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OCTOBER 2009

ThumbPrint News

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

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1



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Local Urban Legend Scripted

Horror Movie to Be Filmed in the Thumb Area of Michigan

Based on an interview by Laura Irwin

ThumbPrint News Staff Reporter

"Legend remains victorious in spite of history."

— Sarah Bernhardt

Francis J. Sampier is a movie producer and a top-notch businessman. And his business is fear; the heart-pounding, blood-racing type of fear encountered by viewers of a well-done horror movie. A movie producer who lives in a small, quiet town on the shores of the St. Clair River in Michigan, Sampier has

spent four and a half years perfecting his script and working on his investor portfolio for a movie that combines horror, suspense and mystery. The script has been rewritten 26 times. It is based on an actual legend that surrounds a lonely country road in Clay Township, Michigan, near where he grew up. The road and the movie are called *Morrow Road*.

Morrow Road has been the location for many supernatural happenings since 1893 when one version of the legend says that a woman went out in the middle of a snowstorm at night to search for her young boy who had wandered from the house

near Morrow Road and both froze to death. There are numerous different versions of the legend each with some plausible factors. The movie, *Morrow Road*, explores the different legends that have been handed down for generations.

Accounts on the Internet of local teenagers and even adults who have had encounters on Morrow Road with a ghostly apparition, orbs of light and crying sounds abound. Although Sampier himself has never encountered these other-worldly events, he has interviewed numerous

See MORROW ROAD, Page 7

The Life of Old Mother Rodd

By Diane Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

I first heard about Old Mother Rodd around the year 2000 when I was sitting in the home of Elmer and Lavina Kodet, my husband's parents, in Port Huron Township, Michigan. My father-in-law's health was failing and I was interested in learning as much as I could about my husband's side of the family for our children's and grandchildren's sake while we still were able.

Elmer pulled out a worn copy of the family *Bible*. On the inside cover, he had written out the names of his

parents, grandparents, great grandparents and more. He also wrote out his wife's (Lavina's) ancestors as far back as he could remember. One name really stood out: Old Mother Rodd.

Elmer knew only bits and pieces about her, mostly what had been handed down by verbal stories told by Lavina's relatives. Lavina was directly related to Old Mother Rodd through her



Nawegeshagoqua, known to us as Old Mother Rodd.

mother, Victoria Parrow. Old Mother Rodd was a Chippewa woman who became very well-known to persons living in Port Huron, Michigan in the middle of the 1800s. Elmer knew that she was an herbalist and would often peddle her herbs and handmade baskets on the streets of Port Huron. He had little other information.

See RODD, Page 22

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

America's newspapers had been facing tough times, even before the recession hit. Some of the challenges being faced are a drop in subscribers, reduced advertising revenue, heavy corporate debt and a rise in Internet usage by persons wishing to keep up with the daily news. Cynics even say that the newspaper is going to soon be a thing of the past.

In spite of all of this, *ThumbPrint News*, a new brand of newspaper to the Thumb area of Michigan, is making its debut this month. After many long months of research, story gathering, photo taking, article writing, creating advertisements, proof-reading and revising, the first edition of *ThumbPrint News* has been published.

ThumbPrint News is being distributed FREE to people and businesses in the following Thumb counties: Genesee, Huron, Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland, Sanilac, St. Clair and Tuscola. It will be an imprint of places and people at work and play in these areas. *ThumbPrint News* genuinely cares about the communities in these areas and we will try to show that in everything we do. Our focus will be more personal, more analytical and more responsive than newspapers have been in the past.

Why do I, as editor, have optimism that *ThumbPrint News* can make it when many newspapers are failing or have already failed? Because the staff of *ThumbPrint News* is willing to work very hard at being the absolute best it can be!

The Thumb of Michigan faces huge hurdles in today's economy. Yet, great opportunities often come disguised as huge problems. We live in one of the greatest places on earth and *ThumbPrint News* will highlight those people, businesses and places that make it unique. The

challenge for the staff of *ThumbPrint News* is to allow you, our readers, to personalize this newspaper for yourself. Please send us your ideas and your articles. Tell us about your unique businesses and about your employees. Share with us your favorite places to visit, dine, shop or stay in the Thumb area. Send us your photos of events you catch on camera. Submit information about your events. By doing this, *ThumbPrint News* will provide people who reside in the Thumb area – either all year or seasonally – more reasons to support our local residents and businesses, and will aid in attracting new visitors to the area.

We know that businesses cut advertising costs when the economy is in decline. Yet, these are the times advertising is needed the most. *ThumbPrint News* will offer very reasonable advertising rates and will support businesses by spotlighting several in each county monthly.

The Thumb area needs this support and the staff of *ThumbPrint News* is ready to meet the challenge.

Thank you for letting us be a part of your communities.

In future editions of *ThumbPrint News*, we invite our readers to write Letters to the Editor expressing opinions on topics of interest or concern. To be published, each letter must include a name, home address and daytime and evening phone numbers so that we can verify the identity of the writer. Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Submissions can be emailed to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net (please include Letters to the Editor in the subject line), or mailed to: Letters to the Editor, *ThumbPrint News*, 8061 Marsh Road, Clay Township, Michigan 48001.

DIANE KODET
Editor, *ThumbPrint News*



Otisville, Michigan

By L. Brian Williams

Guest Writer

Otisville, Michigan, like other small towns, appears to me to be more civilized than bigger metropolitan areas. Why? It is because people know each other. You don't hear too many people honking their car horns here. Let's face it – it is pretty hard to honk your horn at a person you might sit next to in church next Sunday!

Small town people wave when they see you. They don't even have to know you. There is always time to stop and chat. People are friendly and willing to help with a problem.



Downtown Otisville still has that small town feel.

I had only lived in Otisville a few days when I was at the local gas station struggling with the loosening of lug nuts on the flat tire of my utility trailer. To my amazement, two teen-aged boys, with rap music blaring from their vehicle, pulled

See OTISVILLE, Page 16

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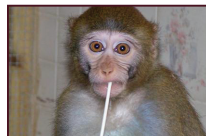
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Is Sweetest Day a Genuine Holiday?

By **Cindy Beck**

Guest Writer

During my childhood I had always been told that Sweetest Day was a holiday created by members of the candy, floral and card industries to sell slow-moving products during October. Even later, after working for twenty years as a florist in three different states (Michigan, Illinois and Iowa), I still had that lingering belief.

Having been used to working all floral holidays, I was surprised while working in Iowa that the day attached to Sweetest Day was one of my days off! I then found out the reason – Michigan and Illinois celebrate Sweetest Day. Iowa does not.

That got me wondering, “Why is Sweetest Day celebrated in some states and not in others?”

So, I did what any prudent person would do – I googled “Sweetest Day!”

Here is what I found:

Sweetest Day was founded around 1922 in Cleveland, Ohio by Herbert



Cindy Beck is from Marine City, Michigan, and is the floral manager at Foxfire Farm Floral Shop in Clay Township, Michigan.

Birch Kingston, a local candy company employee, who sought to bring cheer and happiness into the lives of persons who were often forgotten. With the help of his friends, he began distributing candy and small

gifts to children living in orphanages, to people stricken with illnesses or disabilities, to shut-ins and to others less fortunate than himself.

During the early years of the holiday, Ann Pennington, a movie star at that time, presented 2,200 boxes of candy to Cleveland newspaper boys to express gratitude to them for their service to the community.

Theda Bara, another movie star of that period, gave away 10,000 boxes of candy to people in hospitals and to those individuals who came to watch her films in the local theater.

Sweetest Day was primarily a regional holiday observance in the Great Lakes region and in the Northeast, but now is gradually spreading to other areas of the country, as people move from one region to another.

Ohio is the top state for Sweetest Day sales, followed by Michigan and Illinois. Sales are strong also in the states of Texas, California and Florida.

The celebration of Sweetest Day is not attached to any particular religious group.

Sweetest Day is now celebrated on the third Saturday of October as a day to make someone happy. It is a time when we have the opportunity to remember the kindness and helpfulness of friends, spouses, relatives and associates, as well as those less fortunate than ourselves.

Sweetest Day is celebrated on October 17 in 2009.

I now believe that Sweetest Day offers us the opportunity to show others that we care in a tangible way. Many people choose to give gifts of candy and flowers on this holiday.

Today, with the troubling economic times, the appropriateness of this holiday is just as valid as in the 1920s when Herbert Birch Kingston saw a need to spread happiness into the lives of others. I know now that I will continue to celebrate Sweetest Day – a genuine holiday! 🌱

Happy Sweetest Day October 17

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Wine and Cheese For Beginners

By David Beart

There is a great deal to know about wine besides the difference between red and white. Wine can be a very enjoyable experience as long as you pick, store and serve it correctly. The ability to pair wine with food correctly is a great skill and can really make an impression on a date or at a dinner party. The two most popular types of wine, red and white, pair with very different foods and are distinct in flavor. White wines are made with Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc grapes. Full bodied red wines are made with Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Noir grapes, while lighter red wines are made with Merlot grapes.

Some of the types of red wines available are Bordeaux, Burgundy, Cabernet, Chianti and Merlot. Red wines are better when they are aged. Most red wine is not sold until it has been in the bottle for at least two years. These wines benefit from being allowed to breathe for at least a half an hour before being served and should be served just below room temperature. You should pour them into a decanter to allow more surface-to-air contact. If this is not possible then only filling your wine glass half full will allow the wine to breathe. While pairing wine with food is all about personal taste, red wines traditionally go well with heavier foods. Try them with beef, lamb, pork and pastas.

Popular white wines include Chablis, Chardonnay and Riesling. White wine does not benefit from aging and also does not need to breathe. You can serve it right from

the bottle and it is best served chilled. White wines go well with lighter food. Serve them with fish and poultry. They also accompany strong cheeses and deserts well.

When you are pairing wine and cheese, white wine is the place to start. Red wines are harder to match with cheese. Light red wines can be paired well with goat cheeses, but there are not many other good combinations. White wine can be paired with just about any type of cheese and it should be left up to your individual taste. Many people believe that light cheese and light wine should go together, but many others believe the opposite is true and that the opposites will balance each other out.

The pairing of wine and cheese is all about enjoyment. These two edibles are meant to be savored. What one person enjoys another person may dislike. If you are having a party and you want to serve wine and cheese, there are some great foods that you can include to round out your party fare. Dark chocolate or deserts made with it are a natural addition to wine and cheese. If you want to make party trays, you can fill them with fruits, nuts and olives to compliment your cheeses. Olives and feta cheese are a wonderful pairing and will go well with a red wine. Throw in a tray of baklava and you have a Mediterranean feast with which to delight your guest.

David Beart is the owner of the Professors House, a website with information on a wide variety of topics. Visit www.professorshouse.com.



Romance on a Budget Enjoy the Great Outdoors!

(ARA) - Champagne and chocolate-covered strawberries spell romance, but can fade fast. A more innovative and enduring (not to mention budget-conscious) method for adding romance is to bring it outdoors. In fact, your own backyard can be a much more cost-effective and intimate date night.

When incorporating romance into the outdoors, remember a few key points. Generally, the same concepts that work for your home can also be applied to outdoor living spaces.

* The right lighting sets the mood. Gentle lighting, as opposed to harsh fluorescents, exudes romance. Bring indoor traditions like candelabras and miniature chandeliers outside to light your evenings, or hang diffused light via lanterns.

* Use existing furniture and decorate with romantic accessories that match the decor of your home and personality.

* Incorporate elements of fire and water through an outdoor fireplace, waterfall, pond or birdbath. The warmth and sounds will be sure to soothe.

When bringing the indoors out, it is important to keep your climate in mind.

"While Midwesterners enjoy the change of seasons, they also have to tolerate them," says Mary G. Cain, academic director of Interior Design at The Illinois Institute of Art - Schaumburg. "To capitalize on enjoyment of outdoor living experiences, spending a little more on durable, quality finishes and furnishings will save space and maximize all-season potential. Many surprising materials and products are available for more volatile outdoor situations, such as furniture made of teak and outdoor rugs made of colorful recycled plastic bottles."

In addition to utilizing existing home furnishings, the budget-conscious can also acquire items at flea markets, garage sales or through online classified sites for accessories and antiques. Out-of-the-ordinary items repurposed as planters are not only whimsical and easy on the pocketbook but on the environment as well.

Enjoying your redefined outdoor space can bring romance in an unexpected area. Chocolate and champagne are optional.

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There's Always a Reason to Throw a Party!

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

Some people are always ready to throw or attend a party. *ThumbPrint News* wants to be sure that no matter what day you pick during the month, there will always be a reason to celebrate! Each month we will be publishing great reasons to celebrate for each day of the month. In this edition, we celebrate the month of October!

October 1: In 1955 on this date, *The Honeymooners* premiered on television. Get together and play old reruns of *The Honeymooners* while dressing as would be the custom in the 1950s.

October 2: President James Carter was born in Plains, Georgia, on this date in 1924. The *Peanuts* comic strip debuted in 1950. Two events, both associated with peanuts. Sounds like a great chance to get together for some tin roof sundaes!

October 3: In 1789, George Washington proclaimed this to be the First National Thanksgiving. It was later changed to the third Thursday in November by Abraham Lincoln. Get together with family and friends and throw a Turkey Day dinner. You may have to explain why you are doing it a month and a half early!

October 4: Wrestling returns to Madison Square Garden after a 12 year lay off on this date in 1940. Great day to get together with a bunch of friends for a mud wrestling contest!

October 5: The first radio broadcast of the World Series occurred in 1921. Organize an outdoor barbeque and neighborhood baseball game to celebrate!

October 6: The American Chess Association is organized. The first major U.S. chess tournament was held in New York in 1857. Round-up the kids and grandkids, steal them away from the X-box or television, and teach them how to play a good old-fashioned game of chess.

October 7: In 1957, *American Bandstand* premiers. Get an old record player, round up some classic 45s from the '50s and hold a 1950s party. Award prizes for the best 1950s outfits!



October 8: On this date in 1840, the first Hawaiian Constitution was proclaimed. Go to the local party shop and buy some leis and grass skirts and get together for a Hawaiian Luau. A roasted pig on a spit would be the ultimate treat – though a nice pulled pork roast could make an acceptable substitute. Make sure to have a blender of pina colodas on stand-by.

October 9: In 1888 on this date, the Washington Monument first opened to the public. Get out the toothpicks and mini-marshmallows and see who can build the best reproduction of this famous landmark.

October 10: In 1795, the United States Mint hires females for the first time. This would be a great day for the guys to empty out their wallets, hand it to their spouses or girlfriends and give them the day off to go shopping!

October 11: Apollo 7 is launched in 1968. Rent the movie *Apollo 13*, starring Tom Hanks, and watch it with your family or friends. Serve them moon pies.

October 12: In 1492, Christopher Columbus arrived with his expedition in what is now the present day Bahamas. Get out some old newspapers, fold them into paper hats, jump into a rubber raft in your pool or on the waterway and pretend you are a modern day Columbus!

October 13: In 1989 on this date, the Dow Jones was down 190.58 points. Search through your local newspaper and keep track of how many articles are positive and how many are negative. Take a couple of the negative articles and see how you could rewrite them in a more positive way. Hey, would you like to write for *ThumbPrint News*?

October 14: On this date in 1960, the Peace Corps was first suggested by John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Organize a community volunteer event today that will benefit a specific family or group in the area.

October 15: In 1939, LaGuardia Airport opened in New York City. Take your significant other to a travel agency today and go through all of the travel brochures. Pick out your perfect vacation together. Either book now, or take the brochures home and plan for the future over a glass of your favorite wine.

October 16: In 1846, dentist



William T. Morton demonstrated the effectiveness of ether on this date. Go to your phone and schedule that annual dental check-up. Hey, wait a minute. That isn't something to celebrate, is it?

October 17: In 1995, French woman Jeanne Calment is declared the oldest living person, with a proven age of 120 years and 238 days. Organize a trip with a few friends to a senior citizen home or retirement community and plan a day of fun for them – perhaps some old-fashioned games and treats.

October 18: In 2006, Microsoft publicly released Windows Internet Explorer 7. Instead of partying today with actual friends, go online and take on the Internet world with your favorite online games.

October 19: Jacqueline (Mrs. John F.) Kennedy married Aristotle Onassis in a private ceremony on his island of Skorpios on this date in 1968. Go to a good Greek restaurant in the area and take out some Greek food and a plate of baklava, spread a blanket under a tree and celebrate – Greek style! Don't forget the Ouzo!

October 20: The United States ratified the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. If they hadn't, perhaps we would never have known gumbo, crawfish, and pecan pralines! Organize a secret country club dinner and serve Cajun style food!

October 21: In 1879 on this date, Thomas Edison invented the electric light. Although this catapulted us into the modern age, organize a party for today around the old-fashioned way of doing things. Use candles or kerosene lights instead of electric. Plan meals and entertainment to represent how things might have been done in the olden days.

October 22: In 1797, the first parachute jump was made from a hot air balloon over Paris. Purchase some old-fashioned cloth handkerchiefs, some kite string, and some toy soldiers or plastic animals and show your kids and grandkids how to create a parachute. Have contests by throwing them up into the air and seeing whose takes the longest to parachute back to earth.

October 23: The first horseshoe pitching contest was held in 1915.



Invite six or eight couples to bring a potluck dish to pass – you furnish the beer and wine coolers – and everyone competes in a horseshoe contest of their own.

October 24: A patent was first issued for the safety match in 1826. With the chilly evenings, this is the perfect time of year to get together for an outside bonfire with friends. Break up into teams and give each team one match to see who can build the best fire in the least amount of time!



October 25: The first International six day bike race ends in 1891 at New York's Madison Square Gardens. Organize a family bike trip today, highlighting some of the local places of interest along your route. Don't forget to pack a picnic lunch for a stop along the trail.

October 26: In 1999, *Pinocchio* becomes the first animated classic to make its way to DVD. Have a stay at home family night, pop some popcorn, and rent several of the old Walt Disney feature length cartoons.

October 27: In 1904 on this date in history, the New York subway opens for the first time. Get together with several couples and have a "create your own subway sandwich" night. The person with the most unique and tasty recipe wins a prize!

October 28: In 1967, actress Julia Roberts was born. Rent *Pretty Woman* and *Officer and a Gentleman* and cuddle up with your significant other for a romantic evening.

October 29: *Hair* opened on Broadway in 1967 on this date. Invite friends over for a costume party, only rather than having them wear Halloween costumes, have them showcase their most unusual, funny or scary hairdo! Be sure to hand out prizes in several categories!

October 30: The United States Government announced the end of shoe rationing in 1945. This is the perfect day to go on a shoe shopping spree – or buy a set of Crocs and decorate them!

October 31: Magician Harry Houdini died in Detroit, Michigan, in 1926. Invite a bunch of friends over for a magic show. Each guest has to research and come up with one magic trick to impress the other guests. Offer a prize for the best trick! 🍀





Memoirs from The Restless Retiree The Breakfast Special

by Gabriel Jones

Here's the restaurant . . . but look! ALL THE HANDICAP PARKING PLACES ARE TAKEN!

I quickly parked next to the restaurant door to drop off my wife . . . telling her to walk faster to get inside to tell the waitress what we want so that we can get the Breakfast Special before 11:00 a.m.

Well, I left her there with her cane trying to get through the doors of the restaurant while I went to park across the whole parking lot trying to find a space . . .

Well, we're hungry . . . and it's morning. My wife and I will have to hurry to get to the restaurant before 11:00 a.m. so that we can get the Senior Breakfast at a discounted price.

It was later than I thought, but I was sure we could make it in time.

My wife has a problem with her legs, but we have a handicap tag to park close to the restaurant, so we'll be alright.

Well, when I walked inside I saw my wife waving to me from the table and I went and sat down.

"Did we make it?" I asked.

"No," the waitress said. "The computer said it was too late for the Breakfast Special."

"The computer said what?" I yelled louder than I thought.

"Shhh, we're too late . . . the computer wouldn't take the order," my wife mentioned again.

Oh well! Another lesson learned from "The Restless Retiree." 🌱

Editor's note: Follow the adventures of the Restless Retiree every month in ThumbPrint News!

MORROW ROAD: Legend on Film

Continued from Page 1

people who claim that they have.

Sampier is not the only person who has been intrigued by these legends. *Unsolved Mysteries*, a favorite television show, aired a mini-feature about *Morrow Road* in the 1990's. Not long after, Detroit's Channel 4 News did a story as well.

The idea for the movie was suggested to Sampier by a friend – not just once, but four times until Sampier finally embraced the idea as doable.

Sampier first became interested in a career with the movie industry when he saw the movie *Jurassic Park* in junior high school in 1993. Although this movie was not the first to use CGI (Computer Generated Images), it was one of the first to do it really well.

From that time on, Sampier knew what his life's passion would be.

Sampier's previous credits include four films, five documentaries

and 11 music videos.

Sampier studied at the prestigious Ex'pression College of Digital Arts.

At the time our reporter interviewed Sampier, he graciously shared his studio, the locally done paintings that hold a crucial part in the movie and even his investment portfolio. Two hours later, our reporter came away with the feeling that Sampier is truly a master of his art. Most evident was his passion for quality movie making. Four and a half years later, he is the closest he has been to seeing *Morrow Road* become a reality. His investment portfolio is being shared with



Francis Sampier

serious investors who, with their funding, may make *Morrow Road* become a reality by the end of 2010.

Morrow Road boasts some world renowned actors and credible backers, including the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, who is doing the film score. Bob Weinstein, producer of *Lord of the Rings*, endorses the movie as being a goldmine, and Sarah Bernhardt's quote, "Legend remains victorious in spite of history," is a core component of the movie. You can visit the website for more information, www.morrowroad.com. 🌱

ThumbPrint News wishes Francis J. Sampier the best with his movie and congratulates him for keeping the production here in the Thumb of Michigan!

Stone Blind Love

Sometime after Sidney died, his widow, Tillie, was finally able to speak about what a thoughtful and wonderful man her late husband had been.

"Sidney thought of everything," she told them. "Just before he died, Sidney called me to his bedside. He handed me three envelopes. 'Tillie,' he told me, 'I have put all my last wishes in these three envelopes. After I am dead, please open them and do exactly as I have instructed. Then, I can rest in peace'."

"What was in the envelopes?" her friends asked.

"The first envelope contained \$5,000 with a note, 'Please use this money to buy a nice casket.' So I bought a beautiful mahogany casket with such a comfortable lining that I know Sidney is resting very comfortably."

"The second envelope contained \$10,000 with a note, 'Please use this for a nice funeral.' I arranged Sidney a very dignified funeral and bought all his favorite foods for everyone attending."

"And the third envelope?" asked her friends.

"The third envelope contained \$25,000 with a note, 'Please use this to buy a nice stone'."

Holding her hand in the air, Tillie said, "So, do you like my stone?" showing off her ten carat diamond ring. 🌱

Anti-Drug Lesson

My kindergarten-aged daughter suddenly announced just before school that she needed to take a clean tee shirt to class. She told us the teacher was going to iron an anti-drug message on it. My wife frantically swept through my daughter's room, finding nothing usable but one tee shirt that already had something printed on one side. She sent it off to school with my daughter.

That afternoon, my daughter returned and happily showed off her shirt. On one side it said, "Families are Forever." And on the other, "Be Smart, Don't Start." 🌱

Medical Breakthrough Sheds New Light on Health

By Ed Cass
Guest Writer
Ever Wonder Why You Feel Like You Do?

Are you suffering from low energy, a lack of mental focus, an inability to get out of bed in the morning or the desire to return to bed once you are up? Is your immune system so low you tend to always catch the seasonal illness or whatever seems to be going around? Maybe you just aren't feeling as young as you once were, or you are held back from enjoying the activities that brought you so much pleasure because you are sidelined

from the aches and pains of aging? Aging is a progressive and ongoing process of destructive deterioration of the body at a cellular level that decreases functional ability.

The process of becoming older is a process that is genetically determined and environmentally modulated, similar to a degenerative disease.

I think we can all sum up numerous culprits to aging . . . the sun, cholesterol, poor diet and

exercise, illness and disease, stress and lack of sleep, each which can be poor choices or genetic or environmentally produced factors. However, to get to the "root" of the problem, we need to understand how these factors contribute to aging. The key to understanding is with the word "cellular." There

"Knowledge is power when put into action"

are roughly 20-75 trillion cells in your body. Each cell has a specific purpose. Most factors mentioned above contribute to health issues.

All health issues, whether injury or disease, are based on inflammation on the cellular level. Cellular degeneration stems from "free radicals" or "oxidation." The root cause of degenerative disease is the body's inability to heal from normal wear and tear due to the long term lack of maintenance of the body. "Long term lack of maintenance of the body" means long term lack of nutrients and long term lack of protection from free radicals.

The key to preventing accelerated aging is to slow down or decrease the body's oxidation process that causes free radicals. A new scientific medical breakthrough product called MAXGXL provides the proper nutrients needed to promote the body's own ability to slow down the aging process, and naturally increase your energy, detoxify your body and strengthen your immune system.

Tune in next month to learn about free radicals and antioxidants.

Michigan's Rising Obesity Rates

Obesity rate is an alarming 28.8 percent

By Leah Lindke
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Michiganders should become aware of the obesity rate in their state. It is an alarming 28.8 percent! Over a quarter of the state of Michigan is obese. How does this happen? What can you do to improve your health and your way of living?

Diet and exercise are the key components when it comes to losing weight. Not only should you be on a balanced diet, eating 6 small meals a day, but you should also be exercising.

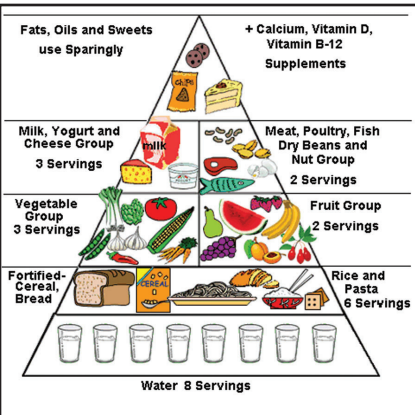
Obesity is the accumulation of excess body fat. The body can carry some extra fat, but beyond a certain point, it can begin to interfere with your health. A Body Mass Index (BMI) over 30 is considered obese.

In order to lose weight, you must burn more calories than you take in. To lose about a pound per week, it is suggested that you cut your caloric intake by 250 and burn an additional 250 calories. On the other hand, it is also important that you don't lose an excessive amount of weight per week, adding additional stress to your body.

There are many exercises that can be done at home such as yoga, Pilates, jogging, walking, etc. If you can't find time to make it into your local gym, don't forget about taking the stairs instead of the elevator or parking your car in the back of the parking lot for those few extra strides!

Don't forget how you handle your eating and exercising habits today, will affect the way you feel as you

get older. The more you exercise and practice a good diet, the better you will feel about yourself.



The Food Pyramid: This illustration is a guide to show us how many servings of each food group is recommended by the USDA for consumption on a daily basis to maintain a healthy diet.

(Editor's note: Ed Cass is an independent business owner in the health & wellness industry. Ed lives in Marine City, Michigan. For more information about this medical breakthrough product, visit www.faq.max4u.com/maxgxl. The information in this article is solely based on information from Ed and does not constitute an endorsement of any kind from ThumbPrint News.)

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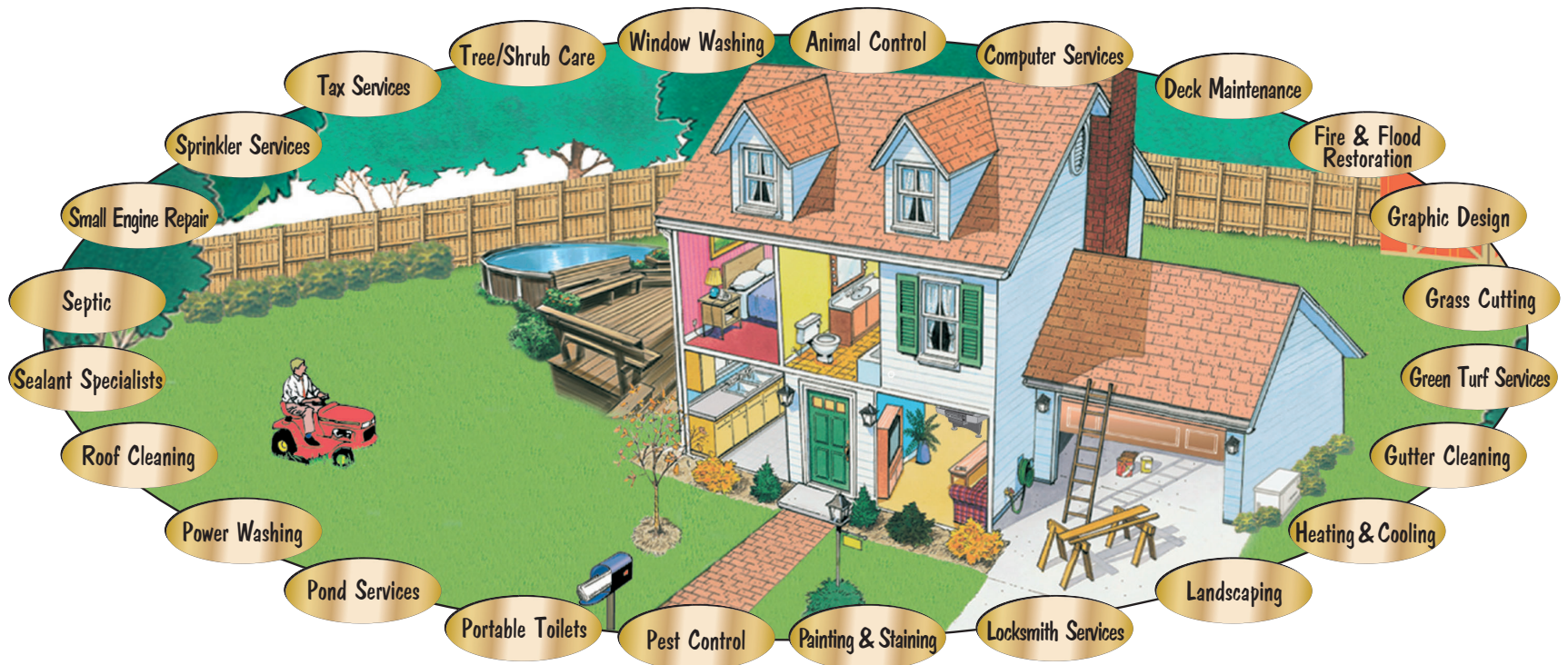
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Scratching the surface of canine allergies



Constant scratching by your dog can indicate a skin disease caused by environmental allergies called atopic dermatitis.

(ARA) - Most people consider their dog to be more than just a pet. Dogs are true members of the family. So when your dog is itching uncontrollably, it is frustrating not to know what's wrong. Once owners rule out the possibility of fleas, they are often left with questions unanswered. One problem frequently over-looked is a skin disease caused by environmental allergies.

Like humans, dogs can be hypersensitive to common airborne allergens such as pollen, mold and dust mites. But instead of showing symptoms such as sneezing, watery eyes and a runny nose, dogs present symptoms on the skin that they try to relieve through constant scratching, licking and gnawing. These symptoms are typically signs of an allergic skin disease known as canine atopic dermatitis.

More than an itch

According to Kadence Research, canine atopic dermatitis affects about 16 percent of the canine population. As with human allergies, symptoms are often seasonal but can develop into a year-round problem if not properly treated. Dogs with atopic dermatitis usually start showing signs of the disease between the ages of six months and three years old, but some will show signs later due to changes in their environment.

Atopic dermatitis is characterized by intense scratching or chewing of the skin, hair loss and a foul odor resulting from the nonstop chewing and licking. The continual scratching can be bothersome to owners when their dogs are restlessly itching. It can also make the dog lethargic because they are unable to sleep due to constant irritation.

"Sam has had allergies for five or six years," said Marj Voorhees, owner of Sam the Siberian husky. "He was doing lots of scratching, licking and itching. He lost a lot of hair around his face, eyes and ears."

Voorhees tried using traditional medications and shampoos, as well as immunotherapy and zinc supplements in attempts to end Sam's suffering. Sam's therapy made him hungrier than normal and he gained 20 pounds. He also continued to itch.

There are numerous methods used to try to control the symptoms of canine atopic dermatitis. Veterinarians regularly try everything from antihistamines to steroid injections to keep their clients' dogs from itching.

"Symptoms range from mild to severe," said Steve Mildén, VMD. "But the quality of life for a dog with atopic dermatitis can be diminished if the symptoms go untreated."

Without a proper diagnosis and treatment plan, dogs with atopic

dermatitis will continue to live in pain and discomfort; they won't simply "grow out of it." Anyone with active allergies can attest to how miserable life can be with an itchy throat, clogged sinuses and red eyes, so one can only imagine how unhappy dogs are when they have unstoppable itching. Luckily for dogs and their owners, there is a solution for the symptoms of atopic dermatitis.

Not your average backscratcher

The solution for dogs with atopic dermatitis comes in the form of a prescription product called Atopica (Cyclosporine capsules, USP MODIFIED) that specifically targets the immune cells involved in the allergic reaction. Similar to humans taking allergy medicine year-round to prevent flare-ups and misery, the same concept can be applied to treating dog allergies.

"I've been prescribing Atopica to dogs for about five years," said

Mildén. "My clients couldn't be more pleased. Their dogs seem to be happier now that they don't itch all the time and their owners are thankful to have finally found relief for their best friend."

Like Mildén's clients, Voorhees was able to find relief for her dog. Once Voorhees' veterinarian prescribed Atopica, Sam was completely different.

"It made a tremendous difference almost immediately," said Voorhees. "All of his hair grew back. It took care of the itching, too. He's noticeably more comfortable."

Owners should speak to their veterinarians if they think their dog may be suffering from allergies. The veterinarian will be able to answer questions and recommend a proper treatment. For more information on canine atopic dermatitis and ways to treat the disease, visit www.atopica.novartis.us or the Novartis Animal Health home page at www.petwellness.com. 🌱

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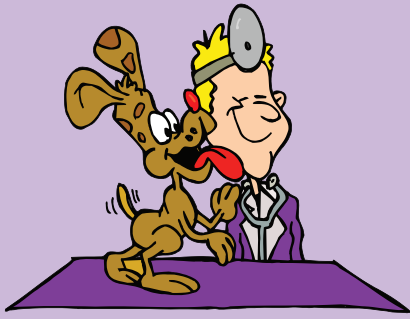

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Q&A

with Dr. Watson

ALLERGIC SKIN DISEASES

Q. Is Your Pet Scratching?

A. If your answer is YES, it could be that your pet has allergies. Just like humans, dogs and cats can build up sensitivity to normal substances in the environment. You may notice that your pet has seasonal symptoms that get worse during spring and summer when there are increased amounts of pollen in the air. Or, your pet may have year-round allergies to allergens found indoors, such as house mites, or to substances found commonly in pet food. It is estimated that more than 30% of all skin irritations can be attributed to allergies.

Q. What are Allergies?

A. An allergic reaction is one in which an individual reacts to a normal substance in the environment. These substances are called allergens and include pollens, molds, animal hair, house dust, fleas, foods and many more. Allergens cause reactions through skin contact, inhalation or ingestion.

Q. What are the Common Symptoms of Allergies?

A. As with humans, cats tend to show more respiratory symptoms than dogs. Signs of allergy symptoms usually start with scratching, licking or chewing of the feet, and rubbing of the face. As the condition advances, scratching and chewing injuries to the skin may lead to bacterial skin infections. In the case of food allergies, vomiting and diarrhea may be present.

Q. How are Allergies Diagnosed?

A. Our veterinarians will examine your pet and determine an appropriate medical treatment plan. However, should your pet continue to have chronic skin problems, vomiting or diarrhea, allergy testing may be recommended.

Q. How is the Allergy Test Performed?

A. A sample of blood is drawn and submitted to an outside laboratory that specializes in animal allergy testing. Your pet's blood serum is tested for sensitivity to inhalant's such as trees, grasses, weeds and shrubs, fungi, house dust and mites, as well as for ingredients in commercial dog and cat food preparations.

Q. How are the Test Results Reported?

A. An allergy report is generated that indicates the result for each allergen tested. The report will indicate if your pet tested negative, borderline, positive or high positive to each of the allergens tested.

Q. What is the Treatment for My Pets Allergies?

A. It is always best to avoid contact with the offending allergen(s). However, when avoidance is impossible, steroids are often used for short-term relief of symptoms. Since steroids can have serious side effects, long-term usage is not recommended. For pets with chronic, prolonged allergy symptoms, hyposensitization is another alternative. Hyposensitization is achieved through allergy injections that are formulated specifically for your pet based on its allergy test results. The injections are given in increasing concentrations to build up your pet's tolerance to the offending allergens. Allergy injections allow your pet to live more comfortably in its environment without chronic symptoms of scratching, hair loss and skin irritation.

Q. How Quickly Do the Allergy Injections Work?

A. Your pet will receive several allergy injections during the first several months of treatment. In most cases, improvement

is seen after three to five months of treatment, at which stage allergy injections are given monthly.

Q. What if My Pet is Diagnosed with Food Allergies?

A. Dogs and cats cannot be hyposensitized to foods. The treatment for food allergies is elimination of the offending food type. Along with the allergy report, you will be supplied with a list of commercially available foods that are free of the ingredients to which your pet tested positive.

Q. Are There Risks Involved With Allergy Injections?

A. Adverse reactions are extremely rare. If an adverse reaction does occur, it should only be temporary and non-life threatening.

*Article reprinted with permission from:
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Dr. Watson (right) pictured with patient Clyde. Clyde is a Whippet.

Create a Home Fit for Humans and Four-legged Friends



(ARA) - Americans love their pets and there are certainly lots of them to love. Sixty-three percent of U.S. households own a pet and the most popular animals – dogs and cats – make up 82 percent of all pets, according to the American Pet Products Association.

With all those furry friends, it's no surprise that pet-friendly design is one of the fastest growing interior decorating trends. From high-end home items to the basics, decorating is literally going to the dogs . . . and cats. Beyond pet-proofing a home for safety, pet-friendly decorating has an increasing number of animal lovers choosing and incorporating pet-friendly fabrics and building materials into their homes' decor.

A number of cost-effective ways to maintain a fabulous-looking home are also practical and comfortable for both you and your pet. Here are five tricks of the trade:

Common sense color.

It's one of the simplest interior design tricks – matching your furniture fabric to your pet's fur color to help conceal dog and cat hair. For example, if you have a multi-colored pet, opt for a small pattern that closely matches your pet's coloring. If you have a white poodle or feline, skip the all-black sofa and choose a lighter fabric color. If your heart is still set on black, accessorize with black pillows or a throw blanket. The same holds true if you own a pet with darker fur – the darker your

fabric choices, the easier it will be to hide pet fur.

Skip the slipcover.

Thanks to recent advances made in the manufacturing of furniture fabric, there's no need to hide your couch under an unsightly slipcover in order to protect it from the wear-and-tear of your pet. Look into purchasing furniture made with a synthetic textile that's easy to clean and highly resistant to stains, water and even bacteria. A less expensive option is ultrasuede microfiber. If either of these choices is still out of your price range, make sure your furniture is protected with Scotchgard. However, if you go this route, know that there are still some fabrics to avoid, such as denim, flannel, corduroy and velvet. Each of them has a tendency to hold pet fur.

Pet-friendly paint.

Keeping your walls clean and free of dirt marks can be a feat if you have a pet. Choosing a high-quality, durable paint really does make a difference. Dutch Boy's Refresh paint, a new paint formulated with exclusive Arm & Hammer odor-eliminating technology, is ideal for pet owners. It provides a beautiful finish that's also extremely durable, so cleanup of dirt and marks is easy. Plus, it actually removes odors, including pet smells, from the air. You'll not only have great-looking walls, but a fresh-smelling home, too.

Fitting floors.

Flooring options for pet owners can be tricky because carpet holds

stains and odors, and hardwood scratches easily. If you're looking at replacing your carpeting, there are choices specifically designed for pet owners. One of them, Pet Agree Carpet, claims that it withstands any damage made by a pet. It's made from a material that traps liquids, such as pet urine, and stops them from soaking through to the carpet padding and floor below.

If you prefer hardwood floors, but don't want to deal with scratches that can be made by your four-legged friends, think laminate. Today's laminate flooring, like the new North American collection from Tarkett Residential, is far more durable, and is more scratch- and indentation-resistant than softer real wood flooring. These surfaces also install faster, are about half the price, and still offer a vast choice in unique wood finishes.

Sixty-three percent of U.S. households own a pet and the most popular animals – dogs and cats – make up 82 percent of all pets.

Less is more.

Another smart design tip: keep knickknacks and accent pieces to a minimum. Today's trend in creating clean, streamlined spaces is not only aesthetically appealing, but is ideal for pet owners. A well-thought-out design means you'll enjoy the benefits of a clutter-free environment while keeping unnecessary, decorative items out of reach of pets' sweeping tails and curious jaws.

Ensuring you, Fido and Fluffy live harmoniously doesn't mean you need to spend a bundle or sacrifice your sense of style. By doing your research, formulating a decorating plan and choosing your materials carefully, you can easily create a home that's fit for man and beast. 🐾

If Dogs Were Teachers

If dogs were teachers, you would learn stuff like . . .

- When a loved one comes home, always run to greet them.
- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
- Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
- When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.
- Let others know when they've invaded your territory.
- Take naps.
- Stretch before rising.
- Run, romp, and play daily.
- Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
- On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.
- On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.
- When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
- No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout. Run right back and make friends.
- Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
- Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.
- Stop when you have had enough.
- Be loyal.
- Never pretend to be something you're not.
- When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.
- And finally, never trust anyone until you smell their butt.



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THE ART OF SCRAPBOOKING

By Laura Irwin

ThumbPrint News Staff Reporter

"Transforming a book of photos into art using scraps" may be the traditional definition of scrapbooking. However, scrapbooking has evolved far beyond this simple description.

Scrapbooking involves several "essentials." The first and most important is the realization that there is no right or wrong way. The second is that your imagination is your only limitation as to what is used to dress-up, decorate and embellish your book.

Certain tools do make scrapbooking easier, but are not required: a straight edge cutter, a corner rounding die-cut, colorful pens and markers and fancy edging scissors. To get started, all you really need are photos, an album and glue (both acid-free), a pair of scissors, a pen, your imagination and some scrap. "Scrap" means things such as pieces of ribbon, fabric from a heirloom apron, tickets from a fun event, portions of old greeting cards and calendars, dried flowers or even a paint chip color strip. As long as it fits on the page, it is a possibility.

The old style photo albums with the sticky backing are acidic which, over time, discolors and damages the photos. Advice from local 'scraper' Joan Worswick is, "If you have precious photos in these old-style albums, get them out as soon as possible! Replace the albums with the newer design that has page protecting sleeves with a thin card stock paper in the center for mounting your photos and that provides plenty of opportunity for personal touches and memorabilia."



Joan Worswick and Chester.

Joan now belongs to the "Sisterhood Scrappers" and has been scrapbooking since her wedding several years ago. She wanted a memorable, colorful keepsake to look back on so she took an album, all the photos from her wedding and went for it. The hardest part, she said, was allowing herself to cut up the photos into eye-catching shapes which put the focus on what she was emphasizing on that page, such as the wedding toast, the cake or the invitation. Since the time of her wedding, household photo printers which allow you to scan the original, create a copy for cutting, and still be able to preserve the original have been invented. This is much less traumatic, especially when dealing with ancestral photos.

Whether simple or elaborate, designing a page can take as little or as long as you want. Scrapbookers get together in what they term "crops" to not only trade ideas and embellishments but to have "uninterrupted time to be creative." Uninterrupted time is the third "essential." The scrapbookers pack up their suitcases of colorful papers

and baskets full of embellishments to travel to the nearest "crop" and spend hours upon hours tapping into their creativity, producing fun and beautiful scrap art for the enjoyment of all.

The fourth essential is organization. If you have accumulated a large variety of scrapping stuff, it really is better if you can find it when you want it.

Most local craft supply stores not only have a large and mind-boggling array of 'scrap' items for sale but also have information on "crops" in the area. Some crops are sponsored by local clubs or schools, where all participants bring a dish to pass (because you have to feed the creativity). Others are at craft-supply stores where you have access to all of their die-cuts and are provided with the materials to make a demo item, such as a greeting card. There is usually a very reasonable fee for participation in these events. Or you can get together with your friends and start your own club to make scrapbooks and fun memories at the same time.

According to Joan, the fifth essential item is to remember that, unfortunately, wine and scrap

booking do not mix!

In conclusion, if you want to get into scrapbooking, start at home with whatever you have laying around, tucked into sewing boxes, jewelry boxes or dresser drawers and get started making your own book of photo-enhanced 'scrap' art. 🍷

(Editor's note: Joan Worswick lives in Algonac, Michigan, where she enjoys the art of scrapbooking. If you have a hobby that you would like to share with the readers of ThumbPrint News, send an email to thumbprintnews@comcast.net).



Hand-made one-of-a-kind magnetic refillable notepads are one of many creations by Joan.

6th Annual History of the Christmas Tree Walk December 12-23 nightly 6:00-9:00

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My Visit To Whispering Pines Animal Kingdom in Lexington

By Laura Irwin

ThumbPrint News Staff Reporter

Located just south of Lexington, Michigan on Burns Line Road is a wonderful private zoo called Whispering Pines Animal Kingdom. It is owned and operated by Christina Kinde, who is also the tour guide. Most of the animals in the zoo were either rescued or cast off by owners who were no longer able to care for them. Occasionally Christina procures animals from other zoos.

The zoo has a surprising array of animals and Christina has an intimate knowledge of their individual needs and personalities which she shares with you as you walk the zoo grounds. Spending the afternoon at this zoo was a very pleasant and laid-back experience, observing the zoo's first acquisition, a spider monkey who likes lollipops, a sassy zebra named Tessa who is overprotective of a llama named Cocoa, crested roosters, ducks that appear to have large cotton balls on their heads



A spider monkey that enjoys lollipops is one of the surprises that await you at Whispering Pines Animal Kingdom

and many more. Some animals you can even pet, such as the pygmy hedgehogs and the baby American alligator. You can feed the fish and the ever-hungry pygmy goats.

A small gift area with zoo-related items is part of the establishment. Future plans include adding a picnic area to further enhance the experience.

The whole tour took just over two hours and is well worth the \$6.00 per person admission. Visits are by appointment only from May through October. The Web site for Whispering Pines Animal Kingdom is www.whisperingpinesanimalkingdom.net or you can call (810) 359-0039. Other information on the Web site includes such things as arranging to have the zoo come to your location for a school event or even for a private birthday party.

One of the highlights at the end of the tour was meeting Hayley, a shy little monkey who lives in Christina's house! This was a great family outing in the Thumb area of Michigan. 🌿

(Editor's note: If you have a favorite place that you have visited, dined at or stayed in the Thumb area of Michigan, please submit articles for consideration in future editions of ThumbPrint News to thumbprintnews@comcast.net.)



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Hedgehog



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Above are some of the exotic animals you may see at the Foxfire Farm Exotic Animal display from the Whispering Pines Animal Kingdom from Lexington, Michigan.

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Educational Programs at Whispering Pines

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

810.359.0039
www.whisperingpinesanimalkingdom.net

Accountable and Responsive Representation

By David Gillis

Guest Writer

I begin this treatise with a simple declaration that it is directed to those elected to represent me in government, but with the hope that others will see some value in its premise. It is written as an open letter with no expectation of a reply.

For much of my adult life I have opened and read your campaign literature whether I supported your ideology or not. I have worked on the election or re-election efforts for some of you, occasionally writing a check to support you. And, regardless of whether my vote counted towards your victory, once you were elected, I considered myself one of your constituents entitled to all of the respect and response granted to any other. That may be idealistic, but it is as I believe it should be.

First, I believe that accountability is important for any elected representative. That certainly is a concept of ethics and responsibility that is never questioned. That suggests an obligation to respond to my communication in a timely manner addressing the specific subject matter without an attempt to digress. You don't have to agree with me; just be able to explain your positions and actions. And, by the way, please don't have someone on your staff send me a letter prepared for the masses in answer to a specific comment I have made. Make sure, too, that you focus on my comments and not those of others.

When you're invited to a forum where your constituents will be in attendance, don't conveniently find somewhere else to be. If you legitimately cannot meet with them, make arrangements for another time. And, by all means, please at least

respond to the invitation. If you are truly afraid to stand before the electorate to explain your actions, then you should not be surprised when the next election does not return you to office.

Please do not rush to participate in photo opportunities or submit articles written by your staff in an attempt to gain favorable attention. Your sincerity and integrity will be found in how you respond to those you represent and not through some contrived effort in the media. Can't you see that most people who think for themselves can see through that?

If you ran for office based on certain principles and values, be prepared to stand by them. Should you stray from what you originally promised, don't be surprised when you are challenged and, certainly, be courageous enough to stand before the people and explain why you did. Hiding doesn't enhance your character.

If you can read disappointment and some bewilderment in the context of this message, then your analysis is correct. If you cannot or simply disallow it as meaningless, then you don't belong in public office.

I don't profess to have all of the answers to how you can accomplish your responsibilities to the satisfaction of all those you represent. I hope, however, that you will acknowledge my right to expect you to listen and respond accordingly, regardless of my partisan position. 🌱

(Editor's note: ThumbPrint News is not associated with any particular political party, but welcomes well written articles and advertisements from persons of any political affiliation that fit within the guidelines of the newspaper.)

What Does Your City Clerk Do?

By Stevan Nedin

Guest Writer

We all agree on how important elections are to Democracy. When it comes to our local government, it's not about party affiliation; it's all about good government. Municipal Clerks are the backbone of local government and are indispensable to a smooth-running city administration.

We all may know that the City Clerk acts as secretary of council, chief administrative officer in all elections held in the municipality as well as the person responsible for the acceptance of licenses and permits. But one area we often overlook is the role of



Clerk to be the general accountant to the city.

The Clerk shall be qualified to perform duties as the general accountant to the city, keeping the books or accounts of assets, receipts and expenditures. As such, they

are required to keep the Council and the Mayor informed as to the financial affairs of the city.

So while the Municipal Clerk is often the "face"

citizens connect with their city office, the Clerk's role in providing accurate, up-to-date information is the key in helping local leaders make optimal decisions for our community. 🌱

OTISVILLE: Small Town U.S.A.

Continued from Page 2

in behind me and asked if they could help. They wouldn't take any payment. It was just something they did because they thought it was the right thing to do – that is not likely to happen in many metropolitan areas.

In small towns, kids can camp out in the back yard safely. No gangs live here unless you consider weekend Harley riders a gang.

Small towns have community involvement. In fact, volunteerism is rampant. There are church groups, Masons, Lions Clubs, Lioness Clubs, Sports Boosters, Band Boosters, Fun Days and more. But, if your house is burning or a tree has fallen on it, you will see the real volunteers come out of the woodwork and help you put your life back together.

You know you are in a small town if:

- There are more taxidermists

than pawn shops.

- Friday night football is more important than Monday night football.
- Everybody knows your reputation, good or bad.
- You feel safe and secure in your home.
- You have to drive to see a rock concert, an opera or a play.
- People know you by name.
- A conversation about the weather is a serious business conversation.
- A tractor in town does not make you look twice.

For a definition of civilization – see Otisville. 🌱

Editor's note: L. Brian Williams is the Technical Service Advisor for Wholesale Heating Supply and lives in Otisville, Michigan.



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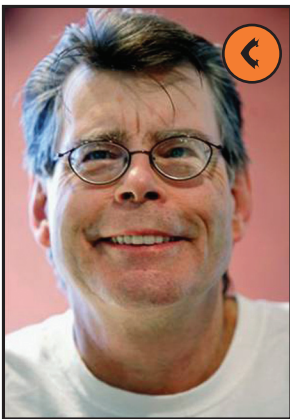
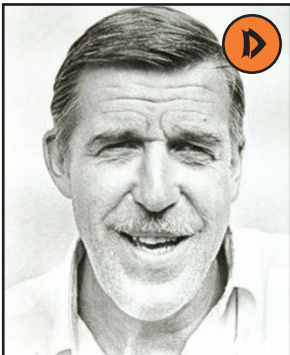
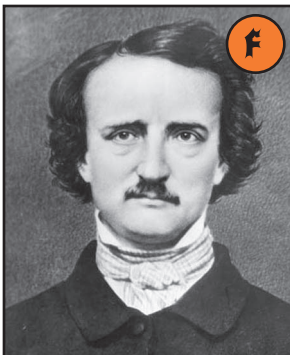
email us at abcbees@comcast.net or visit us on the web at www.abcbees.com

Halloween is a holiday that's celebrated annually on October 31. It originated in Ireland, and is celebrated in quite a few countries including Ireland itself, the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Sweden and many others. The Celts thought that during the winter the dead and the living existed simultaneously because the dead roamed the earth on this day. It soon became known as All-Hollows Eve and was later changed to Halloween. Trick-or-treating began in America and was most likely influenced from the festival parades in Europe, where people would go door-to-door begging for food. Now that we discussed the history of Halloween, test your creepy Halloween knowledge!

Frightful Biographies

See if you can match the biographies with the correct pictures - and identify the "Frightful Person"!

1. Born Peggy Middleton in 1922 in British Columbia, Canada, she spent most of her teenage years performing in nightclubs. Later, settling in Los Angeles, California, she was signed to a weekly contract with Paramount Studios. In 1964, she made her television debut as Lily in the horror-spoof sitcom *The Munsters*.
2. Born in 1947 in Portland, Maine, he became synonymous with best-selling novels, blending horror, fantasy and science fiction. His books have sold more than 100 million copies worldwide and several have been made into successful films.
3. Born in 1959 in Westport, Connecticut, she began modeling and acting at the age of six. When she was 15, she received a Golden Globe for her supporting role as Regan in the 1974's *The Exorcist*. She continued to act in television and films throughout the 1980's and 1990's.
4. Born in 1926 in New York City, he enlisted in the Navy and served as a sub chaser during World War II. He later entered Harvard University on the G.I. Bill. In 1961, he became known on television as Francis Maldoon in the NBC television series, *Car 54, Where Are You?* However, he is probably best remembered for his role as Herman in the 1964 CBS television series, *The Munsters*.
5. Born in 1809 in Boston, Massachusetts, this American short-story writer, poet, critic and editor was famous for his use of mystery and the macabre. His poem, *The Raven*, written in 1845, numbers among one of the best-known poems in national literature.
6. Born in 1929 in Amarillo, Texas, she signed up for acting classes at the Pasadena Community Playhouse at the age of 15. It was at a playhouse production she caught her first big break. An agent saw her perform and signed her to her first of many movie roles. She is probably best known for her portrayal of the gothic matriarch Morticia on *The Addams Family*.
7. Born in 1847 in Dublin, Ireland, he was an invalid in early childhood. He could not stand or walk until he was seven. However, he outgrew his childhood problems and became an outstanding athlete at the University of Dublin. Later in life, he turned to writing fiction and became best known for being the author of the horror tale, *Dracula*.



Halloween Trivia

Born & Died on Halloween

The following people were born on Halloween:

- Dan Rather** (born 1931) – journalist and television news anchor
- Vanilla Ice** (born 1967) – American rapper
- John Candy** (1950-1994) – Canadian-American comedian
- Jane Pauley** (born 1950) – television journalist
- Michael Landon** (1936-1991) – actor, writer, director and producer
- Dale Evans** (1912-2001) – movie star, singer and song-writer

These people died on Halloween:

- River Phoenix** (1970-1993) – actor and activist
- Harry Houdini** (1874-1926) – magician and escape artist
- Indira Gandhi** (1917-1984) – politician and prime minister of India
- Fedrico Fellini** (1920-1993) – Italian film director



What does a skeleton always order at a restaurant?

Spare Ribs

Why don't angry witches ride their brooms?

off the handle!

They're afraid of flying

Answer Key:
1. G: Kwon DeCarlo, 2. C: Stephen King,
3. B: Linda Blair, 4. D: Fred Gwynn,
5. F: Edgar Allen Poe, 6. E: Carolyn Jones,
7. A: Bram Stoker



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Fall Events

Fall Means Family Fun Times at Foxfire Farm

The economic woes of Michigan this past year have kept many families looking for things to do with the family that are inexpensive and closer to home. Foxfire Farm is one of those rare businesses that truly seeks to provide old-fashioned fun types of activities for local families.

Each year in January the owners and employees meet to establish a yearly calendar that includes activities each month that the whole family can enjoy. This October, two great events have been planned.

The first is the Fall Family Fun Festival, which takes place on October 3 and 4, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. both days on the grounds of Foxfire Farm Country Store and Floral Shop at 8061 Marsh Road in Clay Township. Planned for these days are numerous games for all ages to enjoy, crafts and pumpkin painting, face painting, a bouncy house, exhibits from local crafters, a magic show, and a petting farm. Tickets are sold for each of the events and are inexpensive enough that a whole family can enjoy a great day for a relatively small amount. Food and drinks are also available for purchase.

Returning again will be the ever popular "Kiddiepillar," a ride for young children that has not only been popular at Foxfire Farm, but also at local parades, picnics, parties and other events.

Foxfire Farm will also have the largest selection of pumpkins in the area to choose from at the best prices during this event, along with gourds, straw, cornstalks, Indian

corn, hardy mums and other fall décor items.

The second event takes place on October 23, 24 and 25 from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., also at Foxfire Farm. It is Foxfire Farm's 2nd Annual Night Filled with Pumpkin Light! Over 300 decorated and painted pumpkins will be displayed inside a warm greenhouse for the viewing pleasure of everyone in the family. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children, ages 2-12. Children under two are free.

Several hundred people attended this family event last year and more are expected in 2009. Bring your cameras to photograph one of the most awesome sights taking place on three different nights this October. As the pumpkins are lit, the greenhouse is turned into a magical place filled with pumpkin light.

All events planned by Foxfire Farm are subject to last minute changes and/or cancellations and the best way to keep up-to-date on the monthly happenings is to request to be included in the weekly newsletter Foxfire Farm sends out. Email dianekodet@hotmail.com and ask to be added today!

Take advantage of these two wonderful community events that provide good, old-fashioned fun for local families. As the pictures on these pages from past years' events show, everyone will have the time of their lives! 🍂

Foxfire FARM COUNTRY STORE & Floral Shop
8061 MARSH ROAD in Clay Township



@ Foxfire Farm

Don't Miss Foxfire's 2nd Annual Night Filled with Pumpkin Light

October 23, 24 & 25 from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

More than 300 carved, decorated and painted pumpkins will be lit inside a warm greenhouse for the viewing pleasure of everyone in the family! The cost is \$5 for adults, \$2 for children 12 years and under, and children under two are free for this event. All pumpkins and Halloween

decorations will be clearance priced for last minute shoppers! This was a huge success last year and we are anticipating hundreds of people this year. Don't miss out on one of the best events this fall! Bring your camera for this awesome event. This is truly a sight to behold. 🍂

More than 300
carved, decorated
and painted
pumpkins!



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Marilyn Ward: A Life Remembered

By Diane Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

Renee Pipe of Mount Clemens, Michigan recently lost her mother, Marilyn A. Ward. Although gone from this earth, Marilyn has left a wonderful legacy behind – the Free Mail for Troops Overseas program for servicemen. Renee's husband emailed us information on Marilyn, which we have included in this article.

Marilyn was born on October 29, 1932 in Detroit, Michigan. However, she was raised in Marine City, Michigan. Her husband for 56 loving years was Jack Ward, who retired from the U.S. Army.

During Jack's military years, Marilyn followed her husband as an army wife to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Fort Bragg, North Carolina and on two tours of duty in Germany. While at Fort Bragg, Marilyn, now with four children, waited for her husband through two tours in Vietnam. Marilyn, however, did not wait quietly.

In 1966, with an amazing amount of tenacity, Marilyn spearheaded a

one woman assault on the United States Government to get free mail for servicemen in a war zone. She used every possible avenue, from *The Fayetteville Observer News*, to letters to anyone and everyone – from generals to the White House. Her letters reached Robert McNamara, the Secretary of Defense at the time, and President Lyndon B. Johnson. As a direct result of her efforts, the Free Mail for Troops Overseas program was started and is still in place today.

After Jack retired from the Army, his family returned to Michigan and settled in New Haven. Here Marilyn learned how to play the piano, which had been a life-long dream of hers. In 1996, Jack and Marilyn followed another long held dream when they sold their home and purchased an RV. They enjoyed traveling throughout the continental United States and eventually set up roots in St. Cloud, Florida.

Marilyn passed away on June 27, 2009 at the age of 76 and is



Marilyn A. Ward

survived by her daughters, Sharell, Renee and Carol, her sons, Jack and Keith, 13 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Although she will be missed deeply by her family, the program she initiated will be a lasting tribute to her life. 🌱

Editor's Note: The Free Mail for Troops Overseas program has undergone several updates and changes since its beginning. The most current updates relating to mail and packages sent to and from members of the armed forces on duty in designated combat areas can be found at www.fas.org/sfp/crs/misc/RS222023.pdf.

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What is lock bumping? Should you be concerned?

By **Bill Hagstrom**

Locksmith

Bumping works by tricking the tumblers in a pin lock to fall into the correct place for just an instant, but long enough for someone to turn the key and unlock the door. A basic key, a sturdy file, a little pressure and a gentle “bump” against the key is enough to knock the pin tumblers into place and pop a lock open. Bump keys are readily available premade online for as little as \$20 for a set of six keys. These sets include the most commonly used keys in the United States: Kwikset, Schlage, Yale, Dexter, Weiser and Master Lock.

According to the FBI, burglaries occur every 15 seconds in the United States costing taxpayers 17.6 billion in 2007. More than 60% of the burglaries show no sign of forced entry. This means there’s a risk that a householder’s insurance won’t cover the break-in as there will be no evidence that the householder hadn’t simply left the door unlocked.

Thanks to the advent of social networking sites like YouTube, Facebook and MySpace, a new generation of thieves are rapidly familiarizing themselves and each other with this insidious technique.

Every commercial location and private home can be the victim of lock bumping. Lock bumping is a clear and present danger because this technique can be learned quickly with little or no prior knowledge. A simple search on Google or Yahoo will produce a myriad of instructional videos for lock bumping techniques and television news stories covering this phenomenon.

If your locks were installed prior to 2007, your home or business is at risk. Up until recently, the only way to thwart these attacks was by installing military grade high security locks with an UL437 rating at an average price of \$200 per lock and a \$25 per key price tag. Thanks to recent breakthroughs in security engineering and development,

Advice for Snowbirds and Vacationers

By **Don Drake**

Chief of Police, Clay Township, Michigan

It is that time of year again when many people in our communities travel to the sunshine states or up to God’s country. We need to understand that in today’s world there are many predators who wish to take advantage of your absence and break into dwellings, garages, vehicles and barns. Although there are never any sure guarantees that these crimes can be eliminated, there are some precautions that you can take to help defer some of these criminals:

- Call your local police department and inform them of the anticipated dates that you will be leaving and when you will return. In Clay Township, our police department conducts regular property checks.
- Provide the police department with any vehicle description and license number that will be in the driveway.
- Leave a key with a neighbor or relative. Advise the police department who the key holder is and leave their name, address and phone number.
- Use timer lights inside your home that will go on and off during the night hours. Stagger several lights if possible. Some people put timers on a radio or stereo.
- Install an outside motion detector light.
- Notify the post office of your absence and have your mail delivered to you out of state or have a neighbor pick it up daily for you.
- Notify your newspaper carrier that you will not need the paper during your absence.
- Secure all doors and windows. Door walls should have a security bar in case someone picks a lock. Windows may be secured the same way. Barns and garages should be

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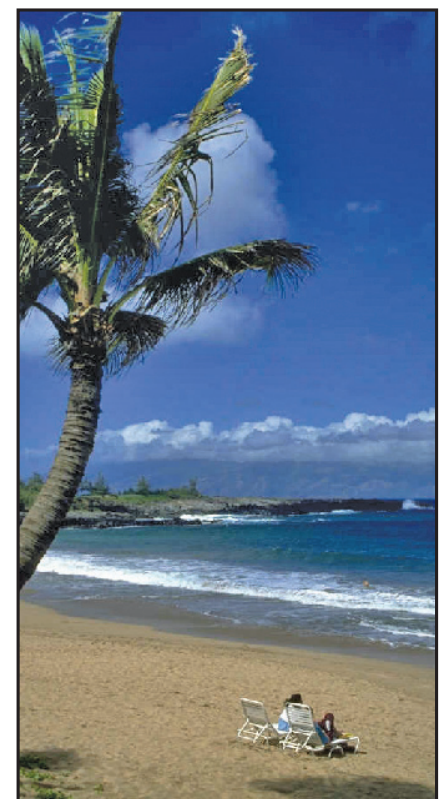
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bump-resistant locks are now available at a more affordable price.

So, before you purchase another \$2000 laptop or \$4000 HD television, perhaps you should consider

upgrading your existing lock hardware for better peace of mind.

For a home or business personal security review, call ABC Lock & Key at (810) 794-5678. 🌿



RODD: Our Local History

Continued from Page 1

Nine years later, after hours of research on-line, browsing through books in libraries in both Michigan and Ontario, Canada and after visiting the Port Huron museum and the Aamjiwnaang First Nation Chippewas of Sarnia Band Council Building, I have pieced together as much as I know of the story of Old Mother Rodd's life.

Old Mother Rodd was born between 1755 and 1766 in Canada. She was a Chippewa Indian and her totem was the Turtle. According to the Port Huron Museum, her Indian name was Nawegeshegoqua. She had a small wooden dish representing a turtle, which had been carved for her by a friend on Walpole Island, which she kept in her constant possession. Old Mother Rodd was the granddaughter of Maskeash, a chief well known in the history of St. Clair County for his part in the signing of treaties.

Not too much is known about Old Mother Rodd's early life except that she lived on the Canadian side of the St. Clair River in what is now Sarnia. Her first husband was Alexander Rodd, who was half French and half Indian. He was known by the name of She-she-pe-ance which means Little Duck. Both he and Old Mother Rodd were fond of the Americans and gave them their allegiance during the War of 1812, during which time the majority of the Indians gave their loyalty to the British.

Alexander himself makes an interesting person to read about in history. In 1814, a number of Indian families were encamped on the Black River in what is now Wadhams, Michigan for the purpose of making maple sugar. While there, Rodd shot and killed a deer and tracked it down the following day. Probably because

of his loyalty to the Americans, three Indians from the Saginaw band planned his murder. While Alexander was out tracking the deer, he received three shots to his body that proved to be fatal. He was buried right on the spot but Rodd's gun and his coat, with a bullet hole in the back, were returned to his widow. Old Mother Rodd and the rest of her family were removed and sent to Montreal, Canada until the close of the War of 1812, when they returned to the St. Clair River. From that time on, Old Mother Rodd hated all Saginaw Indians.

After the death of Alexander, Old Mother Rodd was married twice again, but each time retaining the name of Rodd.

All in all, Old Mother Rodd had six daughters and three sons. Five children were from Alexander. Once on a trip to Mackinac Island for a council meeting of the area braves and chiefs, she took her six unmarried daughters with her. Her matchmaking abilities proved to be true, as she returned home from that trip alone, with her six daughters now matched up to eligible young Indian braves.

Although Old Mother Rodd continued to make her home on the Sarnia Reservation, she would camp in the woods and on the river bank of the western side of the St. Clair River, from what is now Algonac on up to Port Huron. She was honest and industrious and made fine quality brooms, baskets and mats. She also bartered the maple sugar she made and the berries she picked for other needed goods. Old Mother Rodd was also sometimes offered sleeping space on the floors of some of her white friends' homes in the Port Huron area. For a long time in her later years, she lived with Squire Minnie, who was famous for settling Indian disputes at

the time. Mrs. Minnie was the daughter of Old Mother Rodd.

Old Mother Rodd made yearly trips to Walpole Island and to her friends on the American side of the river. From her friends on Walpole Island, she usually received gifts of corn, which she pounded into meal using a wooden pestle carved from a hardwood tree.

Old Mother Rodd was also a skilled medicine woman. She wore her medicine bag filled with roots and herbs to use in her treatments. One of these bags is now hanging in the Port Huron Museum.

Old Mother Rodd also received an annuity from the British government, and although she must have done pretty well for herself, she never adopted the dress of her white neighbors. Old Mother Rodd was short and stout, with a small white beard on her chin. Her long black hair was plaited in one thick braid that hung down her back. She had black eyes that shown between half closed lids and high cheekbones, characteristic of the Indian race. On her broad feet she wore deerskin moccasins decorated with porcupine quills and colored beads. Tied just below the knees were the leggings of heavy black broadcloth embroidered with beads. A narrow skirt, also of broadcloth, was lavishly decorated and hung just below her knees. Over the top she wore a large gaudy colored calico short gown, as it was called back then. She was also very fond of ornaments and had many strings of colorful beads to complete her outfit. Over all of this she wore a large woolen blanket spread out to its full size. It covered her head and reached down to her moccasins. She was seldom seen without her rod or walking stick. It was said that in her later years, she quite often enjoyed her sips of fire water, called "Santa-waba".

During Old Mother Rodd's last illness, she was baptized by the Reverend Allen Salt of the Sarnia Reservation and given the Christian name of Jane.



An oil painting of Old Mother Rodd painted in 1872 by N.B. Starr.

Old Mother Rodd herself had prepared her burial clothing some twenty years before her death and had entrusted them to a friend. They included leggings of bright red cloth provided by the British government.

Old Mother Rodd died in the fall of 1870, somewhere between the age of 104 and 115 years of age. She was buried in the cemetery on the Sarnia Reservation, the grave being marked by a wooden headboard bearing her name in black letters. When I visited the cemetery in 2009, the wooden headboard had long since gone back to the earth from where it came.

When standing in the cemetery near where Old Mother Rodd might have been buried, I thought how different the land now looks than when she walked silently along the shores in her moccasins. Towering above the hills surrounding the cemetery are now the smokestacks and reservoirs of Chemical Valley. I am glad that I now know more about her life and can pass that down to my children and grandchildren, her ancestors on this earth.

An oil portrait of Mother Rodd painted by N. B. Starr, a gift of Hon. D. B. Harrington, a prominent citizen of Port Huron and owner of the former Harrington hotel, once hung in the old Pioneer Museum in Lansing, Michigan. A fire in the early part of this century destroyed most of the paintings that once occupied its walls.



Granny Rodd's medicine bag (left) and a beaded paddle are on display at the Port Huron Museum.

RODD: Our Local History

Continued from Page 22

Upon investigating this painting and contacting the curator of the Michigan Historical Museum, I was relieved to find out that the old painting of Mother Rodd had survived the fire and, though now relinquished to the basement of the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing, was still in good condition. Mrs. Eve Weipert, Curator of Collections/Exhibits at the Museum, was kind enough to furnish me with a copy of the painting.

The following obituary was printed in the January 27, 1871 edition of the *Sarnia Observer* and *Lambton Advertiser* and pays tribute to the life of a very special woman:

Old Mother Rodd

About every man, woman or child in the city is in some way acquainted

with 'Old Mother Rodd,' the quaintest old relic of the 'noble red man' to be found anywhere in the country. The banks of the St. Clair River have always been her home, and for one hundred and fifteen years, as our most venerable chroniclers assert, she has witnessed the alterations that have taken place thereon. One hundred and fifteen years! What wonderful changes have her old eyes seen! We have often questioned whether or not she has noted and comprehended them. Possibly she has, and around the camp-fire has listened to the stories told of the events that were taking place all over the land. She was a woman grown when the War for Independence was fought and faint echoes of that struggle came to her ears. She was an old woman when the War of 1812 took place, and perhaps followed

some of the warriors of her tribe in some of the expeditions of that time. She probably saw the first white sail that went up the river; where now in the summer time a hundred stately ships pass in a day. With her marveling people, we can imagine her standing, looking with awe at the first puffing steamboat that stemmed the stream, or, later still, listening with astonishment to the shrill scream of the first locomotive that came dashing through her native forests. The steamboat, locomotive and telegraph, are all of her day, and out of the wild and picturesque scenes where her early days were spent, she has seen the busy cities of the white man grow and flourish.

But about two weeks since we missed her from our streets, we learned that she had passed away at last. She died among her people

below Sarnia about three weeks ago. She was our most interesting specimen of the fast diminishing race of 'Lo.' She went down to her grave perfectly indifferent to all the manifold changes of fashion, remaining true to the last to her staff, her blanket and her moccasins. Her picture – for she was once allured into a photograph gallery by some enterprising follower of the art that 'catches the shadow ere the substance fades' – is the curiosity of many an album. And that picture is all we have to remind us of 'Old Mother Rodd.' 🌿

Editor's note: please email any corrections or additions to this story to thumbprintnews@comcast.net. Diane Kodet would also like to hear from any relatives of Old Mother Rodd or Alexander Rodd or of Victoria Parrow.

Family Roots**By Diane Kodet**

ThumbPrint News Editor



Top photo: Izena R. Haviland (circa 1887), born March 27, 1869 in Leslie, Michigan; died August 29, 1957 in Boyne City, Michigan.

Bottom photo: Izena and William John Cadwell's wedding photo (circa 1891), William was born July 27, 1864 in Iosco, Michigan and died January 18, 1946 in Boyne City, Michigan.

In each issue of *Thumbprint News*, it is my intention to feature an interesting story from a person who is researching his or her family tree. In genealogical searches, often great tid-bits of information lead to more research and a quest to know more about a distant relative's life: where they lived, who their family was, what their occupation was, hardships they faced, etc. In the resulting search, a bonding with that person can occur. The person once more comes alive in the mind of the researcher and to other persons with whom the stories are shared.

We invite our readers to submit interesting stories about their relatives or ancestors to be considered for publication in future editions of *Thumbprint News*. Photos in jpeg format are appreciated and help to add more reader interest to the article. Email your submissions to: thumbprintnews@comcast.net and use Family Roots for your subject line.

My own genealogical quest started about four years ago when, on a visit to Salt Lake City, Utah, I had the chance to visit the Family History Library, which is maintained by those

of the Mormon faith. Knowing only a little about my ancestors, the wonderful assistants at this center were happy to help me research and make a few more connections. Unfortunately, the hour or so I had to spend there sped by way too fast and only made me hungry to do more in-depth research.

Then, in 2007, when my father, Gordon Keith Glaza, was going to celebrate his 90th birthday, the quest for family tree information started up again and took off with breakneck speed. I decided to plan a surprise party for him and invited friends and relatives that he had not seen in many, many years. I also decided to collect stories, birth dates, marriage dates, death dates and more on the relatives I knew, in order to create a Family Tree Notebook for each of the relatives who would be coming to the party. As more information was gathered, it became apparent that I needed a way to organize all the miscellaneous bits I was receiving.

So, I joined Ancestry.com. From there, everything snowballed. Now that I was linked to an on-line community

of other researchers, I was able to trace my family lineage back many more generations. Since people are constantly adding new documents and photos to Ancestry.com, there is always some new hint of information that, when followed, leads to more discoveries about persons in my family tree.

I even managed to locate several third cousins, none of whom my father nor myself had ever met, and they flew in from Washington and Oregon to be a part of the festivities. Over the past few years, we have continued together in our quest and have now added another cousin to the ranks of The Four Musketeers of Genealogy Research, as we nicknamed ourselves.

I have encountered many wonderful stories of famous, infamous and just plain old regular folks that I hope to share with our readers in future editions. Again, I am hoping that our readers will also contribute stories. Looking back into the lives of these persons in our family trees give us a glimpse into history and also serves to remind us that we are one big world, interconnected in so many ways. 🌿

Serve A Taste of the Season

By Diane Kodet
ThumbPrint News Editor

Winter squash come in many sizes and shapes, but all have hard outer rinds that surround sweet, often orange flesh. Winter squash arrive late in the growing season and they have a long shelf life, so they've long been a staple in winter and spring, when other vegetables are harder to come by. Unlike summer squash, winter squash must be cooked. They're usually baked or steamed, and then sometimes puréed.

Acorn Squash

These are popular because of their small size – one squash can be cut in half and baked to make two generous servings. The biggest drawback to this variety is that the rind is quite hard and therefore difficult to cut. Select acorn squash with as much green on the rind as possible.

Banana Squash

This variety is so large that grocers usually cut it into smaller

chunks before putting it out. It's tasty, but its biggest virtue is the beautiful golden color of its flesh.

Buttercup Squash

With sweet and creamy orange flesh, the buttercup is one of the more highly regarded winter squashes. The biggest shortcoming is that it tends to be a bit dry.

Butternut Squash

This variety is very popular because it's so easy to use. It's small enough to serve to a normal family without leftovers and the rind is thin enough to peel off with a vegetable peeler. As an added bonus, the flavor is sweet, moist and pleasantly nutty.

Delicata Squash (Sweet Potato Squash)

This is one of the tastier winter squashes, with creamy pulp that tastes a bit like sweet potatoes.

Golden Nugget Squash

This has a pleasant flavor, but it doesn't have as much flesh as other

Winter Squash



Acorn



Banana



Buttercup



Butternut



Delicata



Golden Nugget



Hubbard

squashes and the heavy rind makes it hard to cut before cooking. Select specimens that are heavy for their size and have a dull finish. Those with shiny rinds were probably picked too young, and won't be as sweet.

Hubbard squash

This variety has tasty flesh, but it's too large for many families to handle and the rind is hard to cut though. Some grocers cut them into smaller pieces before putting them out. 🍂

recipe *Grilled Stuffed Acorn Squash*
from *ThumbPrint News*

Stuffed acorn squash recipe for the grill, with peanuts, apples, and brown sugar.

Ingredients:

- 4 medium acorn squash
- 1/3 cup melted butter
- 1 teaspoon salt
- pepper
- 3 cups unpeeled diced apples
- 1 1/2 cups light brown sugar, packed
- 1/4 cup chopped peanuts
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

Halve squash lengthwise, remove seeds and membranes. Brush inside and outside edge of squash with melted butter, using about 2 tablespoons of butter. Sprinkle each squash with salt and pepper. Place squash cut side down on a greased baking pan. Bake at 350° until almost tender, about 40 minutes.

Meanwhile, combine apples, brown sugar, peanuts, nutmeg and remaining butter. Loosely fill the squash cavities with apple mixture. Grill squash on a preheated grill, apple side up, about 5 inches above the coals until squash is tender and apples are heated through, about 20 minutes.

recipe *Maple Butternut Stuffed Squash*
from *ThumbPrint News*

Butternut squash casserole recipe, baked with maple syrup, butter, and a simple pecan and brown sugar topping.

Ingredients:

- 1 medium butternut squash
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 2 tablespoons butter
- cinnamon
- dash salt
- 1/3 cup chopped pecans
- 1 to 2 teaspoons brown sugar

Cut butternut squash up and remove seeds and pulp. Cut into 1 1/2 inch pieces. Steam for 15 to 20 minutes, until tender. Remove and let cool slightly. Remove peel and put squash into a bowl, mash with butter and maple syrup. Stir in a little cinnamon and a dash of salt, to taste. Transfer squash mixture to a buttered 1-quart casserole. Combine pecans and brown sugar; sprinkle over the squash. Bake at 350° for about 25 to 30 minutes.

Serves 4.

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— Randy

Macomb Conservation District 2009 Fall Tree and Bulb Sale

The Macomb County Conservation District is holding its annual fall tree and bulb sale. Mail orders are being accepted only until October 7th. After that date, walk-ins only are accepted until October 9th, if items are still available.

All trees come as bare-root transplants and the following varieties are being offered: Austrian pine, white pine, red pine, blue spruce, Norway spruce, white spruce and white cedar.

In addition, daffodils, hyacinths, tulips and crocus are being sold for fall planting. Other items for sale include planting aides, books, signs and nesting boxes for birds.

All sales support the work of the Macomb Conservation District, located at 72955 Van Dyke, Bruce Township (Romeo), Michigan 48065. Any questions, please call (586) 752-9580 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you would like the order forms emailed to you, please email macombcd@klondyke.net.



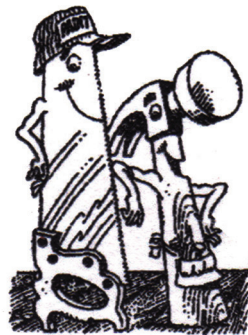
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Thumb Area Activities & Events for October 2009

*We'll spread
the news!*



If you have an activity or event that you would like listed in the November issue of *ThumbPrint News*, please email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by October 14, 2009. There is no charge for the listing.

Genesee County

Goodrich – Oct. 1-31

Porter's Orchard Farm Market & Cider Mill – New six acre Corn Maze! The theme for the maze is "In God We Trust – United We Stand!" A waving American flag and a bald eagle in-flight design have been cut into the six acres of corn. The estimated time to complete the maze will be between 45 minutes to one hour depending on your directional skills. Phone (810) 636-7156 for more information.

Davison – Oct. 9 & 10

20th Annual Pumpkin Festival in downtown area! Friday, Oct. 9 is the Do Da Parade, where all entries are dressed up in costume! Afterwards, gather in the entertainment tent for the Do Da Dude/Darlin' Pageant that will be sure to leave you in stitches as business sponsored contestants vie to become 2009's Do Da Dude or Darlin'! At the end of the night Friday, be sure to listen to the Davison Super Star contestants battle each other, and don't forget to come back Saturday to cheer on your favorite! Saturday kicks off with the Country Breakfast, then enjoy the many crafts, activities, entertainment, contests, demonstrations and fun that is

offered! Be sure to watch the giant pumpkin splat at 6:00 p.m. from the top of the fire truck ladder – it's a Davison tradition! For more information, call the Davison Chamber of Commerce at (810) 653-6266.

Flint – Oct. 3-31

Put Some Family Friendly Fun – Not Fright – In Your Halloween. Take a trick-or-treat tour through our haunted Village! Ride The Huckleberry Ghost Train! There's even a ghost fort . . . and dancing monsters. Explore the maze of straw and munch a crunchy apple at the cider mill. It's all fun, not frightening, and there are donuts and candy for everyone. No matter how young or old you are, come celebrate Halloween at Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad with all your spooky friends. Open Oct. 3-4, 9-11, 16-18, 23-31. Weekdays 5:00-9:00 p.m., weekends 12:00-9:00 p.m. Call (800) 648-PARK.

Huron County

Caseville – Oct. 2-4

Join the fun at Sleeper State Park for Halloween related activities in Oct.. Great fun for the entire family! For more information, call (989) 856-4411.

Port Austin – Oct. 3-17

Join in the fun for the Port Austin Farmers Market. Over 300 vendors from fruit and vegetables to arts & crafts, and much more. Live entertainment some weekends. Every Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information, call (989) 768-0123.

Lapeer County

Metamora – Oct. 2-4

Metamora-Hadley Recreation Area – Enjoy this Halloween event with activities that include pumpkin decorating, a costume contest and parade, raffles, trick or treating, arts and crafts, a

Halloween dance and much more. Call (810) 797-4439 for more information. All motor vehicles entering a state park or recreation area must display a Motor Vehicle Permit.

Lapeer – Oct. 3-21

Farmer's Market located at Farmer's Market Pavillion and Courthouse Square. Local vendors offer fresh produce, flowers, herbs, crafts and antiques every Wednesday and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Lapeer – Oct. 24

Pumpkin Fest and Treat Walk! Carve a FREE pumpkin on the Courthouse lawn from 10:00 a.m.-noon, then collect treats at downtown businesses from noon to 2:00 p.m. Call (810) 272-2702 for more information.

Macomb County

New Baltimore – Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24

Stories, Songs and Fun for Families with storyteller Mrs. Beth. Every Saturday in October at 10:00 a.m. at the Big Stone Schoolhouse on the corner of Washington and Will Lee. This six-week series is made possible through a grant from the Anchor Bay Community Foundation.

Clinton Township – Oct. 16

Biketoberfest Beer and Wine Tasting – 44660 North Gratiot Ave. at the Wolverine Harley Davidson. Taste multiple beers and wines, find out which one you like best! For more information, call (586) 463-7700.

Sterling Heights – Oct. 17

A Night to Embrace, A Wine Tasting and Auction. GM Heritage Center, 6400 Center Dr. Call (248) 837-2027 for more information. The event will feature international wines mixed with strolling food stations and silent and live

auctions. All proceeds from the event benefit Judson Center, a nonprofit, human service agency serving disadvantaged youth and families. Tickets are \$100 per person; sponsorship opportunities are still available.

Oakland County

Newaygo State Park – Oct. 3

Disc golf enthusiasts are invited to compete in a series of five tournaments - a total of 90 holes – that will celebrate the 90th Anniversary of Michigan state parks this summer. The first tournament begins on Saturday, Aug. 2, at Newaygo State Park, with more events scheduled through the end of October. Participants can play in one or all five of the tournaments. Points will be awarded accordingly. Prizes will be awarded at each of the five tournaments, with a grand prize presented at Sleepy Hollow State Park. There is a \$5 entry fee per tournament, which will support the awards for the top three finishers of each tournament. Phone (517) 241-6655 for more information.

Clarkston – Oct. 2 & 3

Fall into Quilts. Over 200 quilts will be on display. Admission is \$5.00. First Congregational Church, 5449 Clarkston Rd. Lunch is available. For more information, call (248) 625-7977.

Novi – Oct. 1

Fall Camper and RV Show, Rock Financial Showplace. The Michigan Association of Recreation Vehicles and Campgrounds present an expansive event featuring all types of recreational vehicles, parts and accessories, campground information, on site RV financing and RV rentals. For more information, contact (248) 348-5600.

Thumb Area Activities & Events for October 2009

St. Clair County

Clay Township – Oct. 3 & 4
Foxfire Farm Family Fun Fall Festival! From noon until 5:00 p.m. both days at Foxfire Farm’s Country Store, 8061 Marsh Road, Clay Township. Games, prizes, crafts, rides, pumpkin painting, food, straw maze, a bouncy house AND MORE! And the largest selection of pumpkins to choose from in the area! Something for everyone in the family to enjoy! Call (810) 794-5108 for more information.

Port Huron – Oct. 10
McMorran Place. The Blue Water Film Festival will emphasize local filmmakers, screenwriters and actors,

including Michigan and across the river into Sarnia. The first screening at 9:00 a.m. Films will be shown in their entirety over the course of the day culminating in the presentation of awards at the end of the evening at 11:00 p.m. For more information, call (810) 985-9223.

Clay Township – Oct. 23-25
Second Annual Night Filled with Pumpkin Light. Foxfire Farm Country Store, 8061 Marsh Road. From 7:00-8:00 each evening over 300 decorated and painted pumpkins will be lit inside a warm greenhouse for the viewing pleasure of everyone in the family! \$5.00 per adult, \$2.00 per child. All pumpkins and Halloween decorations will be clearance priced for last minute shoppers!

Ira Township – Oct. 25
Pancake, French Toast and Sausage Breakfast. Hosted by the Ira Fire Department Women’s Auxiliary. 8:00 a.m.- Noon. Price is \$4.00 for ages 12 and older, \$2.00 for ages 4-11, three and under are free. Ira Township Fire Hall, 7065 Meldrum Road. For more information, call (586) 725-7771.

Sanilac County

Port Sanilac – Oct. 2
Farmer’s Market from 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., just north of village offices. Call (989) 864-3373 for more information.

Lexington – Oct. 10
Octoberfest – Music, brats, beer & wine! Downtown Lexington from noon until

midnight. For more information, call (248) 705-0260.

Tuscola County

Caro – Oct 1-4
The Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival is the premier fall festival in the Thumb of Michigan. The festival brings the beauty of Fall to downtown Caro with painted and decorated pumpkins from area schools. There will be a food court, arts & crafts, pie sales, a mutt strut, the Grand Parade and pumpkins galore. Contact (989) 673-2511.

Caro – Oct. 13
Community Expo held at Colwood United Brethren Church. For more information call (989) 673-8283.

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Contact ABC Home & Commercial Services Heating and Cooling Division at (810) 794-5678 today to schedule an appointment that will help ensure that unexpected high energy bills will be a thing of the past.

Now is the Time for Fall Grub Control for Your Lawns!

The larval stage of certain beetles cause a great deal of damage to lawns or turfgrasses in residential areas, golf courses and pastures. The immature offspring of Japanese beetles, June beetles and Chafer beetles are called White Grubs. They feed on the root systems of your lawn.

An understanding of their cycle is important before beginning your control measures. Adult beetles either fly to the area (driven by mating behavior) or emerge from the ground as they develop into their final adult stage. After emerging as adults, the process of mating and laying eggs begins. The adult beetles emerge, mate and lay eggs from June until August. The mated females go through their routine of feeding on leaves of plants and burrowing into the soil where they lay their eggs. Depending on the species, climate, food availability and other factors, as many as 60 eggs can be deposited by a single female during the egg producing season.

Beetle eggs usually hatch in two weeks. As the young grub emerge from their eggs, they burrow into the top layer of soil where they begin feeding on small soil particles and organic matter. It is at this stage that they are easiest to control. A small young grub that feeds close to the surface and has not developed a resistance to chemicals is far easier to control with pesticides than older and harder grubs. After this summer and early fall feeding, the white grubs will begin to go deeper and deeper into the soil. This activity protects the insect from cold weather, but it also keeps them out of the reach of insecticides that have been applied to the soil.

A properly-timed grub control application can help prevent damage to your lawn this season and also helps with the adult beetle population for next year. Controlling the adult beetles is important, as they can defoliate ornamental trees and shrubs. Contact ABC Home & Commercial Services today at (810) 794-5678 to get a quote on treating these invasive pests.

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Bland Walls? Fast fix-ups That are Perfect for Fall

(ARA) - When the weather cools and the bright sun of summer fades into autumn's grayer skies, bare bland walls can feel like an ugly mark on your home's decor. Suddenly, those undecorated walls that you were too busy to notice this past summer cry out for color and pizzazz – especially if you're dealing with economy-induced stress.

Fall is a great time to redecorate because, as the weather cools, people start heading indoors again. Home is more important again whereas summer was all about the outdoors. It is time to make homes comfortable, cozy and beautiful again. When decorating is done during the fall, the efforts can be shown off during the holidays.

Here are two of the hot trends in decorating this fall:

1. Bright, aggressive color

The hot colors in home décor this fall will be brighter, happier versions of traditional fall hues – butter yellow, orange, persimmon and all shades of blue. These are colors of optimism, and in the current economy, people want to be surrounded by hope.

"The hottest colors for room redesigns this fall will be aggressive

color combos, using colors like scandal red or lobster paired with yolk yellow or custard," says Matthew Lew, whose work has been featured on *Extreme Makeover Home Edition*, HGTV's *Divine Design* and CBS's *The Early Show*. "People want a splash of color in their homes," Lew adds. "The aggressive color combinations are great because they can make a bold statement very simply without overdoing it. I think people are attracted to that, especially with the economy right now."

2. Texture that's easy to achieve

Adding texture to a wall is another trend, especially if it's a simple texture – such as stripes. Patterns, vinyl lettering or decals, and even wallpaper murals are great ways to add interest to boring walls.

When you are ready for your fall design spruce up, think baby steps. Decorate a small wall or section of a large wall first. Give yourself a day to get used to your new wall. Consider your favorite colors and how you can use them to make your design one you will love. 🌱

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By Cindy Redmann

Tax Consultant

Thinking about home improvements? Go green in 2009 or 2010 and you could save up to \$1500 in energy credits on your income tax return.

The credit is 30% of the cost of qualifying property purchased in 2009 and 2010, up to a maximum of \$1500 total. The 2009-2010 credit is not reduced by energy credits claimed in prior years (2006 or 2007).

Qualifying energy efficient building components include: insulation, exterior windows (including skylights), exterior doors, storm windows and doors installed

over certain types of windows and doors, and certain metal or asphalt roofs that are designed to reduce heat.

The energy properties that qualify are: central air conditioners, natural gas, propane or oil furnaces, hot water heaters, certain electric heat pumps and biomass stoves that meet certain performance standards.

Taxpayers may generally rely on a manufacturer's certification. The taxpayer should keep a copy of the certificate with his or her tax records.

If you have any additional questions about the Energy Credits or other tax questions, call Cindy at TaxSlayers at (810) 794-5443. 🌱



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Well Made Football Helmets Reduce Concussion Risk

By Laura Irwin

ThumbPrint News Staff Reporter

Football season has started for area schools. Marine City's head varsity football coach, Anthony Scarcelli, took a few minutes to talk about the upcoming season and the benefits of the newer helmet designs.

In his expert opinion, the latest and greatest helmet on the market is the ION 4D by Shutt which not only has advanced safety features but also claims to be the most comfortable helmet you'll ever wear. It is also too expensive for most public high schools to afford, costing a whopping \$380 per helmet.

According to Coach Scarcelli, it seems that every three years there are new innovations to safety and comfort features on the helmets. He currently uses and is very pleased with the Riddell Revolution (introduced in 2002 and the first re-vamp of the football helmet in 25 years) as well as the Shutt DNA helmets for their reduction in concussion risks.



The Schutt ION 4D helmet has advanced safety features.

A concussion is a jolt to the head, causing the brain to 'bounce' around within the skull, sometimes resulting in nerve fibers tearing. Symptoms can include headaches, nausea, dizziness or disorientation. These symptoms can become apparent within minutes or not until hours later. Other problems, like chronic headaches, poor concentration, memory loss and disruption in sleep, can crop up days or weeks later.

Coach Scarcelli states that the real danger is neck injuries which affect the spinal cord. No helmet on the market can protect against that. What does protect against neck injuries is proper tackling techniques, which makes practices so very important. The players are not just out there being knocked around, moving a ball from one end of a marked field to another. Players have spent hours upon hours learning winning plays, but more importantly how to "take a hit" in the safest way that is possible. 🍀

Editor's note: The Mariners (Marine City High School's team) won their first game against Sterling Heights at 42 to 36. Marine City was down by nine points in the fourth quarter, but rallied and came back victorious. Coach Scarcelli says it was a tight game all the way through.



Mariner Facts

- 183 Mariners have been selected to First Team All League.
- 92 Mariners have been chosen to the first team All Area Squad.
- 18 Mariners have been selected to the All State Team.
- In the last 21 years, the Mariners overall record is 167 to 50.
- The Mariners have enjoyed success at home with a 73 to 15 record at the East China Stadium in East China, Michigan.
- The Mariners have made 13 trips to the State Play-Offs.

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The Rosary – Crown of Roses

By Laura Irwin

ThumbPrint News Staff Reporter

Kathy Koenig of the Marysville, Michigan Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary (#9526) has long been interested in the making of rosaries from rose petals. Her interest began in 1971 after the death of her father when her aunt requested the roses from the casket spray, assuring Kathy that she would get them back. Kathy did get them back – in the form of hand-made rosaries, one for her, one for her mother and one for her sister.

Twenty some years later while attending mass on vacation, the idea again presented itself when Kathy read a blurb in the church paper asking for help making rosaries. It was there she learned the secrets of making rosaries out of rose petals. She then spent a portion of her time for the next two weeks of her vacation assisting the local parish in its endeavor to make rosaries.

When Kathy returned, she approached the ladies of the Auxiliary to see if her interest was shared by others and if it could possibly become a fund-raising venture to support their many charitable activities. Many of the ladies were excited by the prospect and have since also learned the secrets.

Making rosaries out of rose petals is said to go as far back as medieval times when the monks were thought to use a similar process. It is a time-consuming labor of love and devotion to provide help for others.

Here is the recipe for rosaries, minus the few “secret” ingredients, according to Kathy:

- Start with reverence and understanding of the spirituality of the Blessed Mother and her connection to the rosary.
- Next, use about six large, plump roses and dry them until they are crumbly (about one week).
- Next, cook the roses in a cast iron pot with some water and other ‘secret’ ingredients, stirring with a wooden spoon, until the mixture reaches the consistency of moist modeling clay.
- Once cooled, roll the mixture by hand into consistently sized spheres. For a five decade rosary you will need 59 spheres.
- Daily, for about the next four days, re-roll the beads by hand while they are shrinking and drying.
- The rosary beads have hardened enough when they can withstand the pressure of connecting pins being inserted through them without squishing them out of shape.



Connecting pins are inserted through the hardened beads.

- Next, insert the connecting pins (available at jewelry supply outlets).
- Connect the beads together with a simple jeweler’s tool, using end caps in either silver or gold, according to preference.



Using a secret recipe, (from right) Jenny, Gladys, Marg and Kathy make rosary beads from rose petals.

- The dusky black beads are then ‘oiled’ with petroleum jelly.
- As each bead is oiled, the rosary should be said, marking each bead with a prayer.

These beautiful, hand-made, fragrant rosaries are available for purchase, or special order using your own roses, on a cash basis only. Whether they are from the first flowers you ever received from your “better” half made into a wedding keepsake or the tear-stained roses from a loved one’s funeral, these ladies of the Marysville Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary (#9526) will treat your flowers with respect and care.

If you would like to order or purchase a five decade rosary or a one decade bracelet, presented in a handmade velvet bag, you can visit

them during their craft show at the Marysville Knights of Columbus Hall, 4521 Ravenswood Rd., Kimball, Michigan on Oct. 17th from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. or call (810) 364-6800 to leave a message to be contacted by the Auxiliary. 🌿



A five decade rosary with a handmade velvet bag is available for purchase.

Avoid Septic Problems During the Upcoming Holiday Season

Fall is the ideal time of year to have your septic system inspected and serviced. Heavy fall rains can saturate septic fields and cause problems with your system. The ground is still workable this time of year, making any needed service or repairs less costly than when the ground is frozen in the winter.

Fall and winter bring many holidays, which often means increased visitors and overnight guests to your home. More people

using bathtubs, showers, toilets and sinks become a burden on your septic system. Having your system inspected and serviced in the fall is a great preventative measure to having your upcoming holidays spoiled by septic failure or problems.

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Multicolored Asian Lady Beetles and Cluster Flies Move in for Fall!

The multicolored Asian lady beetle has become a nuisance pest to homeowners in North America because of their tendency to overwinter in homes and other buildings, usually clustered in large numbers. 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.

Cluster flies are found in homes, churches, hospitals, apartment complexes, commercial and public buildings and other structures. These large, sluggish flies are black in color, and usually appear on warm, sunny days during late autumn, winter and early spring. They appear 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. They make irritating, buzzing noises, spin around and move sluggishly. They can also leave a greasy spot on upholstery, carpets, wood and other surfaces.

With the cooler weather, these insects may be already starting to try and find their way into your homes. 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. Call ABC Home & Commercial Services to schedule your fall treatment today.

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Michael & Leah Lindke



Michael Keith Lindke and Leah Marie Welch were united in marriage on August 15, 2009 at Drake Park in Marine City, Michigan by Reverend Ken Gadd, of St. James United Church of Christ in Casco, Michigan. Michael is a Corporal in the Marine Corps Reserve at Selfridge Air Force Base in Harrison Township, Michigan. A military sword detail was part of their wedding. A reception followed at Louis' Chop House in Chesterfield, Michigan. The couple will reside in Marine City, Michigan. Both the bride and the groom are employed by ABC Home & Commercial Services in Clay Township, Michigan.

I dreamed of a wedding of elaborate elegance . . .

Jeff & Jane Kury



Jeff Kury and Jane Jaynes were united in marriage on August 15, 2009 in East China, Michigan at their residence on the St. Clair River by Reverend James T. Demianenko of the New Hope Pentacostal Church in New Baltimore, Michigan. The bride was given away by her three sons, Jason, Shawn and Kyle. The wedding had a Hawaiian luau theme, complete with palm trees, Hawaiian shirts and leis. A reception with Hawaiian food followed by the river. The couple will reside in East China, Michigan. Jeff is employed at the Rattle Run Golf Course in St. Clair, Michigan and Jane is employed by Foxfire Farm in Clay Township, Michigan.

A church filled with family and friends . . .

John & Elisa Zinda



John Aloysius Zinda and Elisa Terese were united in marriage on August 22, 2009, at the Belle Isle Conservatory Gardens in Detroit, Michigan, by Reverend Haju Sunim and Kobul from the Zen Buddhist Temple in Ann Arbor, Michigan. During the Flower Wedding Ceremony, they exchanged flowers and five precepts that they had written for each other. A vegetarian reception followed at the Belle Isle Casino, with all locally grown produce. Instead of a traditional cake, the bride and groom completed a crème brule together and shared it with one another. The bride is a former employee of ABC Home & Commercial Services, where she was an entomologist. Following a camping trip to Ohio, the couple will be moving to China for a year to continue the work that John has started working with the Chinese people on the effects the rapid industrialization is having on the environment in the Himalayan Mountains.

I asked him what kind of a wedding he wished for . . .

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He said one that would make me his wife!

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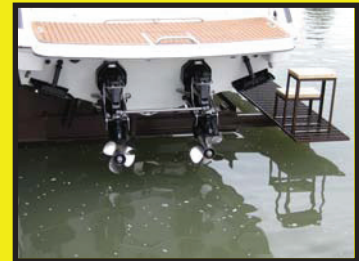
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