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of Relationship
by John Vincent Senkus

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Winner
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Princess

*Descendent
of
Marine City
Pioneer*

By David Odziana

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer and Field Reporter

One of the most prominent families in the Marine City area during its formative years was the Wards. Sam Ward was the first family member to settle the area in 1819, and quickly began urging other relatives to relocate to the bank of the St. Clair River.

Clara Ward, who was the daughter of Captain Eber Brock Ward, was born in Detroit on June 17, 1873, from the captain's second marriage to Catherine Lyon. By the time of her birth, the Ward family was very well off, and her father was known throughout the country as the *Steel King of America* because of his purchase of Silver Island in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Aside from shipbuilding and steel, Eber also was

involved with the lumber industry, all of which helped earn him the title of Michigan's first millionaire. When Clara was just a year old, her father died of a stroke, leaving a majority of his \$6 million estate to his second wife and their two children Eber Jr. and Clara. Following the passing of her husband, Clara's mother moved her children to New York. Catherine soon fell in love with a Canadian man and relocated her two children to Toronto.

Clara's mother sent her to London to attend school when she was 15 years old, and that's when her rebellious teenage nature began to reveal itself. As a result of her disobedient behavior, Clara went to numerous finishing schools after

See *PRINCESS* Page 18



For many residents of Michigan, a vacation often consists of driving a few hours north until they reach one of the many popular tourist destinations throughout the state.

By David Odziana

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer and
Field Reporter



Traverse City is one of the more popular vacation spots in the Lower Peninsula, enticing visitors with an array of year-round activities. The area once known as Slabtown and Little Bohemia has an extensive history, which is a big part of the beloved city's charm.

Sleder's Tavern is one of the most established buildings in the area with the prestige of being one of the oldest restaurants in the state. A Bohemian wheelwright named Vencel Sleder came to the area in the second half of the 1800s, and soon made the decision to construct a local tavern where residents could visit with friends over a home cooked meal after a long day at work. Since most

able hands were busy working in the mills or on their land, only Sundays were available to work on the restaurant.

See *RESTAURANT* Page 11

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LETTER

from the

EDITOR

We are just beginning a brand new year. I must say that 2016 ended up in an extremely interesting way – and in a way most of us would not have predicted. The 2016 Presidential Election was the most controversial and, for some, the most emotional one that I personally have lived through and followed. Unfortunately, I can't really say that the dynamics of the election race brought out the best in any of the candidates, any of the political parties – or the best in the human race, for that matter.

Now, what did I just do? I generalized. According to one dictionary, a generalization is defined as “a proposition asserting something to be true either of all members of a certain class or of an indefinite part of that class”.

One of the things I disliked while watching the debates and the numerous political commercials on television, as well as the ever-present round-table discussions from the news commentators, was how often an individual would make broad generalizations about those who were supporting one candidate or the other, about a certain political party, about a particular ethnic group, age group, gender, occupation, religious affiliation...I could go on and on. It seemed that most of us were being lumped into a handful of classifications and then generalizations were made about those classes that often were not done in a particularly positive manner.

The problem with generalizations is that they quite often result in unfair treatment of individuals. Our failure to look at each person as an individual with a unique set of traits, both positive and negative, often becomes the basis of what we regard as prejudice.

Now that we are looking at a new president being sworn in on January 20th, I think it is time for all of us as individuals to do a little bit of introspection and figure out how we can try to avoid such generalizations. If we can look at each person as an individual with a unique set of looks, thoughts and traits, we may begin to break down some of the prejudices we have that would stand in the way of our new president's vision of “making America great again”.

Regardless of how I voted – or how any of our readers voted – I truly believe we owe it to our beloved country to give Donald Trump a chance at achieving that goal. However, we all know that he alone (or anyone alone) doesn't stand as much of a chance of success as when he or she has the support of many, many other Americans. My New Year's resolution is going to be to increase my awareness of when and why I make generalizations, and to try to limit or eliminate completely doing so. I also want to increase my awareness of when others are making gross generalizations in the media and/or in everyday encounters I have, so that I don't allow those to influence my mindset and how I treat individual people.

I will close with this thought by Agatha Christie, one of the world's greatest writers:

“I often wonder why the whole world is so prone to generalize. Generalizations are seldom if ever true and are usually utterly inaccurate.”

Take a minute to ponder the irony of the generalizations in her statement, and you will begin to understand that it is so very easy to get caught up in making generalizations, but not as easy to stop. The efforts and attempts, however, are so worth it. We could just find that the next four years are the best we have ever seen in America – and that America truly becomes great again. That is sure my hope for 2017! Happy New Year! 🇺🇸

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HOUSE FOR LIFE

By Paul Welch, ThumbPrint News Columnist

The cold and snow have arrived and with them comes potential problems for your home. Snow and ice collect on your cement making it difficult to go anywhere. Heat is constantly trying to escape your home, and Old Man Winter feels the need to decorate your house with icicles. The snow can be beautiful to watch and makes things nice and bright, but winter can be a real pain in the butt. Here are some tips to keep in mind to protect your home from the ravages of winter during this time of the year.

Harmful and Helpful – Rock salt is a cheap and effective way to melt snow and ice. It is no different than table salt except for still having dirt and impurities, which make it no good for eating. All ice-melting products react with the ice, lowering its freezing point so it melts in the cold temperatures. In Michigan, where temperatures can get in the single digits and below, rock salt becomes less effective and the water freezes again. Some of the water is in the pores of the cement and since water expands as it freezes, damage to the cement can occur. The best ice melt to use, especially in the coldest part of winter is calcium chloride. It usually comes as white pellets in a bag or jug. It is also the most expensive, but remember that a little goes a long way.

Houdini Heat – According to people who know about physics, heat likes to move to an area of less heat. In the winter, we want the house to keep the heat inside and don't want it to move outside. We put insulation in the walls and attic, and install energy efficient

windows to prevent this transfer of energy. Telltale signs of heat escaping your home are numerous icicles forming along your gutters. Escaping heat causes snow on your roof to melt, which refreezes as it drips off the edge of the roof. If the ice continues to build up, it can work its way under your shingles, causing damage and leaks. The two best ways to prevent this are to have a good, thick layer of insulation, at least an R-40, in your attic and clean gutters. If you have cold floors, you can put insulation under floors. When insulating the underside of your floor, remember to put the face of the paper against the subfloor and use insulation wires to hold it up.

Frozen Leak – If you have a crawlspace and no basement, make sure you take measures to keep your pipes from freezing. Most people don't think to do so until they have a problem. Remember to close any crawlspace vents during the winter. Also, make sure to install heat tape along the underside of your water pipes and wrap them in insulation. It is easier to do this before a problem occurs than to fix a broken water pipe in the winter. While you are under the house, it also helps to wrap your duct work in insulation to make sure more heat makes it into your house.

Despite all the global warming we keep hearing about, winter still manages to be cold and brutal in Michigan. Stay safe and make sure you don't overdo it. Your body and heart work harder when doing things in the cold weather. Know your limits and hire someone if needed. Next month I will teach you how to make a roof rake, so you can clean that pesky snow off your roof. 🧊

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Folks at *ThumbPrint News*,

Hello from a true fan of Michigan's Thumb region. My parents owned a cottage facing Lake Huron (address Carsonville, Michigan) when I was young. I have many pleasant memories of the Thumb back then, during the 1960s and 1970s. My parents liked to take me and my little sister to Lexington, Michigan's General Store and also to Ben Franklin dime store in Croswell.

Mr. David M. Heike, Fraser, Michigan

Dear Good People at *ThumbPrint News*,







Thank you for your fine publication! I do enjoy looking through each monthly *ThumbPrint News*; each one helps to "make my day" be a more cheerful one. My parents owned a cottage on Lake Huron, south of Port Sanilac, Michigan, not far from Camp Ozanam. My grandmother had a summer place in Lexington Heights.

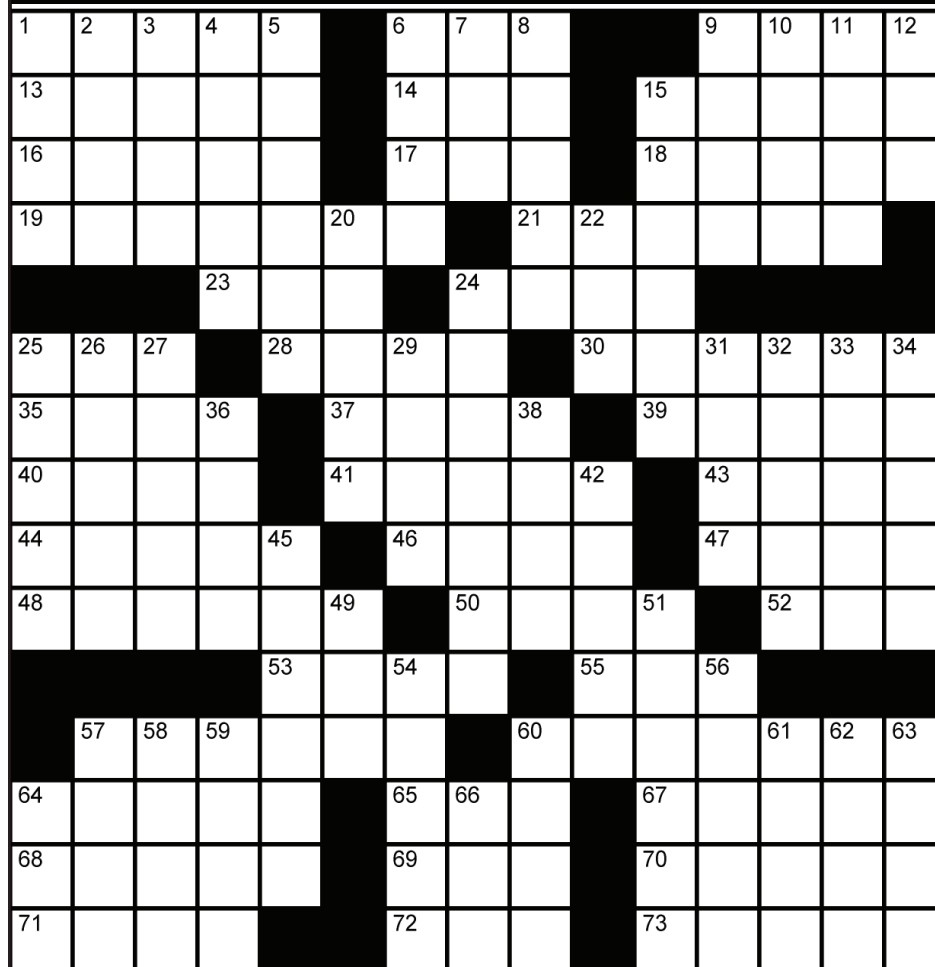
Mrs. David M. Heike, Fraser, Michigan

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed "The Masked Man and Me" article by David Gillis, especially the way the author felt that he was part of the crime fighting teams. As pictured in the article, there was a *Green Hornet* television program, too. It may not have been popular, but it persists in the hearts of many, largely due to Kato being played by Bruce Lee.

William Geiger

1 On this day in 1937, at a party at the Hormel Mansion in Minnesota, a guest wins \$100 for naming a new canned meat – Spam.	2 On this day in 1999, a severe winter storm hits the Midwestern US; in Chicago temperatures plunge to -13 °F and 19 inches of snow falls; 68 deaths are blamed on the storm.	3 On this day in 1924, King Tutankhamen's sarcophagus is uncovered near Luxor, Egypt. 	4 On this day in 1999, the euro, the new money of 11 European nations, goes into effect on the continent of Europe.	5 On this day in 1914, Henry Ford astounds the world as he announces that he will pay a minimum wage of \$5 a day and will share with employees \$10 million in the previous year's profits.	6 On this day in 1987, astronomers report sighting a new galaxy 12 billion light years away. 	7 On this day in 1999, the impeachment trial of U.S. President Bill Clinton opens in the U.S. Senate.
8 On this day in 1982, AT&T agrees to divest 22 subdivisions as part of an antitrust agreement.	9 On this day in 2007, Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple, unveils the first iPhone.	10 On this day in 1870, John D. Rockefeller and his brother William establish the Standard Oil Company of Ohio.	11 On this day in 1964, a collection of previously unexhibited paintings by Pablo Picasso are displayed for the first time in Toronto.	12 On this day in 2010, an earthquake in Haiti kills an estimated 316,000 people.	13 On this day in 1919, California votes to ratify the prohibition amendment.	14 On this day in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt orders all aliens in the U.S. to register with the government.
15 On this day in 1976, Sara Jane Moore is sentenced to life in prison for her failed attempt to assassinate U.S. President Gerald Ford.	16 On this day in 1956, the Egyptian government makes Islam the state religion. 	17 On this day in 1939, The Reich issues an order forbidding Jews to practice as dentists, veterinarians and chemists.	18 On this day in 1948, Gandhi breaks a 121-hour fast after halting Muslim-Hindu riots. 	19 On this day in 1983, the new Catholic code expands women's rights in the church.	20 On this day in 1945, Franklin D. Roosevelt is inaugurated for his fourth term. 	21 On this day in 1785, Chippewa, Delaware, Ottawa and Wyandot Indians sign the treaty of Fort McIntosh, ceding present-day Ohio to the United States.
22 On this day in 1807, President Thomas Jefferson exposes a plot by Aaron Burr to form a new republic in the Southwest.	23 On this day in 1977, Alex Haley's <i>Roots</i> begins a record-breaking eight-night broadcast on ABC.	24 On this day in 1965, Winston Churchill dies from a cerebral thrombosis at the age of 90. 	25 On this day in 1930, New York police rout a Communist rally at the Town Hall.	26 On this day in 2005, Condoleezza Rice is appointed to the post of secretary of state, making her the highest ranking African-American woman ever to serve in a U.S. presidential cabinet.	27 On this day in 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issues General War Order No. 1, setting in motion the Union armies.	28 On this day in 1547, Henry VIII of England dies and is succeeded by his nine-year-old son Edward VI.
29 On this day in 1984, President Ronald Reagan announces that he will run for a second term.	30 On this day in 1847, the town of Yerba Buena was renamed San Francisco.	31 On this day in 1865, the House of Representatives approves a constitutional amendment abolishing slavery.	WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY? JANUARY			

CROSSWORD PUZZLE — FOOTBALL*

ACROSS

1. Giraffe's striped-leg cousin
6. Moo goo gai pan pan
9. Love-____ relationship
13. *____ Gabriel, 1960s Rams star quarterback
14. What?
15. Enter a website
16. Samuel Butler's "The Way of All ____"
17. Big time
18. "____ truly"
19. *Non-contact league
21. *Football game starter
23. Altogether or entirely
24. ____-de-camp
25. Club alternative
28. *Houston Oilers star running back, Campbell
30. Top of the line
35. Not of the cloth
37. Leave in a bucket
39. Kitchen appliance
40. *Legendary Graham
41. Friend
43. Porous rock
44. Good luck trinket
46. *Tracked by chain gang
47. Dog trailer
48. Sort of
50. Prima donna
52. Don't do this at home?
53. Like Old Mother Hubbard's cupboard
55. Next to nothing
57. *Type of linebacker
60. *This year's top NFL pick
64. "To no ____"
65. Beauty treatment site
67. Cell phone bill item
68. L on clothes
69. Word between "dogs"
70. Sneers
71. Mark of a ruler
72. *TV network, aired NFL games from 1990-97
73. Scandinavian fjord, e.g.

DOWN

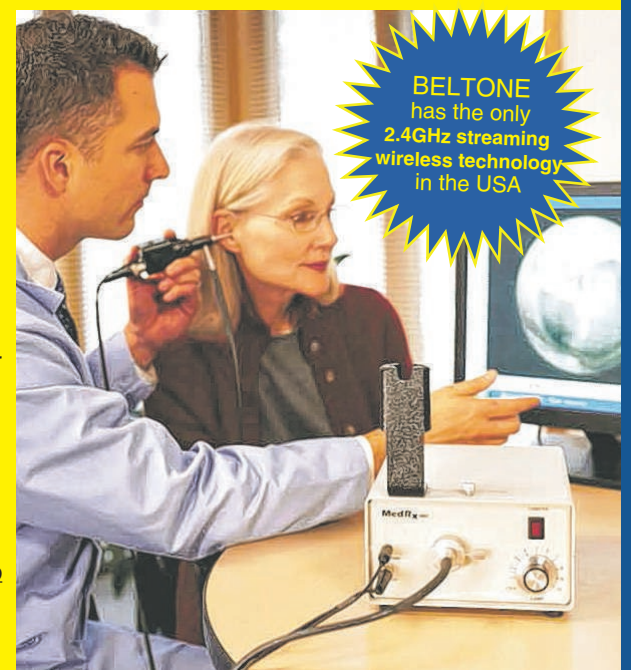
1. ____ Approach, music education
2. Traditional cola caffeine source
3. Prayer ending
4. Italian restaurant staple
5. Draw in
6. Miss Muffet's repast
7. Thornton Wilder's "____ Town"
8. Dockers' fabric
9. J. M. Barrie's captain
10. Flu symptom
11. Millimeter of mercury
12. Lt's subordinate
15. Aristotle's school
20. Common part of URL
22. Dog tags
24. Apple pie choice
25. *NFL players can't do this in the back
26. Policeman's club in India
27. *Tennessee player
29. Crucifix
31. Inedible parts of cherries
32. Jump for joy
33. Direct elsewhere
34. *Deflategate star
36. Olden-day telephone part
38. New Zealand fruit
42. End of a poem
45. Alabama port
49. It's all the rage
51. Annulus, pl.
54. Kind of button
56. Ruhr's industrial center
57. Popular Russian name
58. Narcotics agent
59. Accompanies relief?
60. *Texan defensive star
61. Asian weight unit
62. Scary fairytale creature
63. Swallow's house
64. Boxer Clay
66. Peter of the Lost Boys

Answer Key
on pg. 26**FREE FIBER OPTIC VIDEO EAR EXAM**

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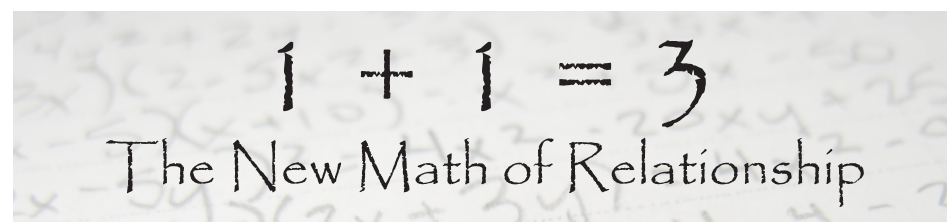
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By **John Vincent Senkus**, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

"The greatest achievement was at first and for a time a dream. The oak sleeps in the acorn; the bird waits in the egg; and in the highest vision of the soul, a waking angel stirs. Dreams are the seedlings of realities."

— James Allen

Jonah, a middle-aged merchant who peddled wares during biblical times, was a man who was very content and comfortable with his life. All seemed good, but all that changed when God summoned him for a special mission. Being quite satisfied with his life, he felt that God's request was too much for him. Being such, he refused to carry out God's will. He then fled and tried to put as much distance between him and God as possible. While fleeing, the ship he was on encountered a terrible storm. The mariners on the ship decided Jonah was the cause of the storm, and threw him overboard. While sinking in the sea, he was swallowed by a huge whale. There in the belly of this great beast, he spent three days and nights contemplating the meaning of life along with God's wishes for him. As Jonah became more and more enlightened, he knew in his heart that he should pursue his new path. The whale then released him, and Jonah transformed himself into the prophet that God knew he could be.

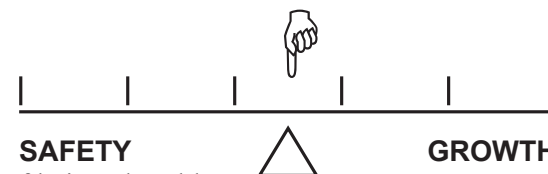
Not all fear of growth is rooted in being afraid of failure. Fear of success, of reaching one's potential can also be a major obstacle. This story symbolizes that we all have unused and under utilized capacities and abilities within us; the potential to be greater than we are. Fearing one's possibilities, as Jonah did, can be a significant growth obstacle. Abraham Maslow cited the fear of

success as the *Jonah complex*. To demonstrate this principle of fearing our highest possibilities, Maslow would ask his psychology students, "Which of you in this class hopes to write the great American novel, or to be a Senator, or Governor, or President? Who wants to be Secretary-General of the United Nations? Or, a great composer? Who aspires to be a saint...? Who among you will be a great leader?" His questions were usually followed with awkward silence. He ends with, *"If not you, then who...?"*

Our resistance to **WHERE IS YOUR TIPPING POINT?** success can stem from many factors:

1. Humility can make us feel that achieving greatness is self-centered or arrogant, and goes against the grain of being "humble".
2. The fear of attracting too much attention to ourselves.
3. Not being comfortable outside the "norm" ... where safety is more attractive than growth.
4. Being afraid that achieving greatness would mean losing control of the life we currently have.
5. Not feeling worthy enough to appear knowledgeable or as an expert.
6. Being frightened of the responsibility that would come along with achieving our potential.
7. The fear of not knowing what could happen next, or the decisions we may then have to make.

If these or other possible reasons reverberate within you, try to evaluate the underlying causes as to why. They should not become permanent barriers to all that you can be. The journey of growth will always present downed branches that can seemingly get in the way and block your path. In fact, these obstacles and detours serve as lessons and are a vital part of the overall learning process. If you continually move beyond them; you will grow. If you end up stalling,



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stopping, or turning around, you will then invite atrophy as a houseguest into your domain.

Now greatness doesn't necessarily mean being an astronaut or the next president. What it does mean is aspiring to your fullest potential – regardless of where these pursuits take you. True success is not measured by others, society, job position, salary, status, or anything else. It is measured only by you and your true path. If your calling is to be a mother, father, a chef, a fireman, a dishwasher, a scientist, an intimate partner, a factory worker, or the head of a great company, then fulfilling this purpose with your very own personal imprint is what's important. Remember, it's in **HOW** you do something that is a better soulful reflection than in **WHAT** you do. It is the unique touch, creativity, and passion that you bring that truly matters!

Can you remember a time in your life when you were faced with the challenge of a growth opportunity? Was your inner voice, in the least bit, guiding and urging you to move forward? If you faced the challenge, how did you feel afterward? Did it create further momentum and stepping stones toward even more growth? If you backed away from the opportunity, was it because of the comfort of just staying put? Did this later cause any regrets?

Our lives will bring a countless array of choices for us to decide upon. It is the consequence of these choices that will create the richness – or the dulling of our self and our intimate relationship. And it is precisely those decisions that will determine if our journey catalyses our potential – or “safely” veers us away from it. There is an anonymous saying, *“Growth is painful. Change is painful. But nothing is as painful as staying stuck somewhere you don't belong.”* Tune out the comforts of safety. They're overrated anyhow. Instead, tune in and resonate with the energies of growth. Doing so puts you in touch with your intended purpose ... and your dreams!

Thanks for reading! If you would like more information or have any questions or comments, please email me at 1and1equal3@gmail.com.

In our next column, we will continue looking at the factors that help determine whether we lean toward safety or growth. 🌱

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Cynthia and Edsel Ford and Family Fill Tall Order at Detroit Zoo

**\$1 Million Gift
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for Growing Giraffe Family**

Submitted by Patricia Janeway

Longtime Detroit Zoo supporters Cynthia and Edsel Ford are sticking their necks out for the benefit of the giraffes at the Zoo with a \$1 million gift which will pay for an expansion of the animals' indoor habitat.

"There have been so many significant improvements made at the Zoo in recent years, and our family is happy for the opportunity to foster that growth," said Cynthia Ford, who serves on the Detroit Zoological Society (DZS) Board of Directors.

The Detroit Zoo is home to four reticulated giraffes, including 9-year-old male Jabari and 7-year-old female Kivuli. They are the parents of 2-year-old male Mpenzi and 4-month-old female Zawadi, both born at the Detroit Zoo.

"We have a special fondness for these graceful, elegant animals," said Edsel Ford. "This growing family needs a larger home and we were drawn to the idea of creating an environment where they can all gather in one space."

Renovations will double the giraffes' interior space, including the addition of a large area for the entire herd to be together. The work is expected to be completed by late spring.

"Cynthia and Edsel Ford have been extraordinary supporters of the Detroit Zoo for many years and we are extremely grateful for this generous gift," said DZS Executive Director and CEO Ron Kagan. "There is growing conservation concern with wild giraffe populations."

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in early December 2016, declared giraffes – the world's tallest land mammal – officially in danger of extinction. Giraffe numbers have plummeted in the wild by more than 40 percent in recent decades, resulting in the species moving to the "Vulnerable" category on the IUCN Red List. 🦒

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RESTAURANT, Continued from Page 1

This caused construction to complete the building to drag on for three years. The building was manufactured using rejected wooden slabs from the local sawmill; Sleder's Tavern was finally finished in 1882.

Vencel conducted his business with the mentality that goodwill is good business, later becoming the company's slogan that allowed the bar to survive many dark economic times. The second generation of the Sleder family to work at the tavern was Polly Sleder, who was well known for offering her household medical advice with each \$1.50 case of

ignoring. Sleder's Tavern was quickly raided, and police discovered two stills, 231 pints of beer, 50 gallons of mash used to brew alcohol and six quarts of moonshine. Due to his clean record, Louie was only charged with possession, which resulted in a \$600 fine, instead of the much stiffer punishment that came with a bootlegging charge. This raid was most likely a result of pressure from citizens, who collected 450 signatures to get local police to "exercise a higher regard for the moral protection of the youths of our city and a more thorough enforcement in dealing with violators of city ordinances, federal and state law."

Despite the fact that the petition didn't mention alcohol or prohibition, it was assumed the paperwork was referring to the lack of enforcement on alcohol in the city.

During the 1930s, the building underwent a few structural changes. Prior to this time, men and women were not allowed to frequent the same area of the bar. Instead, the men drank in the main



beer. It was also said she gave patrons a free beer and a double shot of liquor for each case of beer purchased. Prior to inheriting the tavern, Louie Sleder's first job at the bar was to clean out the 21 spittoons throughout the restaurant, receiving 25 cents for each one. By 1920, Sleder's Tavern was faced with a great deal of uncertainty, as everyday life began changing drastically during this time.

When Prohibition was enacted in Michigan, Sleder's Tavern was already established for nearly 40 years, which gave the company a better chance of surviving the state's dry period that lasted more than 15 years. Sleder's secret for thriving during the country's ban on alcohol was his special root beer, which was well known during the time. The mixture, which was actually a blend of rye and bourbon, was served in tea cups free of charge to all visiting law enforcement – this allowed the family business to flourish when a majority of taverns were forced to close their doors. Throughout the 1920s, local law enforcement mainly focused on out-of-town bootleggers who were bringing alcohol into the area. This continued until the 1930s, when state police decided to enforce the laws local police were

bar, while the women had their own section in the back, which they would enter through a separate door. After Louie opened up the two rooms to make one large bar and renovated the second story ballroom into living space, many of the regulars who frequented Sleder's were not happy about having women in the same area of the bar.

Although some things have changed in the building throughout its 134 years of business, many original features still remain. Time-appropriate stamped tin adorns the 12-foot-tall ceilings, original light fixtures still hang on the walls and much of the historic collectibles still decorate the walls, but one feature tends to grab the attention of thirsty patrons more than anything else. The original 21-foot mahogany bar, equipped with an old brass foot rail and embellished with cherry wood on the sides, has remained in the same spot since 1882.

Louie Sleder was the last family member to own the tavern before it was sold. After changing hands a few times, Sylvia and Bob Classens purchased the restaurant in 1975. The couple's main goal was to ensure the historical aspect remained. Renovations they accomplished were uncovering the original hardwood floors, redoing the

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paneling on the walls and constructing a Victorian style porch on the side of the building. In 1992, Brian and Deb Cairns purchased the restaurant from the Classens, and shortly after, the couple tied the knot on the recently constructed porch. When the Cairns took over, they changed as little as possible



– all five of the Classens' children, as well as many of the previous employees, remained employed at Sleder's after the tavern got new owners.

Today, Michigan's oldest continuously running restaurant sits in the same spot at 717 Randolph Street in Traverse City. While much has changed throughout the city from the time it was known as Little Bohemia or Slabtown, Sleder's Tavern stands as proof that some things can truly stand the test of time. 🍷

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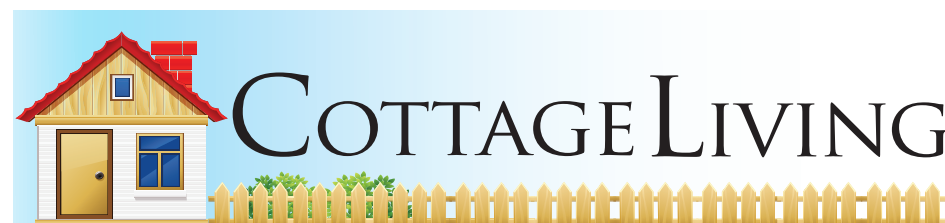
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By Pamela Grey-Pugliese

ThumbPrint News Columnist

The start of a new year brings about much anticipation for me; not only is it a chance to start fresh, with new ideas, but also it is a chance to discover new ways to live happier and healthier. The new year brings about a feeling of peace and refreshment for many. This time of the year, the holiday craziness, with its out-of-the-ordinary schedules and busyness, seems to calm down a bit.

Even though we still have a few months before we begin to see Michigan start to thaw, we all look forward to the next seasonal holiday, most likely, Valentine's Day. The new year opens us up for thoughts of planning the upcoming months and, of course with me, it's anticipation of the summer cottage season!

This is a good time to head up and check out the place in its winter

hibernation. I check for any drafty windows, make sure the small rodents are kept at bay and have not done much damage, and check the pipes for any cracks or issues that may arise from the frigid Michigan temperatures.

It does get pretty desolate up north around this time, but it gives me a chance to do a once-over during the winter months. I try not to become impatient for the warmer weather, so this little mid-winter visit helps to pass the time in the winter months.

The best part of owning my little piece of heaven is knowing that I can do a short getaway for a weekend at a time, and also knowing that in just a few short months the warmer weather will start to creep in and this will make me a happy cottage owner! Enjoy the New Year, and may you and yours have a fantastic year ahead. 🌱

Inalienable vs. Unalienable

in·al·ien·a·ble un·al·ien·a·ble

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist



I know many excellent teachers and salute all educators who put forth a special effort to help students understand our government and that they are "we the people". I find comfort in knowing that these future electors understand how government works. I am grateful, but only when it's done correctly.

Recently, I heard about a school teacher who was explaining to students their *inalienable rights* as spelled out in the Declaration of Independence. Not only did the educator offer an incorrect term, but from what I was told, the explanation that followed referred to rights given by the government, which could be taken back. Now, although inalienable rights can be given and taken by government, that's not what the document crafted by Thomas Jefferson says. The Declaration of Independence states in part, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain **unalienable rights**, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

With these words, Jefferson pointed to "certain unalienable rights" with which we were endowed by our "Creator." What did he mean when he wrote the phrase "unalienable rights," and what rights are "unalienable"? Jefferson understood "unalienable rights" as fixed rights given to us by our Creator, rather than by government. The emphasis on the source of these rights is crucial, because it shows that the rights are permanent. Oxford University's William Blackstone described unalienable rights as "absolute" rights, offering that they are absolute because of where they are derived. They were, are, and always will be absolute. Moreover, because we are "endowed" with them, the rights are inseparable from us; they are part of our humanity. In a word, the government did not give them and therefore cannot take them away. It seems, however, government still strains at ways to suppress them.

To protect our fundamental, individual rights, James Madison assisted in including the Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution. The intent was to remove them from government attempts to take them away. The "unalienable rights" explicitly protected by the Bill of Rights include, but are not limited to, the rights of free speech and religion, the right to keep and bear arms, self-determination with regard to

one's own property, the right to be secure in one's own property, the right to a trial by a jury of one's peers, protection from cruel and unusual punishment, and so forth.

"Unalienable rights," therefore, are ours absolutely to keep forever by virtue of our Creator, so said Thomas Jefferson through the Declaration of Independence, and supported by James Madison through the Bill of Rights.

We read or hear too often about our "inalienable rights" rather than our "unalienable rights." So, what's the difference? First, let's assume that most people who use *inalienable* instead of the correct *unalienable* when referring to the Declaration of Independence or Bill of Rights are simply repeating something they've heard or read.

Unalienable is the state of a thing or right which cannot be sold or transferred. The natural rights of life and liberty are, therefore, unalienable. *Black's Law Dictionary, 6th edition* states that unalienable is something incapable of being alienated, which is sold or transferred. In other words, it's yours whether you like it or not, whether you want it or not. You cannot surrender, sell or transfer your unalienable rights. They are a gift from the Creator to you and cannot under any circumstances be surrendered or taken. All individuals have unalienable rights.

In contrast, "inalienable rights" are not capable of being surrendered or transferred without the consent of the one possessing such rights. You can surrender, sell or transfer inalienable rights if you consent either actually or constructively. Inalienable rights are not inherent in an individual and can be alienated by government. Many state constitutions recognize only inalienable rights. Possibly that is where the confusion is derived, unfortunately. Of course, our federal "unalienable rights" take precedence over state "inalienable rights."

Any discussion regarding "unalienable" and "inalienable" rights might extend on and on. And, of course, there would be many attempts to define or even redefine the rights that Jefferson and Madison were referring to. However, if the story I heard about the school teacher is correct, we need to be concerned. Our children cannot enter an adult world of responsibility if they believe their unalienable rights are actually inalienable rights. We owe them a better explanation. 🌱

Just Say... Cheese

- Cheese consumption predates recorded history, with scholars believing it began as early as 8000 B.C., when sheep were first domesticated, to as late as 3000 B.C.
- Ancient Greeks and Romans were the first to turn cheese-making into a fine art. Larger Roman houses had a special kitchen, called a *careale*, just for making cheese.
- The varying flavors, colors and textures of cheese come from many factors, including the type of milk used, the type of bacteria or acid used to separate the milk, the length of aging, and the addition of other flavorings or mold.
- Although most cheese is produced from cow, sheep or goat's milk, it can and has been made from many different kinds of milk-producing animals. A farm in Bjurholm, Sweden, actually makes moose cheese.
- Jean-Anthelme Brillat-Savarin (French Lawyer and politician, epicure and gastronome, 1755-1826) is quoted as having said, "A dinner which ends without cheese is like a beautiful woman with only one eye."





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Historic Vehicles and Car Companies of the Thumb

By Alan Naldrett, ThumbPrint News Contributor

Since Detroit is the Motor City, it is not surprising that many Thumb areas have some very interesting automobile history, dating back to the early days of the auto industry.

The earliest auto history of the area is undoubtedly the 1884 steam car of Thomas Clegg and his father John. The vehicle they built was powered by a one-cylinder steam engine. It was powered by a tubular boiler, mounted in the rear of a cart that had four 5'8" wheels, and used soft (bituminous) coal as fuel. The vehicle could carry four people and was probably the first self-propelled vehicle in Michigan – and also one of the first in the nation.

Built in the John Clegg & Son Machine Shop at 35412 Bordman Street (near Cedar) in Memphis, Michigan, the Cleggs called it the contraption, or the "Thing," as it is referred to on the historical sign near the one-time location of the shop.

They first envisioned the car as early as 1870, but didn't set about building it until the fall of 1884. Its most extensive driving was done in Memphis, or trips to nearby Emmet. The top speed of the vehicle was 12 mph.

The car met its demise after it had been driven over 500 miles and exploded on the way home from Emmett. The engine was sold to the local creamery and the rest was left in front of the Clegg's machine shop where it sat until some local kids rolled it down the hill, where it still might be!



Historical sign on Bordman Road in Memphis commemorating the site of the Clegg Machine Shop



The Northern Manufacturing Company became Northern Motor Co. and built their two-cylinder model in their Port Huron factory.

The Thumb area includes the factory of the Northern Motor Company. The company was started by Charles Brady King, the first man to drive a car on the streets of Detroit in 1896, and Jonathan Maxwell, whose later company, the Maxwell Motor Company, was the forerunner of Chrysler. They opened a factory in Port Huron in 1907, to build the company's two-cylinder version of the Northern. The four-cylinder version was built in Detroit, as well as the company's first car, the one-cylinder Northern Runabout. The car was promoted as being the "Silent Northern," which was "Dustless and Noiseless."

Thomas Clegg was said to be a friend of Ransom Olds and Henry Ford, who wanted to buy his machine shop in 1936, about three weeks after it had been torn down. After the Thing, he built a car made of brass in 1886, lighter than the first at only 2,800 pounds. In 1904, he built a working gasoline car. Thomas died in May of 1939, and is buried with his co-inventor father, John, in Memphis Cemetery.



The Port Huron factory of Northern Motor Co., E-M-F (as seen on building), and Havers Motor Company

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Northern Motor Company faltered and merged with Wayne Motors Company, which was absorbed by the E-M-F Motor Company. When E-M-F was taken over by Studebaker Motor Company, the factory passed into the hands of the Havers Brothers.

The Havers Brothers, Fred and Ernest, started the Havers Motor Company in 1911, to build their six-cylinder, self-starting vehicle, which came in two and four door models. They manufactured four years of models from 1911

until July 8, 1914, when the factory was destroyed by fire.

Auto history continued south of Port Huron as C. Harold Wills spotted Marysville from his yacht. He was the “right-hand man” of Henry Ford, and added many innovations to the American auto, including the development of the lightweight vanadium and molybdenum steel for auto chassis. He also invented the planetary transmission, and was the designer of Ford’s



A Havers Self-Starting Car with the “Six-44” engine is in the Wills Sainte Claire Museum in Marysville.

Models A through T, as well as the familiar Ford logo still used today.

Wills, having parted from Ford, wanted to use his auto skills to build the perfect car, while molding the surrounding Marysville area into an advanced business community. He was successful at building a car in the area from



Preston Tucker was born in Capac and moved to Ypsilanti where he attended public school.

1920 until 1928. The Wills Sainte Claire pioneered four-wheel brakes. There is a museum dedicated to Wills and his vehicle, the Wills Sainte Claire, at 2408 Wills Drive in Marysville, open every second Sunday and by appointment. The former Wills factory is now used by Chrysler to build Mopars.

A biography of C. Harold Wills out in 2017 will highlight his time in Marysville.

There is more auto lore from the area than can be related in a short article. For instance, did you know Preston Tucker, of the Tucker automobile fame, was born in Capac, Michigan?

Author’s note: Thanks to Mayor John Grbyzof Capac, Anita Labinski of Memphis, editor Lynn Lyon and the Wills Sainte Claire Museum for their help with this article. Author Alan Naldrett welcomes comments and can be reached at alannaldrett@google.com. Further information on local car history can be found in his book, Lost Car Companies of Detroit.



Thumb Birds

Our Thumb Bird Winter Get-Together will be held this February in North Fort Meyers, Florida, thanks to two of our current Thumb Birds who volunteered to host the event at this location. Invitations have been either emailed or mailed out to all current Thumb Birds. If you did not receive one and you are currently a Thumb Bird, please send an email message to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net and we will get one out to you right away. Thumb Birds are a group of people who get together twice every year, once in Michigan in late summer and once in January, February or March in Florida. The specific location of the event in each state can change depending on who is hosting it.

The only requirements to join the

Thumb Birds are that you live or have lived in one of the nine counties that ThumbPrint News covers (Genesee, Huron, Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair, Tuscola or Wayne) and that you now spend either part or all of the year in Florida. We get together to socialize and enjoy a wonderful pot-luck lunch or dinner; many of us have made some wonderful, new friendships – and even get together as smaller groups during different times of the year. If you are interested, please send your name, addresses in both Michigan and Florida, and your phone number in both places to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net. Once we receive that information, we will welcome you to the Thumb Birds and send you an invitation to our get-together in February in North Fort Meyers.

Fun fact: Did you know that Florida has the longest coastline in the contiguous United States (1,350 miles or 2,170 km), and is the only state in the United States that borders both the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean?



By Pat Daly, ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

“Freda, you know that new pet store that just opened? They advertised a 50-pound bag of dog food for \$49.99. That is less than a dollar a day to feed Deegee. Grab your coat; let’s go.”

While Fred read the label on the dog food bag, Freda wandered around the shop. She spied a diamond-studded cat collar and one with spikes on it.

“Fred, look! Isn’t this the cutest thing ever? Kaatt will love it. And this collar with the studs on it will make Deegee look a bit meaner and maybe scare our pesky neighbor away.”

“That makes the price of the dog food a lot more expensive.”

“Oh, Fred, you can’t compare apples to oranges, or dog food to collars. Why are you buying two bags of dog food?”

“Because we can save the money we spent on the collars by not having to spend it on gas to come back for a couple of months.”

“Fred, you are so wise.”

Fred paid for the collars and two 50-pound bags of dog food. The clerk loaded them into the car and they returned home. He hoisted one of the bags onto his shoulder and headed for the house. He stepped on one of Deegee’s chew toys and the bag started to slip. He caught it before it dropped, but wrenched his back.

“Freda, I hurt my back trying not to drop the dog food.”

“Oh dear, that wasn’t very wise. I’ll call the chiropractor.”

Fred joined Freda in the waiting room after seeing the doctor.

Freda asked, “What did she say?”

“Three more adjustments and get rid of the dog.”

“Well! That was a wiseacre remark if I ever heard one.”

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WHERE HAS YOUR *THUMBPRINT NEWS* BEEN?

NICARAGUA

Did you know that Lake Nicaragua, probably the country's most famous feature, covers a vast 8,264 sq km (equal to about 3,190+ mi²) and is home to more than 430 volcanic islands. It's also home to a unique range of fish, some of which do not exist anywhere else in the world.

It is the beginning of a new year, and *ThumbPrint News* is traveling again. This time the newspaper traveled with Dennis Dureno from Clay, Michigan, to Nicaragua. Dennis sent in the featured photo, and what he had to say about his trip is written on the postcard to the left.

For 2017, we are still hoping to have the paper travel to Arkansas and Oregon (the only two states *ThumbPrint News* has not yet traveled to). We will always accept photos from states we have already traveled to, as well as from any country around the world! Please send your pictures to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net and attach a good quality .jpg file of your photo or photos. We would also appreciate a short paragraph telling us about the place that you and *ThumbPrint News* traveled to.

For those readers who still have photos which you sent to us and which have not yet been featured, they will be in 2017, so keep reading *ThumbPrint News* – and watch for your photos! (Unfortunately, none of those photos were from Arkansas or Oregon!)



Tarjeta Postal
Nicaragua

Good Morning! The attached picture was taken on our recent 17-day cruise from Valparaiso, Chile, to Los Angeles. The location is on Lake Nicaragua, which is the second largest freshwater lake after Lake Superior. Lake Nicaragua will become part of a new passageway from the Gulf to the Pacific Ocean, allowing larger ships to pass through than the size of ships that can now pass through the Panama Canal.

- Dennis

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New Extracurricular Option for Some Michigan Students

By David Odziana, ThumbPrint News Staff Writer and Field Reporter

With gun violence topping the list as one of the biggest epidemics in America, some would be shocked that a program involving firearms is now being offered by participating schools to students who are not interested in traditional sports. While many parents' main concern is undoubtedly the safety aspect, most would be pleasantly surprised with how it compares to more conventional sports.

While schools in Michigan are just now starting to catch wind of the USA High School Clay Target League, other states have been involved for as long as 15 years or more. The program was initially created in Minnesota to give high school students



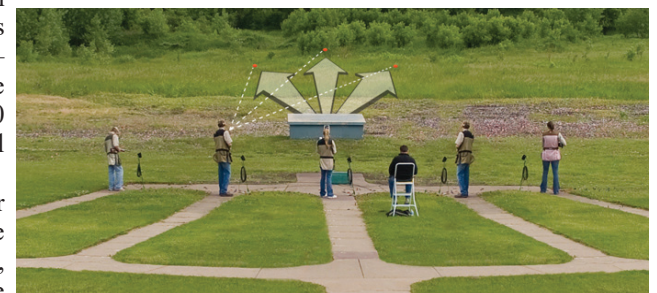
St. Clair. In Michigan's first year of participation, Fenton clenched first place and Richmond took second at the state championship in Mason, Michigan. If Minnesota is any indicator, the clay target league will gain popularity as word spreads – in 2015, the Trap Shooting League Championship became the largest shooting event in the world with more than 20,000 spectators in attendance to watch over 5,200 athletes compete.



Due to the inclusion of guns, many school officials are hesitant to jump at the opportunity to include a target shooting league in their extracurricular activities. What might surprise most parents is that in terms of safety, nothing exceeds that of the clay target league. Since the club was created in Minnesota in 2001, there hasn't been a single reported injury, despite 12,000,000 shots being fired by over 24,000 student athletes at 225,000 events. Safety has always been the number one concern, which is why each student is required to have their hunter's education certificate. In order to make sure supervision isn't an

another option to become involved in after school activities. Just six students joined the team during its inaugural year in 2001, but after just a few seasons, the numbers continued to grow. By 2008, an official Minnesota State High School Clay Target League was formed, which consisted of three teams and a total of 30 students – today those numbers have surged to more than 10,000 athletes on 300 high school teams throughout the state.

Despite the low number of students joining the league in the first year, more members continue to join the shooting club as each year passes, which has now spread to 12 states – the league is co-ed and is open to grades six through 12, welcoming athletes of all levels of experience. Michigan joined the organization in 2016, with seven teams located throughout the mitten state – the schools include Fenton, Unity Christian, Napoleon, Dexter, Midland Dow, Armada and Richmond. Thus far, four new schools have joined the league, including Reading, L'Anse Creuse North, Marine City and



issue, it is necessary for each team to have one coach for every 10 athletes.

Only time will tell exactly what this newly-formed extracurricular activity will mean to Michigan, but because of the popularity of hunting in our state, many people involved in the association envision a bright future for the USA High School Clay Target League. If nothing else, this will give students the opportunity to become involved and help them become a part of something bigger. 🌱

PRINCESS, Continued from Page 1

getting kicked out of the previous one. There are many different stories involving Clara, although it is believed they are more fiction than truth. One account states she skipped school one day by hiding on top of her mother's carriage, while another explains she was once removed from a convent school in Italy because it was said she terrified the nuns. Despite Clara's mother constantly struggling to control her daughter, she was determined to find her a respectable husband – a local newspaper explained Clara as being *as beautiful as she is wealthy*. Since Clara had both stunning good looks and a large sum of wealth, she had no problem finding a man to take her hand in marriage. At the age of 16 years old, Clara met the influential Prince Joseph de Caraman-Chimay, who was the descendant of a Belgian foreign affairs minister, as well as a part of the Belgian Chamber of Deputies. As many high profile relationships of the time, this one wasn't based on love, but on wealth and status. The Belgian prince was quickly slipping into debt, despite his family's vast wealth, which is the reason for his marriage to Clara Ward. Her reason behind the union was based on her desire to have the title of princess, especially since the prince was not an attractive man and was explained as the complete opposite of Clara, who was only 17 years old; Joseph was nearly twice her age when they wed. The couple's wedding was held on May 20, 1890, giving her the official title of Princess de Caraman-Chimay.

The couple's time together often consisted of traveling throughout Europe to places where other aristocrats congregated, such as the Riviera and Paris. By 1889, the princess was fed up with the royal lifestyle that required her to be on her best behavior, and the royal couple left court to live a normal life in Paris. Clara became infatuated with the Parisian lifestyle, becoming known as the *most riotous American east of the Atlantic*. Clara soon gave birth to two children, Marie, who was born on May 30, 1891, and Joseph on August 6, 1894. It wasn't long before Clara became bored with her distant husband, and soon rumors of affairs were filling the air. The prince was so detached from his young bride that he wasn't even slightly bothered by the gossip.

In November of 1896, while the prince and princess were attending an upper class nightclub, Clara met Rigo Janczy, a Hungarian gypsy fiddler. He was similar to the prince in terms of lacking

good looks, but something about the impoverished musician enchanted her. Apparently the feelings were mutual, and in just 10 days after meeting for the first time, the two ran off to elope, despite the fact that both of them were still legally married. It is believed Clara ran off with a new man because she missed being young and wild – unfortunately, when she left her husband, she also left behind their two children. Due to his wife's reputation, the prince had no trouble making the divorce final in January of 1897. The new couple's first trip was to his mother's cottage in the mountains, where Clara was welcomed with open arms. To show her appreciation for the warm reception, Clara used a portion of her wealth to purchase the mountain her mother-in-law lived on, as well as gifting her with a pearl necklace, which became one of her prized possessions. When the newlyweds eventually returned to the city from their trip, they quickly noticed they were not welcome – she was

despised so much that the nobility of Paris convinced all the nearby hotels to deny access to both of them. Clara and



Clara Ward and her second husband in 1905

Rigo chose to purchase their own home in the area, instead of trying to find a place they were allowed to stay.

It wasn't long before the couple's funds were dwindling and Clara began using her looks to supplement their lifestyle. It was said between 1894 and 1901, Clara spent over \$750,000, which is equivalent to approximately \$20 million today. She started modeling in skin-tight outfits on multiple stages, such as Moulin Rouge. She called her art form *poses plastiques*, and was soon appearing in multiple publications, as well as on postcards. While Kaiser Wilhelm was in power as the German Emperor, he created a ban on all photographs of Clara because he was quoted saying her beauty was *disturbing*. Before the turn of the century, the couple began frequently arguing, often times having spats in public. Within the first few years of the 1900s, Clara and Rigo were officially divorced because he was reportedly having an affair.

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It is believed that before she was legally separated from Rigo, Clara met a dapper Italian man named Guiseppe "Peppino" Ricciardi. Even though she had been divorced from the prince for nearly a decade, Clara was still frequently the subject of headlines discussing rumors of her third marriage. Only a few months after her second marriage ended, Clara and Guiseppe wed in 1904, but this union quickly began to resemble her previous two matrimonies. Rumors quickly spread of Clara having an affair with their butler, which is a claim she continued to deny. Whether or not it was true, the issues were more than the relationship could handle, and the couple divorced in July of 1911. Following her third separation, Clara was quoted as saying, "I cannot be alone. I am unhappy like that. I shall marry yet once again."

Clara remained true to her promise and met a man who was a station manager, artist or butler named Abano Caselato. Since Clara was out of the spotlight for the most part at this time, very little is known about her fourth marriage. Amazingly, her family wasn't even aware that she wed again until they received a telegram in 1916, five years after they wed. Her husband Abano sent a message informing her family Clara died on December 9 of pneumonia in Italy at the age of 43. Following her

passing, her estate of \$1.2 million was split up between her American cousin, children and third husband – due to the fact that her will was laid out in 1904, her fourth husband was not included in her final wishes. An obituary ran in a Detroit newspaper following her death which summed up her chaotic lifestyle stating, "...she died a woman without illusions. She had gone the pace. She lived intensely, a slave of her desires; she died an outcast, an old woman of 43 years, just when she should have been in her prime." 🇮🇹



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North Huron Agriculture Teacher Selected for Professional Development Scholarship



Submitted by Julie Fritsch

Joseph Ankley, agricultural educator at North Huron School in Kinde, Michigan, is one of a select group of agriculture teachers nationwide who received the 2016 Teachers Turn the Key (TTTK) professional development scholarship from the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE). As a scholarship recipient, Ankley attended the NAAE annual convention in Las Vegas, November 29 – December 3.

The Teachers Turn the Key scholarship brings together agricultural educators with four or fewer years of experience and immerses them in three days of professional development that addresses issues specific to the early years of teaching agriculture. Participants also have the opportunity to become involved in NAAE leadership and network with other NAAE convention attendees. TTTK awardees come away from the experience with a long-lasting peer cohort and tools that will help them have successful careers as agricultural educators.

Ankley has been an agriculture teacher at North Huron School for four years. He supervises 190 students enrolled in agriculture courses, as well as the Future Farmer's of America (FFA) chapter at North Huron. Work-based learning is a huge part of Ankley's agricultural education program. His students' Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE's) outside-of-class projects relating to agriculture, cover a wide variety of topics, from animals to plants. Many of his students have been recognized at fairs and through the FFA's proficiency award program, which commends members who have gone above and beyond expectations with their SAE. Ankley and his students also manage a large community garden, and donate the produce they grow through this project to the Kinde Food Pantry.



"Building relationships with new students and new FFA members is very important. Although students come from a variety of backgrounds and situations I wasn't even aware existed, it is easy to build those relationships with respect and dedication. Watching students succeed in the program and in FFA is the most rewarding part of my career," said Ankley.

In addition to attending professional development, each of the TTTK scholarship recipients was also recognized at a general session during the NAAE convention. RAM Trucks sponsors the TTTK program as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

NAAE is the professional organization in the United States for agricultural educators. It provides its' more than 8,000 members with professional networking and development opportunities, professional liability coverage, and extensive awards and recognition programs. The mission of NAAE is "professionals providing agricultural education for the global community through visionary leadership, advocacy and service." The NAAE headquarters are in Lexington, Kentucky.



Melanie Duquesnel

HOW TO COMPLAIN TO A BUSINESS EFFECTIVELY

There are many communication channels now available for frustrated consumers to complain about companies, their products, services and employees; but just because it is easy doesn't mean people are doing it well. Social media has empowered the consumer, but it has unfortunately also allowed them to launch into diatribes, call for firings and hurl insults at companies and their employees – often when they have not even given the business an opportunity to correct the problem. So, while it is helpful to have so many more ways to connect with businesses now, when there is a problem, consumers need to make sure they are working with the business to correct the issue before publicly lashing out.

Better Business Bureau has been helping mitigate conflicts between consumers and businesses for more than 100 years. Every year, BBB helps nearly a million people settle disputes with businesses, including problems related to advertising,

sales, contracts, customer service, delivery, products, warranties, billing, repairs, refunds and more. From this experience, we have garnered some advice for consumers to follow when they are frustrated and looking for help.

Make Sure Your Complaint is Justified. Have you read the store's policies regarding such issues as returns? Are you asking for something outside of these policies? Have you read your contract (if your purchase involves a contract, guarantee or warranty) and made sure you understand the specifics? Sometimes customers sign agreements and thereby agree to certain terms in the contract that they may not have fully read, or didn't realize a store or online commerce site had particular policies before they shopped. If this is the case, you may not have any recourse and your anger might be misplaced.

Give the business a chance. Before you file a complaint with BBB, give a bad review on another site or post an angry message on social media, try to talk to the business first. Sometimes, businesses do not even know there was a problem until they receive a letter from BBB or see an irate message on their Facebook page. Most businesses want to keep you as a customer and will work with you to find a reasonable solution. Try to speak with a manager or owner to resolve the issue before taking it further.

Remain calm. Anger typically begets more anger and rarely allows issues to get resolved. Unless it is urgent, take a moment to think through



HOW TO COMPLAIN EFFECTIVELY

MAKE SURE IT'S JUSTIFIED

Read store policies and contracts before complaining - you may have agreed to something you do not remember or didn't realize.

GIVE THE BUSINESS A CHANCE

Try to speak with a manager or owner to resolve the issue before taking it further. Most will work with you to find a reasonable solution.

REMAIN CALM

Being angry rarely solves problems. State the facts of your complaint in a respectable and polite manner.

KNOW WHAT YOU WANT

Make sure you know ahead of time what resolution are you expecting. Do you want a refund, an apology, a cancellation of a contract?

FILE A COMPLAINT WITH BBB

BBB works with both parties to attempt to reach a resolution that both find fair.

POST ONLINE

If you feel you have exhausted all other options, post online. Often companies want to avoid public conflicts, so they might be more responsive once it's online.

FOLLOW UP

After a situation is resolved, it is good practice to close the loop with BBB, or with any online review site.

Get more tips from your BBB
www.bbb.org/detroit/news-events/lists/consumer-tips/

the situation before calling or returning to the store. State the facts of your complaint in a respectable and polite manner.

Know what you want. Make sure you know ahead of time what resolution you are expecting. Do you want a refund, an apology, a cancellation of a contract? You should be ready to answer this question and know what outcome you want. Being reasonable and not asking for more than the situation calls for will help get the situation resolved more quickly.

File a complaint with BBB. If you've tried to resolve the matter with the business and didn't receive satisfaction, file a complaint with BBB. BBB works with both parties to attempt to reach a resolution that both find fair.

Post online. If you feel you have exhausted all other options, posting the complaint publicly could be your next course of action. There are many places to air grievances online. Some of these include BBB, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, other review sites, the company's social media pages and more. Remember that you could be legally responsible for what you say, so be sure to be truthful and accurate. Personal comments and accusations are rarely helpful in reaching a resolution. Often companies want to avoid public conflicts, so they might be more responsive once it's online. And many times your complaint can be brought to the attention of higher ups that weren't previously aware of the problem. Be careful to not include any personal information online, such as your account numbers, address, etc., as well as identifying information on the business's employees.

Follow Up. After a situation is resolved, it is good practice to close the loop with BBB, or with any online review site. If a business has been responsive and helpful, follow up and say so. Others reading your account may be swayed by your words about a business, so it is only fair to let others know that the company has stepped up to help you resolve the problem. 🇺🇸

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



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CONSTIPATION IN CATS

By Dr. DiBenedetto, ThumbPrint News Columnist

Constipation is the infrequent, incomplete and/or difficult passage of hard, dry feces from the colon. It is a fairly common problem in domestic cats. Cats of any age can be affected, although it is seen more commonly in middle-aged to elderly cats. Recurring bouts of constipation or chronic constipation can lead to a condition known as **megacolon**. Megacolon is a condition in which the colon becomes abnormally dilated and packed with fecal material that causes a loss of contractility to the muscles of the colon. This may ultimately lead to obstipation, which is a complete blockage of the colon not even allowing gas to pass.

The causes of constipation are believed to be multifactorial. Some of the potential causes include: blockages from hairballs or other foreign materials or objects, obesity, reluctance to use the litterbox because of stress, a change in litter type, a full and/or dirty litter box, lack of exercise, abscessed anal sacs, decreased water intake for any reason, dehydration, which can often be caused by kidney disease in older cats, nerve damage to the colon, pelvic fractures caused by trauma, arthritis (which can make it painful to squat), tumors and certain medications like diuretics and painkillers. Painful urination from a urinary tract infection or obstruction can also cause pain, vocalizing and straining in the litter box. This must be ruled out – especially in male cats.

Symptoms of constipation can vary with each individual cat. The most obvious symptom is crouching, straining and vocalizing for prolonged periods in the litter box. After a period of straining, your cat may pass a small amount of watery feces, sometimes with blood present or small hard, dry stools. Some



Photo courtesy of isosphere
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cats will defecate outside their litterbox. Vomiting, loss of appetite, abdominal pain and depression can also be symptoms of constipation.

If you suspect that your cat may be constipated, you should consult with a veterinarian to determine whether your cat is constipated and, if so, why the condition has developed. Your veterinarian will take a complete history and perform a thorough physical examination along with a digital rectal exam. They will also advise a blood chemistry profile, a complete blood count, a urinalysis and an intestinal parasite exam to rule out any diseases that may be causing your cat's constipation. They may need to take X-rays of your cat's abdomen to see how dilated and/or impacted the colon may be. These diagnostics can be helpful in determining the best course of treatment.

The treatment of constipation and megacolon will depend upon the severity of the condition. Mild constipation generally responds to a diet change in which there is more fiber in the diet. If the constipation becomes more severe or recurs, your cat may need to be hospitalized, placed on IV fluids and given enemas to help soften the dry hard stool in the colon so that it can pass. Sometimes sedation is used in order to manually relieve the fecal impaction. Enemas should only be given by your veterinarian, and sodium phosphate enemas (such as Fleet brand) should never be used as they can be deadly to cats. Some cats need to be maintained on stool softeners or laxatives to control chronic constipation. There is a class of medications called motility modifiers that increase the motility in the colon to help stools pass easier as well. If all these treatments fail and your cat's constipation progresses from just constipation to megacolon and obstipation, then a surgical procedure is preformed to remove the portion of the colon that is no longer functioning properly. 🐾

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

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A Close Call for the New Year

By Patricia Cosner Kubic, ThumbPrint News Columnist

What's your New Year's resolution? That's the question everybody talks about this month. But, recent events made me think it's time for a new January tradition. The 'ole resolution question is not just tired and over-used; quite frankly, it's not working. How about this question instead: "What would you do if you survived a close call?"

I know of what I speak. Well, sort of. The close calls didn't happen to me; they happened to two men in my world. First, there is man number one: Mitch. In late October, Mitch and family rented a house on Kauai to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. But, as happens, travel plans can go astray. During their second day in paradise, Mitch was playing in the waves, and one wave in particular won the day. The wave tossed Mitch under the water, causing him to hit his head on the ocean floor breaking his neck. Well, so much for celebrating the big anniversary. It just happened that three off-duty lifeguards were on the beach. They got Mitch out of the water, immediately immobilized his neck by strapping him to a board, and zoomed to the ER. I call those three life guards earthly Angels; you might have another name. Kauai has the reputation of being a beautiful place, but being the epicenter for cutting edge medicine in the middle of the Pacific Ocean – not so much.

So, that meant Mitch needed to get to Honolulu and the only way to take someone with a broken neck is by air ambulance. Inner island travel is very popular in Hawaii, but air ambulance is not the most popular airline. Another tense day found Mitch and wife at the big hospital in Honolulu for MRIs. And, soon all those who love Mitch could exhale when getting the extraordinary news that not only would Mitch make a full recovery, but that he didn't even need that

scary halo surgery. A neck brace for ten weeks, some physical therapy and a big yummy bottle of pain medication is all he would need. Mitch's wife told me that at least six different medical professionals examined Mitch and the thing they all had in common was telling Mitch that he is very lucky not to be paralyzed – that he'd had a very close call.

Six days after Mitch broke his neck, man number two, Alex, suffered a brain aneurysm. My husband and I were up north when we got this news, packed up in record time and raced directly to the Neuro Intensive Care Unit to see him. Alex, who is an avid bicyclist, laid in a bed, eyes closed, plastic sacks of fluid hanging off a half dozen IV poles and one big tube tapped to his head allowing a pinkish flood to drain out. It was the most tentative room I've ever been in and that dark doubt stayed in that room for 16 days. During one particular visit, I was there when Alex's neurosurgeon came in to check on him. I saw the surgeon's head hanging low when he took Alex's hand and told him what a close call it was – that he was very lucky to be alive. After hearing that sentence twice in three weeks, I sat silent next to Alex's bed, still unable to land on the right words to describe the gravity of that statement. Finally, Alex graduated out of Neuro ICU and into a regular room and home a few days later.

So, a full recovery awaits them both. No wheelchair sitting next to Mitch's bed. He and his wife don't need to sell their colonial house to buy a one story, stair-less house. There is no need for Alex to go to the Secretary of State's office to surrender his driver's license; no need to start the laborious chore of getting SSDI. The only thing these men have to do is plan their next move – things they want to do or change, not things that are forced upon them.

But, isn't that choice facing all of us right now? Everybody asks resolution questions in January. And the truth is, they are not casual questions. Just because everybody asks them, doesn't make them unimportant. If that question is so disposable, then why do we ask it year after year? Perhaps that's proof it is time for a new question. And, perhaps there really is a quiet space near you where you hear a new, maybe even better question: what would you really, truly change if you had survived a close call? Can you believe it was in your cards to get that second chance, even while too many people don't get it? Asking that new question may seem easy; the trick is what to do next – choosing to give life to your answer or let your plans fade away. Well, in the long run, that choice could be a close call. 🌱 Patricia can be reached at pckubic@gmail.com.

JANUARY

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

If you have an event in February that you would like listed in the February issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by January 12, 2017. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some of the events that were submitted to us, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

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

Genesee

No events were submitted for Genesee County this month.

Huron

No events were submitted for Huron County this month.

Lapeer

Lapeer - January 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Flea Market, Lapeer Center Building, 425 County Center St., 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Every Sunday this winter Lapeer County's largest flea market will be held with up to 75 booths inside and outside selling a huge variety of items to the public. No admission charge. For more information or space rentals call (810) 347-7915.

Lapeer - January 3

Spaghetti Dinner, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 4:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. \$7 per person, \$6 seniors, \$4 ages 7 - 12 (under 7 free). Public welcome. All proceeds go towards scholarship fund. For more information call (810) 664-9312.

Lapeer - January 3 & 17
Military Moms Group, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Free support group for those who have loved ones serving in the Armed Forces. Please bring photos and any other memorabilia to share. For more information call Terri at (810) 728-7121.

Lapeer - January 7
Holistic Fair, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Lower Hall. Public welcome. For more information call (810) 728-7121.

Lapeer - January 10

Taco Night, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Lower Hall. Public welcome. \$2 per taco. For more information call (810) 728-7121.

Lapeer - January 22

The Four Chaplains, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St. Ballroom Hall. Public welcome. For more information call (810) 664-9312.

Macomb

Richmond - January 7

Auditions for Richmond Community Theatre's Production of "February Follies", Richmond Community Theatre, 69619 Parker St., 2:00 p.m. Performances will be February 3 and 4, 2017. For more information call (586) 727-9518 or email RichmondCommunityTheatre@gmail.com.

Richmond - January 9 & 10

Auditions for Richmond Community Theatre's Production of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)", Richmond Community Theatre, 69619 Parker St., 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. both days. Performances will be March 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12, 2017. For more information call (586) 727-9518 or email RichmondCommunityTheatre@gmail.com.

Richmond - January 10

Woman's Life Chapter 855 Meeting, 35200 Division Rd., 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information call Diana at (810) 392-5136.

Richmond - January 15
Dance, K of C Hall, 68216 Grand Trunk Ave., 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. \$10 per person includes refreshments.

Polkas and variety music by Ted Pavlik and Melody Makers. For more information call (810) 364-7575.

Oakland

Rochester Hills - January 5, 12, 19 & 26

Coffee, Cake and True Islam, Masjid Mahmood (Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Center), 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. This is an ongoing weekly event every Thursday for an informal and candid conversation about Islam and is intended for neighbors, academia, students, media and anyone else interested in learning about the faith from its followers. All questions are welcome and will be addressed in an informal environment over a free cup of coffee and cake. For more information call (248) 677-1316 or email tabligh.det@ahmadiyya.us.

St. Clair

Cottrellville Twp. - January 3
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting, Cottrellville Township Hall, 7008 Marsh Rd., 6:30 p.m. For more information call Mary Agnes at (810) 765-4730, ext. 105.

Port Huron - January 5, 12, 19 & 26

Slider Thursday, Charles A. Hammond American Legion Post 8, 1026 Sixth St., noon - 3:00 p.m. \$4 for 3 burger sliders and fries. Held every Thursday. For more information call (810) 982-9553.

Port Huron - January 5 & 19
"Until There's a Cure, There's Care", Lake Huron Medical Center, 2601 Electric Ave., 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. This is a free series designed for caregivers of those living with dementia. To register for the program call Rosemary at (810) 216-1035.

Port Huron - January 6, 13, 20 & 27

All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry, Charles A. Hammond American Legion Post 8, 1026 Sixth St., 4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. \$7.95. Held every Friday. For more information call (810) 982-9553.

Algonac - January 14

Flea Market, Algonac VFW, 3901 Pte. Tremble, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Admission free. Table rentals (8 ft. table, cover provided) \$15. January concession proceeds will go directly to the Algonac High School Senior All-Night Party. For more information or to rent a table call Michelle at (810) 278-3902.

Port Huron - January 17

Goulash Dinner, Charles A. Hammond American Legion Post 8, 1026 Sixth St., 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. \$6 per person. Dinner also includes salad, rolls and dessert. For more information call (810) 982-9553.

Port Huron - January 27 - 29
2017 Chilly Fest, McMorran Place, 701 McMorran Blvd. Friday evening

will feature a downtown scavenger hunt, ice sculptures and a Passport to Port Huron competition. Saturday will feature kid's activities during the day, the fan favorite bed races (presented by the Young Professionals) and the chili competition. Live entertainment will also be featured all day and night on Saturday in a heated tent. The 6th Annual PoHo Cocoa Run will conclude the activities on Sunday. For more information call Nancy at (810) 985-6166 or email her at winzern@porthuron.org.

Sanilac

Port Sanilac - January 15
"Mysteries at the Museum"
Lecture by Jeff Pollock, Sanilac County Historical Society, Loop Harrison Mansion, 228 N. Ridge Rd., 3:00 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are recommended and welcomed. Find out about the small gems that make the Sanilac County Historic Village and Museum the Thumb's greatest treasure! For more information call (810) 622-9946.

Tuscola

No events were submitted for Tuscola County this month.

Wayne

No events were submitted for Wayne County this month.



6 1st ANNUAL WINTER FESTIVAL

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Fri. Jan. 13th • **Sat. Jan. 14th** • **Sun. Jan. 15th**
5 p.m. to 1 a.m. 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FRIDAY - 1/13/17

5 p.m.
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Doors Open
\$7 Fish Dinners
Enjoy a great Entertainer
Dancing to "Mystic 6"

Fishing Contest Details
on Website
WWW.PERCHPOINT.ORG
Registration Forms at
Local Bait Shops



EXOTIC ZOO

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

12 p.m., 1:30 p.m.,
3 p.m. & 4:30 p.m.

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Every Night**

SATURDAY - 1/14/17

11 a.m.
11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
12 p.m., 1:30 p.m.,
3 p.m., 4:30 p.m.
After 2 p.m.
12 p.m. - 8 p.m.
12 p.m.
12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
12 p.m. - Close
9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
10 p.m.

Doors Open
6 Gun Raffle ticket sale
Kid's Zone
EXOTIC ZOO
(see a real 6 ft. kangaroo)
Fishing Contest Entries
\$7 Fish Dinners
Magician and Face Painting
Meet the "Super Heros"
Free Snow Rides
Full Bar
Dancing to "Mystic 6"
Gun Raffle Drawing

SUNDAY - 1/15/17

11 a.m.
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
12 p.m., 1:30 p.m.,
3 p.m., 4:30 p.m.
12 p.m.
12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
12 p.m. - Close
4 p.m.
5 p.m.

Doors Open
Kid's Zone
Short Order Menu
EXOTIC ZOO
(see a real 6 ft. kangaroo)
Magician and Face Painting
Meet the "Super Heros"
Free Snow Rides
Full Bar
Fishing Contest "Winners"
Doors Close

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Severe Weather Preparedness

Poster and Video Contest

for Michigan Students

Submitted By Mary Piorunek

The Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness is sponsoring two contests for Michigan students. The first is a Severe Weather Poster Contest open to any Michigan student in third, fourth or fifth grade. Third graders will be awarded one first place award (\$200). Fourth and fifth graders will be awarded a first, second and third place prize (\$200, \$100 and \$75 respectively). Posters must be packed, wrapped flat and mailed to: National Service Office, 9200 White Lake Road, White Lake, MI 48386. They must be at the National Service Office no later than February 13, 2017. Winners will be notified by mail no later than March 15, 2017. All of the poster rules and proper identification requirements can be found by visiting the website www.mcswa.com. Other questions can be directed to Richard Pollman, National Weather Service, (248) 625-3309, ext. 726 or email Richard.pollman@noaa.gov.

The second contest is a Severe Weather Preparedness Video Contest, which is open to any Michigan student in sixth, seventh or eighth grade. First prize is \$300 and second prize is \$150. Registration form must be submitted by a teacher on behalf of the participating student(s) on the Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness web site, www.mcswa.com no later than February 17, 2017. All of the video contest rules can also be found on their website. Contact information for other questions is the same as for the poster contest above.



Photo by Judy Lenn
of Chesterfield, MI.
Pictured is her son,
Andy, on frozen Lake
Mitchell in Cadillac,
Michigan, on
April 10, 2015.

ANSWER KEY	O	K	A	P	I	W	O	K	H	A	T	E
	R	O	M	A	N	H	U	H	L	O	G	O
	F	L	E	S	H	E	R	A	Y	O	U	R
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		A	L	L	A	I	D	E				
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	C	H	A	R	M	D	O	W	N	S	L	E
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	I	N	C	H	T	N	T	I	N	L	E	T

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THUMBPRINT NEWS CONTEST

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object, person or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, go to our website www.thumbprintnews.com and enter your answer. Of all persons submitting the correct answer by the 15th of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a wonderful surprise gift at the end of the year! On December 16, 2017, one winner will be drawn out of all the monthly winners and the lucky person will be notified.

**Congratulations to our winner of the drawing for 2016,
Joyce Hennessee of Romeo, Michigan!**



For our December contest, we asked our readers to identify the object pictured to the left.

Of all of those submitting the correct answer, Marg Sarna of Troy, Michigan, was randomly chosen to be entered into the year-end drawing. Marg identified that the object is an antique Christmas tree holder.

Here, to the right, are a few other interesting vintage and antique Christmas tree stands.

According to Wikipedia, "a Christmas tree stand is an object designed to support a cut, natural or an artificial Christmas tree. Christmas tree stands appeared as early as 1876, and have had various designs over the years. Those stands designed for natural trees have a water-



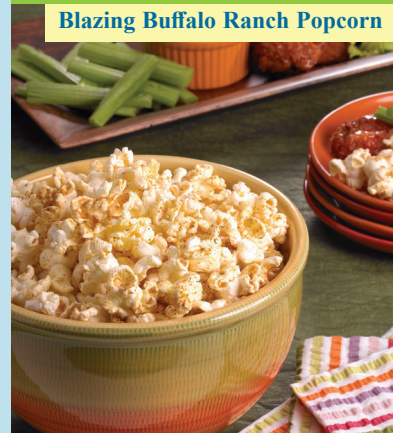
well, which, in many cases may not hold enough water to adequately supply the cut tree. Some specialty Christmas tree stands have value on the secondary antiques market."

For our January contest, we are asking our readers to identify who the now famous person pictured to the left as a young child is. Remember, go to www.thumbprintnews.com if you know the answer. **GOOD LUCK!**



Sweet and Salty Popcorn Party Mix

FAMILY FEATURES

Make Your Winter Party**Asian Popcorn Medley****POP****Blazing Buffalo Ranch Popcorn****Coconut-Ginger Popcorn Truffles**

As your winter schedule is sure to be packed with gatherings that bring family and friends closer, have plenty of treats that are gentle on the waist and wallet. Sweet, spicy, salty or with an Asian twist — any way you pop it — popcorn is a satisfying snack suitable for every chilly weather occasion.

Whether you're hosting a game-day party or simply enjoying a family movie night, popcorn's wholesome taste can take on a variety of flavors to please every guest. Plus, popcorn snacks are healthy and whole grain, which means they're a more nutritious alternative to traditional party nibbles and noshes.

Cuddle up to these recipes and more by visiting www.popcorn.org.

Sweet and Salty Popcorn Party Mix

Yield: 14 cups

- 10 cups popped popcorn**
- 2 cups miniature pretzel twists (or another small pretzel shape)**
- 1 cup pecans**
- 1 cup peanuts**
- 2 cups rice, wheat or corn cereal squares**
- 1/2 cup butter (1 stick)**
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar**
- 1/4 cup corn syrup**
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda**

Preheat oven to 300°F. Place popcorn, pretzels, pecans, peanuts and cereal in very large bowl; set aside.

Heat butter, brown sugar and corn syrup in medium saucepan. Stir mixture over medium heat until it begins to boil. Boil 3 minutes without stirring. Remove from heat and stir in baking soda (mixture will foam).

Pour syrup over popcorn mixture in bowl and stir until evenly coated. Pour mixture onto large, rimmed baking sheet or roasting pan. Bake 30 minutes, stirring twice during baking time. Stir mixture a few times as it cools on baking sheet. Store in airtight container.

Asian Popcorn Medley

Yield: 8 cups

- 6 cups popped popcorn**
- 2 cups Oriental rice cracker mix**
- 3 tablespoons butter or margarine**
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce**
- 1/2–1 teaspoon ground ginger (may vary to taste)**
- 1/4–1/2 teaspoon sesame oil (may vary to taste)**

Preheat oven to 300°F. Mix popcorn and rice cracker mix together in large bowl.

In small microwave-safe bowl, microwave butter on high until melted, about 20 seconds. Stir in soy sauce, ginger and oil. Drizzle over popcorn mixture; toss.

Spread mixture on baking sheet and bake for 20 minutes, stirring once. Allow to cool, serve or store in airtight container.

Cinnamon Chocolate Popcorn

Yield: 3 quarts

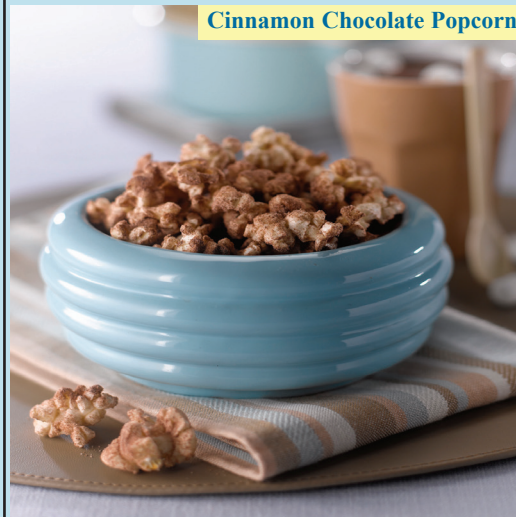
- 3 quarts popped popcorn**
- Butter-flavored cooking spray**
- 9 tablespoons powdered cocoa mix (cocoa sweetened with sugar or sugar substitute)**
- 3 teaspoons cinnamon**

Put popcorn in large bowl and lightly spray with cooking spray.

Sprinkle cocoa mix and cinnamon on popcorn. Toss to coat evenly.

Spray and toss again until mixture is well coated.

Serve immediately.

Cinnamon Chocolate Popcorn**Blazing Buffalo Ranch Popcorn**

Yield: 6 quarts, plus leftover seasoning mix

- 1 tablespoon ranch dressing or dip mix (from 1-ounce package)**
- 1 tablespoon seafood spice mix (or celery salt)**
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder**
- 1 teaspoon powdered sugar (or sugar)**
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper**
- 1/4 teaspoon vegetable oil**
- 6 quarts popped popcorn**
- Cooking spray, optional**

In small bowl, blend ranch dressing mix, spice mix, garlic powder, powdered sugar and cayenne pepper. Sprinkle with vegetable oil and blend until well incorporated.

Place popcorn in serving bowl and spray lightly with cooking spray. Sprinkle seasoning mix over popcorn to taste and toss.

Store leftover seasoning mix in airtight container for future use.

Coconut-Ginger Popcorn Truffles

Yield: 3 dozen truffles

- 5 cups air-popped popcorn**
- 2 cups miniature marshmallows**
- 1 tablespoon coconut oil or butter**
- 1/2 cup shredded coconut**
- 3 tablespoons candied ginger, minced**
- Cooking spray**
- 4 ounces semi-sweet chocolate**
- 1 teaspoon coconut oil or butter**

Place popcorn in large bowl.

Place marshmallows and 1 tablespoon coconut oil or butter in medium saucepan over medium-low heat. Stir until melted; remove from heat.

Stir in shredded coconut and candied ginger. Mix well.

Spray hands with cooking spray, then scoop up 1 tablespoon of popcorn mixture.

Roll mixture with hands to form ball. Place ball on baking sheet lined with parchment paper or foil. Repeat to make 36 balls.

Place chocolate in small, microwave safe bowl. Heat in microwave on high for one minute, until melted. If not completely melted, microwave for another 15 seconds and stir again.

Stir 1 teaspoon coconut oil into melted chocolate.

Place chocolate in zipper-style plastic bag and seal. Snip off tiny corner of bag.

Pipe chocolate on popcorn balls in decorative pattern.

Garnish with extra shredded coconut and extra minced candied ginger, if desired.

Place truffles in cool place until chocolate is set.



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