmond – September 7-8, 14-16, 21-23

**"Grease,"** Richmond Community Theatre, 69619 Parker St., 8:00 p.m. performance time on Fridays and Saturdays, 2:00 p.m. on Sundays. Adult tickets \$15, Seniors/Students \$10, ages 7 and under \$5. Call (586) 727-9518.

### Shelby Township – September 8 & 9

**Utica Antique Market**, 11541 21 Mile Rd., 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on Sunday. \$5 admission, free parking. For more information call (586) 254-3495.

### New Haven – September 15

**Lions Euchre Night**, New Haven Lions Hall, 57882 Lutes, doors open at 6:30 p.m., play starts at 7:00 p.m. \$12 per person plus quarters for euchres. Prizes are awarded to top 3 places. Price includes a light dinner, beverages available. Contact Andy at (810) 543-0951.

### Chesterfield – September 15 & 16

**Chesterfield Historical Society Heritage Days**, Chesterfield Historical Village, parking at the Chesterfield Twp. Offices, 47275 Sugarbush Rd., parking lot shuttle provided by First State Bank, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Games and crafts for the kids, candle making and woodcarving demonstrations, real horseshoeing demonstrations, small antique engines with drag sawing and corn grinding. Classic and antique cars, including a 1967 GTO from Stahl's Automotive Museum (weather permitting). Music by Banjo Dan. Crafters demonstrating and selling wares. Hot dogs, chips and pop for sale. \$1 for adults, \$2 for a family. For more information call (586) 749-3713.

### Washington – September 16

**Autumn Daze Craft Show**, Washington Historical Society Museum, 58230 Van Dyke, north of 26 Mile Rd., 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. For more information or if interested in being a craft dealer call (248) 652-2458 or go to [www.washhistsoc.org](http://www.washhistsoc.org).

### Lenox – September 29

**RHS Wrestling Program 12th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser**, Richmond Forest, 33300 32 Mile Rd., registration 8:00 a.m., shotgun start 9:00 a.m., four person scramble. \$300 for a foursome, \$80 for an individual. Dinner at 3:00 p.m. Door prize drawings at 4:00 p.m. Call (586) 292-9810 or (586) 372-5938.

## Oakland

### Oxford – September 7

**Oxford First Friday**, downtown area. Each month the Oxford Downtown Development Authority will play host to a number of artists offering quality hand-made art of various forms. This month's theme is Asian, local restaurants will participate through a special menu item and wine. (248) 628-5398.

## St. Clair

### Yale – September 6 & 13

**Sign Language Lessons**, Yale Library, 2 Jones St., 5:00 p.m. Teens and adults, learn sign language from Matthew Butler. Call (810) 387-2940.

### Port Huron – September 8

**Crafternoon**, Port Huron Library, 210 McMorran Blvd., 2:00 p.m. Join us as we kick off National Hispanic Heritage Month. Enjoy folk tales and a make and take folk art project. Ages 12 and under. Registration required. (810) 987-7323 x132 or 130.

### Memphis – September 11

**USA Scavenger Hunt**, Memphis Library, 34830 Potter St., 3:00 p.m. Kids, join us as we search our library to find information on different states. Prizes awarded! Two-person team registration preferred. For information call (810) 392-2980.

### Marysville – September 12

**Hunters of the Sky – Birds of Prey: It's all about survival!** Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware, 6:00 p.m. Engaging raptors – hawks, owls, eagles, vultures, falcons – will demonstrate amazing survival characteristics and techniques. Hands-on exploration of feathers, skulls and other bird parts provides a stimulating introduction to hunters of the sky. Registration requested. (810) 364-9493.

### Emmett – September 13, 14 & 15

**Junque & Treasures**, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 10828 Brandon Rd., 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. \$2 a bag Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-noon. Antiques and uniques, something for everyone. 4300 sq. feet and 15 outside tents. Lunches, bake sale, farmers market and more. Donations can be dropped off September 8-11. Proceeds go towards resurfacing the church parking lot. For information call (810) 384-1786.

### Algonac – September 15 & 16

**Off Our Rocker Variety Show XXIII**, Algonquin Middle School, 9185 Marsh Rd., 7:00 p.m. on Saturday and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday. Washington Life Center's 23rd Annual Variety Show featuring: singers Patty Houine, Riki and Dave Nutting and Pete LaBarbera, the Line Dancers, Cloggers and Tappers, Body Recall and comedy with the WLC Players. New this year: dulcimer players. Adults \$8, children 10 and under \$4. (810) 765-3523.

### Emmett – September 15

**5th Annual Emmett's Day**, downtown Emmett. Tractor parade at noon, music, all-day fun for the whole family.

### Capac – September 17

**Art with Jane Weis**, Capac Library, 111 N. Main St., 6:00 p.m. This mixed media art class will allow each participant to create a fall scene under Jane's guidance. Designed for ages 12-adult. Registration required. Call (810) 395-7000.

### Kimball – September 17

**Adult Cupcake Decorating 101**, Kimball Township Library, 1955 N. Allen Rd., 5:00 p.m. Come and learn the basics of cupcake decorating. This will be a hands-on learning session and everything will be provided. Registration is required. Ages 16-adult. Call (810) 982-9171.

### Algonac – September 18

**Pollution Solution Pajama Party**, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 6:00 p.m.

Bring your favorite stuffed animal. Wear your pj's and learn how to keep our water clean. Let your animal spend the night at the library, pick up the next day with photos of them having fun at their "Library PJ Party." Ages 5-10. Registration recommended. (810) 794-4471.

### Yale – September 19 & 20

**Trauma Response Training**, Critical Incident Stress Management, Brockway Township Hall, 7644 South Brockway, 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Must attend both days. \$25, 7.0 Social Work CEUs available. Light refreshments provided. Contact Amy Smith at (810) 966-7830.

### St. Clair – September 20

**Friends of the St. Clair Library Meeting**, St. Clair Library, 310 S. Second, 6:30 p.m. Find out what the Friends have been up to. Call (810) 329-3951.

### Capac – September 21

**Annual Mexican Food Sale**, St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 4331 Capac Rd., 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Delicious food: burritos, tacos, taco salad and more. Call Jennie at (810) 877-5145.

### Fair Haven – September 21

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

### Port Huron – September 21

**The History of Rock N' Roll**, Port Huron Senior Center, 600 Grand River Ave., 6:00 p.m. Interactive program with host Dave Belair, complete with a "Rockin'" dinner. Dinner includes cheeseburgers, potato salad, onion rings, coleslaw, chocolate malts and coffee, milk and water. Listen to the music and learn the stories and history behind the hits. Dancing is encouraged! RSVP with your suggested donation of \$7 by Monday, September 17. Call (810) 984-5061.

### Columbus – September 22 & 23

**3rd Annual Outdoor Studio in the Pines Art & Craft Show**, 1244 Bauman Rd., 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Artists, photographers, pottery, jewelry, food, wood workers/carvers, chair massages, wreaths, candles, origami, teas, more. Acres of flowers and paths to roam. Space for more vendors. (586) 727-9966.

### Harsens Island – September 22

**Square Dance and Fried Chicken Dinner at Browns Field**, 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Call Nancy at (810) 74801825 or email [nlcata@comcast.net](mailto:nlcata@comcast.net).

### Fair Haven – September 24

**Beyond Ancestry.com**, Ira Township Library, 7013 Meldrum Rd., 6:30 p.m. Move your family history research beyond Ancestry.com. We will introduce you to some other very useful websites to enhance your family tree. Call (586) 725-9081.

### Marine City – September 26

**Word Processing I**, Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker,

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12:00 p.m. Learn to create, make basic changes to, save and open documents, and format text. For adults. Registration required. (810) 765-5233.

**Kimball – September 30**

**Wings, Wheels and Watercraft**, St. Clair County Int'l Airport, 177 Ash Drive, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Airport Appreciation Day. Young Eagles Flights. Free plane rides for youth ages 8-17, with parental permission, weather permitting. Sponsored by EAA Chapter 979 Friends of the Airport. Pancake breakfast 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., adults \$6, children \$3. Call (810) 364-6890.

**Sanilac****Sandusky – September 8 & 22**

**Thumb Dance Club**, Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., 7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. All are welcome – bring finger foods (for 9:00 p.m.) and friends. \$4 for members, \$4.50 for non-members. September 8: Lighthouse 3 (hot dogs and blue jeans). September 22: The Natural Tones. Call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250.

**Deckerville – September 22**

**Indian Heritage Day**, Deckerville Historical Museum, 2485 Black River St., 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Several members of the Wolverine State Archeological Society from across the state will show their private artifact collections and discuss artifacts with you. Potluck luncheon at noon. Bring a dish and join us. Poetry writers are invited to present poetry at 1:00 p.m. and at 1:30 Joyce Reid will speak about "The Life of Indian Children in the Past and the Present Time." \$3 per adult, \$1 per child ages 6-12, under 5 free. Call Joyce at (810) 376-6695 or (810) 404-4028.

**Tuscola****Fairgrove – August 31-September 3**

**66th Annual Michigan Bean Festival**, Motor Sports Park, Center St. and Main St. Events include a carnival midway, bingo and casino tents, contests, games and tournaments, music, demolition derby, more! Free parking. Fireworks September 2, 9:30 p.m., south end of grounds. Visit michiganbeanfestival.com or call (989) 693-6841.



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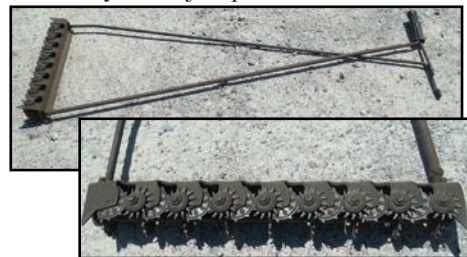
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## ThumbPrint News Contest

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](mailto:thumbprintnews@comcast.net) and put "Contest" in the subject line. Be sure to include your name, phone number and full address. Of all persons submitting correct answers by the 15th of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a gift basket valued at more than \$100 at the end of this year! On December 31, 2012 one winner will be drawn and the lucky person will be notified.

In August's edition, we asked our readers to identify the object pictured below.



Randomly selected from those submitting correct answers was Tom Raymond of Cottrellville, Michigan, who correctly identified the object as an antique push mower. Tom will be entered into our year end drawing for a gift basket valued at over \$100.

The picture below shows the Monta Mower, as it was called, being used today:



Before the 1870s, few Americans cut their lawns more than twice a year, using hand scythes or sickles. By the 1920s Americans were obsessed with cutting their lawns, and prizes were regularly

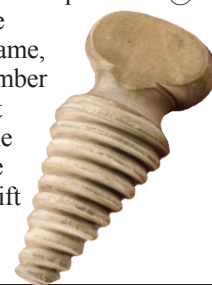
given for the best looking lawns in many communities. Having a nice lawn became an American status symbol, which is still with us today.

In 1916 Bert Montague purchased a factory in Traverse City, Michigan, where he planned to begin to manufacture Montamowers in 1917. However, the Montamower took nearly eight years to develop and was patented in 1923, so that may have been the first year of production. The sales office was located in Grand Rapids. Magazine ads in the 1920s offered the mower for \$15.00 directly from the manufacturer. By the 1940s, the name of the mower was spelled "MontaMower" and the manufacturer was known as Montamower Distributing Company.

The mower weighed less than 10 pounds and used a series of disc blades to cut grass and trim edges at the same time. The mower was advertised as "Two-Tools-in-One." Early models had a wooden handle and single shaft. By 1941, the mower had a metal cross-handle.

The MontaMower was promoted as being easy to use, easy to transport in a car and invaluable for mowing small areas, such as cemetery plots. Unfortunately, the idea of the MontaMower sounded great, but it didn't work that well and most people ended up buying mowers with rotating blades, which worked far better than this device. By 1962, the Montamower Distributing Company was no longer in business.

For our September contest we are asking the question, "What is it?" Identify what the object below is and what it is used for. Email your answer to [thumbprintnews@comcast.net](mailto:thumbprintnews@comcast.net). Again, be sure to include your name, address and phone number in case you are correct and are entered into the random drawing at the end of the year for a gift basket valued at over \$100. Good luck!



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## GRATIOT

Continued from Page 1

father, Charles Gratiot Sr., was a wealthy fur trader with 13 children. He was a French Huguenot immigrant and his wife was from a prominent French family. Politically connected, he secured an appointment to West Point for his seventeen year old son from President Thomas Jefferson. Young Charles was in the first engineering class of West Point, graduating after two years in 1806, and was then commissioned into the Army Corps of Engineers.



Capt. Charles Gratiot Jr.

When Gratiot was sent to Michigan by General William Henry Harrison a few years later, he was promoted to the rank of Captain. With the War of 1812 underway, General William Hull had lost Fort Detroit and the Indian-aided British had seized the only other active fort in the territory, Fort Mackinac. Gratiot's orders were to quickly plan and build the fort on the St. Clair River. Using his engineering training, he located a bluff facing west to protect against Indian attacks, yet positioned so that the Americans could launch an attack on the Canadian territories, if that became advisable. The swift rapids confronting ships entering the river from the lake made them good targets from the fort's higher mound position.

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The Fort Gratiot lighthouse

While the plans have never been found, its measurements have been estimated to be about 165 feet by 500 feet.

Presumably unknown to Gratiot, this fort was set not far from where it is believed the French had built one over 120 years earlier. Fort St. Joseph probably never saw action and had long since disappeared. It is remembered only by a marker at Gratiot Park on Gratiot Avenue in Port Huron. This early fort was to protect the French traders from both enemies – the British and the Indians, supporting a fort built at St. Ignace.

About the time that construction of Fort Gratiot was completed in 1816, the War of 1812 was winding down and this fort was abandoned in 1821. It was refortified sometime before the Civil War, where a few troops were stationed but still saw no hostilities and eventually the fort was torn down about 1879. One historian reports that “during its entire life of 65 years there was never a hostile shot from within its walls.”

Captain Gratiot had been sent to join the unsuccessful attempt to retake the fort on Mackinac Island in 1814, perhaps the only fighting he saw during his 32 year military career. As will be seen, officers in the army corps of engineers had distinct duties and were rarely called upon to bear arms. Gratiot does not appear to have ever returned to the fort bearing his name or laid eyes on the subsequently built lighthouse that also bears his name. He became the Chief Engineer of the Michigan territory before statehood with an office in Detroit and those duties took him to other installations. Later in his career he was assigned to West Point, receiving successive promotions and eventually becoming a Brevet (acting) Brigadier General. As a Chief Engineer in the Corps, he was also involved in the planning and construction of the Cumberland Road, the first national highway system and several canals vital to the nation's “Westward Expansion.” One of his assistants was the young West Point graduate, Robert E. Lee.

There came a time when the still

undermanned army, fearing renewed battles with Indian tribes in the west, transferred Gratiot to the regular army. That dual role, although not unique to him, caused what developed into an unresolved dispute with the government that led to the abrupt termination of his 32 year military career by order of President Van Buren in 1838.

The exact cause of his misfortune isn't clear to this writer. One explanation based on the Internet sources as confirmed in the U.S. Supreme Court decision denying his appeal is as follows. When General Gratiot was transferred from the Corps of Engineers, he received the regular pay for his permanent grade. However, he continued to perform engineering duties. He then billed the government for extra compensation at the rate paid to civilians performing engineering work. Apparently there was some precedent for what might now be called “Moonlighting.” The government paid the sum of over \$35,000 into a New York City bank account in his name. Then it sued to determine whether any was owed to him.

The case entitled CHARLES GRATIOT, PLAINTIFF IN ERROR v. THE UNITED STATES was appealed to the High Court twice from the Missouri circuit court, Gratiot's legal residence. It was remanded for a jury trial, where the jury, following the judge's instructions, decided against him. At the January, 1846 Term the “Plaintiff in Error” Gratiot lost again. A simple explanation of a complicated factual situation was that the government believed he was seeking double pay for the same work. The engineering project(s) was on forts in the Hampton Roads area of the Chesapeake Bay.

Another more sympathetic explanation is offered by William Jenks, a Port Huron lawyer-historian in a 1920 magazine article. His conclusion was that when Gratiot had taken over fiscal responsibilities for a defaulting special agent, he had filed separate bills for the two forts under construction, Fort Monroe and Fort Calhoun. Therefore he was entitled to the deposited moneys, after some agreed upon corrections. Jenks believed that Gratiot had to accept his army dismissal to avoid a court martial and to have the matter resolved through



litigation, which was impossible so long as he remained a government employee.

While awaiting his case to wind its way through the courts, Gratiot sought restoration of his name along with the bank account by petitioning Presidents Taylor and Fillmore. Although that proved unsuccessful, a Congressional

Committee, after a lengthy hearing and reviewing the documentary evidence, spoke in glowing terms of his military career (including erroneously his time in battle) but concluded that it had no authority to overrule the Court and President. Among those who failed to support his cause was a superior officer with another familiar name, General Alexander Macomb.

To provide for his wife and two daughters, Gratiot was forced to take a clerk's position in a Washington agency. His older daughter married a French diplomat and moved to that country. The younger one also wed and had a military officer son. Gratiot died in 1855 and was buried in his native St. Louis.

Charles Gratiot Jr.'s time in this area of Michigan was brief but his name remains prominent – with no stigma attached here. 🌱

*Editor's note: In regards to the correct pronunciation of “Gratiot,” this is what patterns of inkblogspot.com has to say on the matter: The correct pronunciation of “Gratiot” is a mystery that only people in the Port Huron-Detroit corridor seem to know. It was a French name, but it's been anglicized. The first syllable sounds like “grass” with an “H” on the end. It is not pronounced Gra-Tot but more like “grasshut.” (In fact, most people put a soft “i” in the last syllable and it sounds like a warning sign on the lawn of a petting zoo, but this is hard to explain on a family-friendly blog so I'll leave it at that.)*



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# WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY?

## SEPTEMBER

1. On this day in 1730, Benjamin Franklin married Deborah Read.
2. On this day in 1898, the machine gun was first used in battle.
3. On this day in 1940, high definition color TV was first shown.
4. On this day in 1833, the first newsboy was hired (Barney Flaherty, 10 years old, for the *New York Sun*.)
5. On this day in 1885, the first gasoline pump was delivered to a gasoline dealer (Ft. Wayne, Indiana).
6. On this day in 1716, the first U.S. lighthouse was built (Boston).
7. On this day in 1936, Boulder Dam (now Hoover Dam) began operation.
8. On this day in 1921, the first Miss America was crowned (Margaret Gorman of Washington D.C.).
9. On this day in 1861, Sally Tompkins was the only Confederate Army female commissioned officer.
10. On this day in 1846, Japan invented the rickshaw.
11. On this day in 1940, Buckingham Palace in London was destroyed by German bombs.
12. On this day in 1970, supersonic airliner Concorde landed for the first time at Heathrow Airport.
13. On this day in 1898, Hannibal Goodwin patented celluloid photographic film.
14. On this day in 1960, Chubby Checker's "The Twist" hit #1.
15. On this day in 1965, *Lost in Space* premiered.
16. On this day in 1782, the Great Seal of the U.S. was first used.
17. On this day in 1926, a hurricane hit Miami and Palm Beach, Florida; about 450 died.
18. On this day in 1947, the USAF (U.S. Air Force) formed.



By Diane L. Kodet  
ThumbPrint News Editor

19. On this day in 1901, 11 baseball games were canceled due to the funeral of President William McKinley.



20. On this day in 1863, the Civil War Battle of Chickamauga, near Chattanooga, Tennessee, ended.



21. On this day in 1814, the "Star Spangled Banner" was published as a poem.

22. On this day in 1957, *Maverick* premiered.

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

24. On this day in 1853, the first round-the-world trip by yacht took place (Cornelius Vanderbilt).

25. On this day in 1639, the first printing press in America was used.

26. On this day in 1954, a typhoon hit Japan. Five ferryboats sank, killing about 1,600.

27. On this day in 1892, book matches were patented by Diamond Match Company.



28. On this day in 1701, divorce was legalized in Maryland.

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

30. On this day in 1997, Hooters agreed to pay \$2 million in discrimination suits.

## FAMILY FEATURES

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### Tips to make a game day party fun for everyone

**G**ame day is no time to be sidelined in the kitchen. Do a little pre-game planning so you can spend less time cooking and more time cheering on the home team.

**Keep it simple** – Instead of taking up space with a lot of dishes to hold condiments, use muffin pans. Each well in the pans can hold a different topping for your burgers, hot dogs or chili. Put a spoon in each for easy dipping. It's simple, fun, and you'll have fewer post-game dishes to wash.

**Set up a dipping station** – Have a selection of salsas and guac available so

everyone can have their favorite. From Wholly Salsa's classics to the new red pepper mango or roasted tomato varieties, fans can find a salsa to cheer about. And for guacamole lovers, try Wholly Guacamole's all-natural, gluten free varieties.

In addition to chips, set out some tasty dippers such as bell pepper slices, baked mozzarella sticks, and pita chips.

**Make sure you have enough** – Don't disappoint guests by running out of munchies or drinks. If you're having 8 to 10 guests, figure on three different appetizers. For up to 16 guests, plan four or five appetizers.

### Avocado Cream Cheese Dip

Serves: 6

- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese
- 1 7-ounce package Wholly Guacamole
- ¾ teaspoon salt, divided
- 1 lime, juiced
- 1 tablespoon cilantro, minced
- ½ teaspoon chili powder
- 2 cups sour cream
- 3 tablespoons chipotle peppers in adobo sauce, pureed
- 1 cup 3-cheese blend shredded cheese
- ½ cup green onion, sliced
- ¾ cup Roma tomatoes, seeded & diced

Allow cream cheese to soften and warm to room temperature, about 30 minutes.

Whip cream cheese at medium speed for 3 minutes to fluff. Add guacamole and beat for another minute.

Season mix with ¼ teaspoon salt, half of lime juice and cilantro.

Transfer mixture to a 9x9-inch pan, and dust with chili powder.

Mix together sour cream, chipotle, ½ teaspoon salt and the rest of the lime juice.

Add to pan as the second layer.

Top with cheese; garnish with green onion and tomatoes.



### Guacamole Chicken Taquitos

Yield: 28 taquitos

- 1 orange, juiced
- 1 lime, juiced
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 6 tablespoons canola oil, divided
- 8 boneless skinless chicken thighs
- ½ cup minced yellow onion
- 2 tablespoons cilantro, minced
- 1 7-ounce package Wholly Guacamole
- 28 corn tortillas



Mix together orange juice, lime juice, salt, pepper, chili powder, cumin and 3 tablespoons canola. Add to chicken and marinate for 20 to 30 minutes.

Heat remaining canola oil over medium high heat. remove chicken from marinade. Reserve marinade for later.

Cook chicken for 3 minutes on one side. Flip over and cook for another 3 minutes.

Add reserved marinade, turn heat to low, allow to simmer for 20 minutes.

Uncover, continue cooking for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and cool for 15 minutes.

Shred chicken into a separate pan. Coat with a little of the reduced sauce – don't use all of it or the taquitos will be oily.

Mix chicken with guacamole, cilantro and onion.

Warm tortillas, between wet paper towels, in the microwave (about 5 at a time), or by dipping them into a hot pan with a few tablespoons of oil.

Add about 2 tablespoons filling to each tortilla. Roll up and skewer with a toothpick to hold it together.

For best results, prepare deep fryer and fry in batches for 2 minutes. When all taquitos have been fried, warm them up in a 350°F oven for 10 minutes.

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