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**A couple
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UTICA'S Connection TO THE Underground Railroad

By David Odziana, *ThumbPrint News* Staff Writer and Field Reporter

Prior to slavery being abolished in 1865, as a result of the 13th Amendment, millions of slaves were employed in the South dreaming of the day they could lead a free life.

For many, the possibility of freedom became achievable with the aid of those in free states, where a group of those who opposed owning slaves formed what became known as the Underground Railroad - a system to move escapees from location to location until they reached a life of freedom, which oftentimes took place in Canada. Due to Michigan's proximity to Canada, many runaway slaves made their last stop in the Thumb of Michigan before finally reaching our neighbors to the north. While countless people residing in free states were against slavery prior to 1793,

the introduction of the Fugitive Slave Act that year was said to have greatly expanded the Underground Railroad operation. The federal law enacted by Congress authorized the government on a local level to apprehend and return runaway slaves to their owners. What began as a small group of people wanting to do their part to help slaves achieve freedom, blossomed into a very organized system of safe houses covering multiple states starting in the South and stretching all the way to the North. Not only was attempting an escape dangerous for the slaves, but it was also very risky for those aiding the freedom seekers. Those caught helping slaves were subject to heavy fines and the possibility of imprisonment.

This organization was very secretive, with those involved often using hand signals and special visual markers to guide escaped

See *UTICA*, Page 10

EVICTED FELINES SHOP FOR FOREVER HOMES



By David Odziana

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer and Field Reporter

Throughout St. Clair County, numerous feral cats roam both the city landscapes and rural wooded areas, often clever enough to go unnoticed by preoccupied bystanders.

Many of these felines often struggle to survive and are usually harmless, normally keeping their distance from people. However, when feral cats experience human interaction at a young age, they can become more comfortable with people. This has proven true with a group of cats that have been living near Kroger in Algonac.

These wild cats have resided on the edge of the property butting up to land the grocery store sits on for many years, turning a tiny wooded area into their home. As time passed, many county residents began looking after the cats to ensure they were cared for. This included several cat lovers spending hours feeding them to make sure they didn't go hungry. After spending months with them and earning the cat's trust, the wary felines formed a strong bond with those caring for them. Recently, the property owners next to Kroger ordered the cats to be evicted from their property.

Despite many of the caregivers' efforts to relocate the cats, nothing came of the attempts for some time. When ABC Home & Commercial Services became aware of the situation, they decided to offer their services free of charge to save the animals now widely known as the Kroger Kitties. (The Kroger Kitties do not technically reside on Kroger's property. However, officials from the Kroger Company generously gave their permission for ABC to set up traps on their property to humanely trap the kitties and take care of the adjacent land owner's concerns regarding evicting the cats from his property.)

See *FOREVER HOMES* Page 19



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Letter from the Editor

Written by Francis Scott Key on September 14, 1814, "The Star-Spangled Banner" is the National Anthem of the United States of America. Every March 3rd is National Anthem Day, celebrating the rich history behind this song.

Francis Scott Key was born in 1779, and died in 1843. He was an American lawyer, author and amateur poet from Georgetown, Washington, D.C. During the War of 1812 (1812-1814), acting as a U.S. negotiator, Francis Scott Key boarded a British vessel on September 13, 1814, where his friend, Dr. William Beanes, was being held as a prisoner of war. After negotiating for his release, both Beanes and Key were held until after the attack that day and night on Fort McHenry, which guarded the harbor and city of Baltimore.

Francis Scott Key watched the horrific bombardment of the fort from the ship at night and was astounded and relieved to see that the American flag was still flying over Fort McHenry the next morning. That historic event was the inspiration for "The Star Spangled Banner", which Key wrote the next day. (The actual title Key gave to his poem was "Defence of Fort M'Henry"). The text was immediately set to a popular melody of the time, "To Anacreon in Heaven".

The song quickly became a patriotic song and was officially recognized for use by the United States Navy in 1889, and by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson in 1916. "The Star Spangled Banner" was made the National Anthem by a congressional resolution on March 3, 1931, which was signed by President Herbert Hoover.

The National Anthem consists of four verses, which have a reputation of being notoriously hard to sing because of its range of one octave and one fifth. On almost every occasion only the first verse is sung. However, in honor of National Anthem Day, reprinted here are the words to the song in their entirety:

*Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?
On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner! Oh long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

*And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,
A home and a country should leave us no more!
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight and the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.
Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

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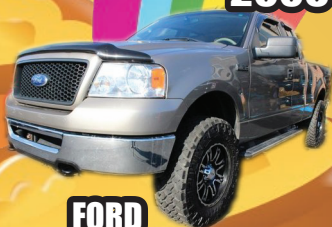
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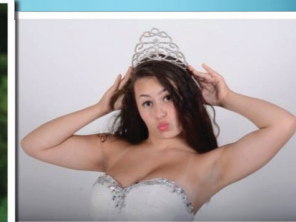
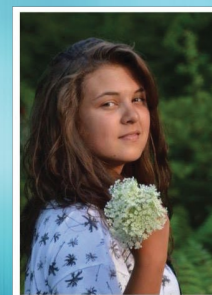
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Lice in Our Pets

By Dr. DiBenedetto, ThumbPrint News Columnist

Unlike in humans, lice are an uncommon external parasite in dogs and cats. Lice infestations can occur in any environment, but are much more likely in animals that are living in overcrowded, dirty and unkempt environments. Lice are species specific, meaning that human lice only affect humans, dog lice only affect dogs and cat lice only affect cats.

Lice are flat, wingless insects that do not move quickly and can be seen with the naked eye. This is different from skin mites that cause mange, which can only be seen with a microscope. Lice have about a 21-day life cycle and live their entire lives on your pet. They will not survive long in the environment off of their host. There are two general groups of lice that infest dogs and cats - biting lice and sucking lice. Biting lice feed on skin and dander, while sucking lice require blood to survive. All lice have powerful claws on all six legs that allow them to cling to the hair shafts. Female lice glue their eggs, called nits, to the hair shaft near the skin. Ordinary shampooing and washing will not dislodge the nits. The nits can be seen easily and are often mistaken for dandruff. The big difference is dander will flake off easily but the nits must be pulled off the hair shaft.

The first sign of lice on your pet that you may notice is scratching, biting and rubbing affected areas of skin. Lice generally congregate around the ears, neck, shoulders and anus. A pet with lice will have a rough, dry hair coat with areas of heavy matting from severe biting and chewing. In severe louse infestations, your pet may damage its skin from scratching excessively. Bacterial infections and wounds can be secondary complications. If these conditions are present, your veterinarian may prescribe an antibiotic and/or an anti-itch medication.

Treatment of lice is relatively straightforward. Many insecticides kill lice. Flea shampoos that contain permethrins, pyrethrins or organophosphates do a good job of getting rid of louse infestations, but you must be very cautious with these products in cats. Products that contain permethrin are labeled for dogs only. I do not recommend using them on your dogs if you have a cat in the house due to their high level of toxicity in cats. Topical flea and tick products like Frontline and Advantage are safe and effective in killing adult and pre-adult lice, but no product will kill the eggs. Therefore, treatment needs to be repeated at two-week intervals until all the eggs are gone. For heavy infestations this may require three to four treatments. If your pet's hair coat is matted, the matted areas (or even the entire pet) may need to be shaved. Make sure to clean grooming equipment regularly, particularly if you are involved in rescue or boarding. You should dispose of or wash all of your pets bedding as well. It's not usually necessary to treat the environment for control of lice, but may be needed in a severe infestation.

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. Dr. DiBenedetto can be reached at (248) 585-2622 for other pet related questions.

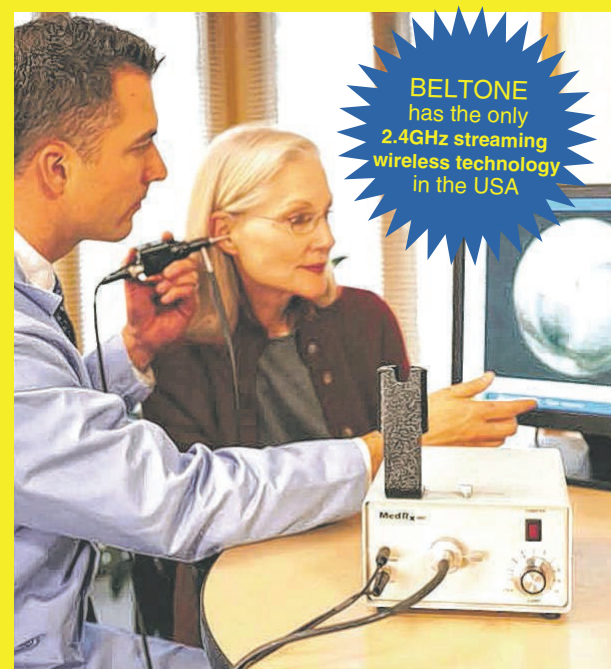


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Fun Facts about St. Patrick's Day

March 17 is St. Patrick's Day and many will celebrate by wearing green and drinking green beer. However, you may or may not know some of these fun facts about that holiday:

- The world's first recorded St. Patrick's Day Parade took place not in Ireland but in the United States. Boston has that distinct honor. It happened on March 18, 1737, followed by the New York Parade, which first took place in 1762.
- Ireland had their first St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin in 1931.
- The original color associated with St. Patrick was blue, but because the Saint preached about the Holy Trinity through the symbol of the shamrock and the Irish "little folk" were also associated with green, it became the most common shade in connection with him.
- In 1961, business manager of Chicago's Journeymen Plumbers Local Union, Stephen Bailey, received permission to turn the Chicago River green for St. Patrick's Day. Because it was not known for certain how much dye was needed, over 100 lbs. of vegetable dye was used, causing the river to stay green for a full week! (Today only 25 lbs. is used.)

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By Patricia Cosner Kubic
ThumbPrint News Contributor

Recently I discovered an interesting fact about butterflies. I thought I knew the drill of egg to caterpillar to pupa to butterfly. It turns out a detail in that metamorphosis is kind of fascinating. When the caterpillar wakes from his cocoon nap, I'm sure he is more than just a little surprised that he woke up with two new limbs. I know that would make for a rocky morning if that happened to me. Slowly he starts using them, trying to escape from the cocoon. For days he tries to push with his new limbs to escape from the cocoon. Experts believe all those intro-cocoon push-ups help the butterfly build up strength in his wings so, when it's time, he can fly. That certainly makes sense; but, what really got to me is what those lovely wings were made of. If you don't know, you'll never believe it: the wings are made of waste material.

Hearing that new factoid reminded me of another story where beauty came from an unlikely place; actually, it came from evil.

The person at the center of the story is John Newton, who was born in 1725. As we know, life spans were shorter back then; and, unfortunately, John's mom died when he was a child, leaving him to face an unstructured future, to say the least.

He followed in his father's footsteps and worked as a laborer on large ships which were making their way to and fro across the pond. It didn't take long for John to become a high ranking mate on a slave ship and then ultimately becoming the captain on his own slave ship going to Sierra Leone off the west coast of Africa. Like I said, we're talking about evil here.

Several years into his tenure as a captain, he encountered an enormous storm on his way back to America. While trying to steer the ship through the violent downpour, gigantic waves knocked the crew off the ship. Most people on board had drowned and John knew in his gut that this time he would not win and all would be lost to the waves. He wrote later that he screamed, "Lord, have mercy upon us." Miraculously, he was able to maneuver through the storm. Professional sailors everywhere could only describe his survival as a miracle. There was no other word because that was truly the only way out. When he got to land, he was so deeply grateful for his life that he quit his job and vowed to spend the rest of his life battling

against slavery.

He returned to London and by 1755, he became the surveyor of tides at Liverpool where he came to know the deacon at the Church of England and ultimately became the deacon's most enthusiastic disciple. By this time, John learned multiple languages and was a minister of a church that drew so many people that it had to be expanded. His services became so popular that he went on a speaking tour. Don't forget, this guy used to make money stealing and selling humans.

On New Year's Day 1773, he was asked to give a sermon at a very prestigious church. He thought and thought about what he wanted to say, how he could truly impact his listeners, and what he could say to give them palpable hope. He decided to tell the story of the 1748 storm. And, while writing his sermon, he decided instead to write a poem summarizing his story...

*Amazing grace!
How sweet the sound
that sav'd a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.*

You know the rest.

More proof that beauty comes from the strangest places. And the good news is that, I think, those words are for everybody in or outside of a church. All of us are lost to some degree. And, some folks are so lost that they really do feel blind. But, John's poem gives us hope that when we are lost, that somehow, some way and by someone, we will be found. And, then we will feel the sweet relief of grace giving us the gas to face another day.

So here we are on the dawn of our most transitional of seasons. From waste, we get wings that look like stained glass. So beautiful, they stop us in our tracks so we can try to get a closer look. I can't imagine that anyone who knew John Newton before the storm could have ever predicted he would eventually write such an optimistic poem. It's no wonder when we see the first buds in spring that instantly we feel hope. Maybe we should look at spring not just as a season of transition, but as the season of possibilities.

A final footnote: John Newton defied the averages by living to age 82 - just long enough to witness the act of the abolition of slavery in England. 🌱

Editor's note: You can contact Patricia at pckubic@gmail.com.

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What Happened on this Day in History?

MARCH

- 01** On this day in 1780, Pennsylvania becomes the first U.S. state to abolish slavery.
- 02** On this day in 1974, a grand jury in Washington, D.C., concludes that President Nixon was indeed involved in the Watergate cover-up.
- 03** On this day in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signs the Conscription Act compelling U.S. citizens to report for duty in the Civil War or pay \$300.00.
- 04** On this day in 1793, George Washington is inaugurated as President for the second time.
- 15** On this day in 1934, Henry Ford restores the \$5-a-day wage.
- 16** On this day in 1621, the first Indian appears to colonists in Plymouth, Massachusetts.
- 17** On this day in 1930, Mob boss Al Capone is released from jail.
- 18** On this day in 1922, Mahatma Gandhi is sentenced to six years in prison for civil disobedience in India.
- 19** On this day in 1931, the state of Nevada legalizes gambling.
- 20** On this day in 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is published.
- 21** On this day in 1617, Pocahontas (Rebecca Rolfe) dies of either small pox or pneumonia while in England with her husband, John Rolfe.
- 22** On this day in 1790, Thomas Jefferson becomes the first U.S. Secretary of State.
- 23** On this day in 1903, the Wright brothers obtain an airplane patent.
- 24** On this day in 1938, the United States asks that all powers help refugees fleeing from the Nazis.
- 25** On this day in 1919, the Paris Peace Commission adopts a plan to protect nations from the influx of foreign labor.
- 26** On this day in 1951, the United States Air Force flag design is approved.
- 27** On this day in 1933, some 55,000 people stage a protest against Hitler in New York.
- 28** On this day in 1885, the Salvation Army is officially organized in the United States.
- 29** On this day in 1973, the last U.S. troops withdraw from South Vietnam.
- 30** On this day in 1987, Vincent Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* is bought for \$39.85 million.
- 31** On this day in 1918, Daylight Savings Time goes into effect throughout the United States for the first time.
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HOUSE FOR LIFE

By Paul Welch

ThumbPrint News Columnist

Winter is ending and spring is almost here. This is a good reason to celebrate because many of us start to get cabin fever after being inside all the time due to the cold. Right now is also the best time to start planning your projects for the season. Planning helps make sure you don't overwhelm yourself by taking on too much and allows you to actually get things done. Here are some tips when planning your projects for the season.

Needs vs. Wants – While there are things we may want to do, sometimes something comes up that needs to be done. Maybe the roof is old and has started leaking. That would be a priority for the coming season. My wife and I are prioritizing a new furnace because ours is old and has started acting up. Add to it that the company who made our furnace has

stopped making many parts for it and replacing it becomes a project that needs to happen. Projects that are an issue of safety are also high priority. If your porch or deck are crumbling or rotting away, those are unsafe conditions that need to be fixed.

Time is Money – Projects take time and money to complete. Most of us have limited funds and all of us have limited time to complete these projects given the weather in Michigan. Sometimes we don't have the money to complete something we want to do because of something else that needs to be done. It could be a matter of there not being enough time to get everything done. Prioritize projects by importance first and then by how much time and money is needed to get something done. Don't fill all of your time with projects either. Take some time between to enjoy your family and life.

Hired Help – It is important to

recognize when to hire someone for a job and when to do it yourself. In my years of working, I have met several people who make a living from doing these projects for people. Many of these professionals are good at what they do and their customers will attest to their work. If you know how to do a project and are willing to take it on, do the project yourself. If the project makes you feel like Hansel and Gretel lost in the forest without a trail of breadcrumbs, you should hire someone to do it for you. Just make sure to research the people you are going to hire and get two or three quotes to make sure you are not paying too much.

I am Saving Money – If you are not sure how to do a project but still insist on doing it yourself, do yourself a favor and research how to do it. There are so many resources from books to the internet that this should be an easy task. If you want to see it done step-by-step, go to YouTube and look up videos on how to do it. These videos are a handy resource to get step-by-step instructions as well as seeing it actually done. Just use caution and make sure the information or video is from a reliable source.

Running Out of Time – Make sure you don't run out of time by starting projects in a timely manner and doing them at the right time. Many factors can delay a project, such as weather, waiting for something that was special ordered, waiting on a contractor, etc. Putting things off to the last minute or not starting them in time when you have the opportunity should not be one of them. Outdoor painting or staining should not be put off until temperatures start to rise because they have a limit on how high temperatures can be and still work properly. Grass seed grows better in the cooler and wetter spring and fall than in the typically hot and dry summer or freezing cold winter. Planting or using fertilizer at the right time will help a garden or yard thrive. Doing a project last minute often means doing it at the wrong time and having less than desirable results.

Have a safe end of winter and beginning of spring. Any project you do, make sure to do it safely. Know your limitations and know and hire someone if necessary. Thank you for taking the time to read this article. Next time I will give you some tips on dealing with emergency situations in a home. 🌱



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UTICA

Continued from Page 1

slaves, while not tipping off slave hunters looking to cash in on the bounty offered for a returned slave. Despite the possibility of punishment, many people in Michigan were more than willing to become involved in the Underground Railroad. One of the families that played a big part in the organization came to Michigan from New Jersey in the 1830s. Peter Lerich, along with his mother and wife Sarah, arrived in May of 1835, to the Utica area. Peter purchased 200 acres during a trip to the area a few years before his family moved, later obtaining an additional 160 acres from Mr. Holmes - because of a spring on the property referred to by the Lerich's as Spring-in-the-Hill, the property eventually became known as Spring Hill Farm. The family stayed in one of the log houses already on the property before eventually building their own house once Peter became a successful farmer. The Lerichs were explained as smart, educated people who had very strong views on slavery; Peter belonged to the old anti-slavery element and Sarah was a well-known singer in the area remembered for singing popular slavery songs.

One of the Lerich's children, Libereta, reflected on her childhood in the home nearly 70 years later, remembering odd

events taking place on the farm that she couldn't understand at a young age. As a curious five-year-old in 1850, many aspects about the farm sparked Libereta's interest. One thing that stuck out was the home was built on the far side of the farm nearly 700 feet from the road, which made their trip to Utica and school much longer. She recalled her father explaining the importance of being near the Spring-in-the-Hill, which is what the property became known for. Closer examination of the spring revealed other unique characteristics, such as a small log cabin underground behind the well and a door covered with grape vines leading below ground. There was also a tamarack fence post near the spring that always shined in the sun and was constantly slippery. Libereta didn't learn of the reasoning behind this until much later in life, discovering that a fugitive slave could slide down the post into the water before entering the underground cabin behind the spring - by doing this, a runaway could throw the bloodhounds off his trail if he was being chased.

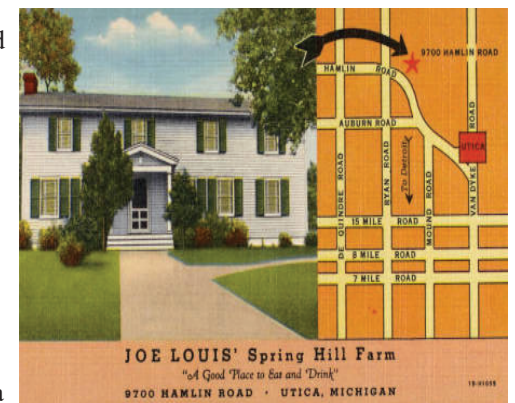
One of her first recollections of odd happenings in the home was when her father and their neighbor took three oxen, each pulling a sleigh, into the nearby swamp, while two others dug a hole over the top of the spring. Mr. Lerich and the other three men working with him

all helped organize the first anti-slavery society in Macomb County. Eventually, the three oxen came into sight hauling a massive cedar tree so large that the roots took up the first sleigh and the trunk covered the remaining two with a large section hanging off the back. Once the tree was as close to the hole as possible, they attached a chain to the oxen and dragged it into the hole - although Libereta didn't know why at the time, all the adults involved knelt to pray around the tree once it was finally transplanted. Mrs. Narramore, who lived about a mile away, said she could clearly see the tree from her home, calling it the Beacon Tree - this tree was used as a landmark for escaped slaves to look for, which stood exactly 24 miles north of Detroit City Hall and 12 miles east of Pontiac Court House. Those who were not involved in the Underground Railroad were told it was planted to shade the spring, while those who took part in the venture referred to it as the *Beacon Tree*.

Throughout the 1850s, Libereta remembers numerous men and women visiting the home, one of which was Charles C. Foot, who turned out to be part of the Underground Railroad in Detroit. Foot came to the Lerich's property to set up the arrival of runaway slaves and ensure his hideout was big enough to house the next group - Libereta recalls overhearing her father say the

underground cabin could hold 16 people if they all stood. As she grew older, she began noticing more peculiar things taking place, such as her mother baking endless batches of fried cakes, which seemed to disappear, as well as her parents taking trips to the spring at all hours, often taking pots of coffee with them in the morning.

To Libereta's knowledge, no slaves were ever discovered on the Lerich's farm, although they were always forced to be very careful because of the possibility of bounty hunters in the area. One of those watchers was their neighbor, Jay Phillips, who kept a close eye on the area because he was pro-slavery and needed the money to pay for his farm. Slave catchers also paid visits to the Spring Hill Farm periodically, one time



Joe Louis' Spring Hill Farm Postcard

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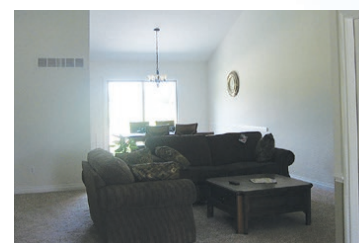
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coming to the front door as a visiting freedom seeker, Peter Jaxon, slipped out the back. Some of Lerich's children also had run-ins with escaped slaves prior to having confirmation of what the spring was really used for. One of Libereta's brothers, after returning home from a party late one night, went to the spring to water his horse. He lit a match to see where to dip the water from and was astonished to see the faces of three freedom seekers standing in front of him. In what Libereta later viewed as an attempt to keep her brother from exposing the Lerich's secret, a man arrived a few days later to hire him to survey land in Wisconsin. Libereta also remembered the day she discovered her parents' secret first hand after returning home to retrieve her school books she forgot. When she walked into the house, she found six African Americans sitting at the table while her mother looked for clothes to keep them warm and her father searched for food to feed them. Those who made this system possible knew they had to stick together to make it work; one story told of Warden Gilbert from Connecticut, who fed a runaway woman and her child dinner. He was fined \$100,000 and many fellow conductors paid a share of this, including Peter Lerich, who gave \$200.

From 1850 until 1864, the Lerich's Spring Hill Farm was part of the Underground Railroad, feeding, clothing and housing thousands of slaves throughout the years. Although the Underground Railroad ended with the Civil War, the Lerich's involvement remained a secret to the public for nearly 50 years until the death of Peter Lerich in 1907. Spring Hill Farm remained with the family until 1888, when it was sold to Alexander McVittie - Sarah Lerich passed away 10 years later. With much of the history of this property unknown at the time, markers of importance slowly began to disappear from the land. The first, and possibly the most symbolic monument to be removed was the Beacon Tree, when it was cut down to make fence posts soon after the property changed hands. The farm was sold a few more times throughout the years before being owned by Charles Weeks of Weeks Lumber Company for 30 years - Herman Brede, who worked for Weeks, lived in the home for many years with his family and was the caretaker for the Spring Hill Farm. Herman's two sons, Jim and Jack, spoke of two rooms in the basement they remembered while living on the farm. They claimed that there was a tunnel near these two rooms underground

that was used by runaway slaves.

In 1939, heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis purchased the farm for a training camp, which consisted of over 400 acres,



Joe Louis horseback riding (contributed by fighttoys.com)

for a reported \$100,000. Louis, who loved horses, transformed the property into a riding stable.

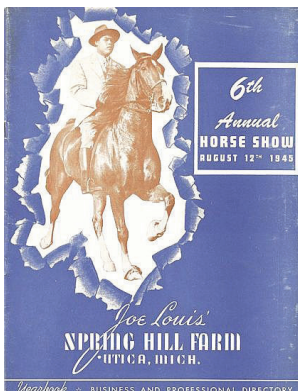
Previously standing buildings were converted and Louis

constructed a track

equipped with bleachers and box seats. This area was used for a variety of horse events, including Louis' annual horse show. The home was also revamped into a restaurant and nightclub with a large addition being constructed on the north side of the home. One story, which ran in the *Detroit News* in 1940, about Louis' time on the farm, was his discovery of an elderly Indian who was residing in a shack on the property when he bought it. The man was sure Louis would evict him, but to his surprise, Louis told him to move to a frame house nearby to stay warm throughout the winter. Due to financial troubles, Louis lost all but 18 acres of the original farm around 1944, with the Michigan Department of Conservation obtaining the land for the Rochester-Utica Recreation Area. In 1954, the Army leased the entire property to use as a Nike Missile Site, which lasted 10 years before ownership shifted to the National Guard - the property was returned to the DNR around 1974.

The 18 acres of the farm retained by Louis changed hands multiple times throughout the years and was last owned by Arthur J. Hill. In 1973, the historic farm house became engulfed by flames and burned to the ground.

What was once a symbol of freedom for many runaway slaves is now reduced to small reminders of what once was in the form of scattered foundation stones where the house formerly stood. Today, a majority of the land is part of the River Bends Park, which runs along the Clinton River from Utica to Yates Cider Mill. Despite several attempts to recover the infamous Spring-in-the-Hill, no one has ever been able to locate the spring, which is believed to be caused by the major landscape changes throughout the years the Army used the land. 🌱



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1 + 1 = 3 The New Math of Relationship

By John Vincent Senkus

ThumbPrint News Columnist

Growth satisfies the innate desire to develop your potential, and needs are the stepping-stones that express this craving. In relationship, there are three distinct but overlapping growth dimensions: *Your individual needs, your partner's individual needs, and your needs as a couple.* Each of these elements has two proportions; depth and scope. Depth consists of your ability to grow within each particular need, to understand each need thoroughly. It is the ability to transcend a need from its most basic level to its highest and deepest form of fulfillment. *Depth* can be considered vertical growth; the "quality" of knowledge. *Scope* comprises your adeptness at growing within multiple needs over time, eventually becoming familiar with them all. This increased breadth would be represented as horizontal growth; the "quantity" of your facets. The ideal combination is to be growing in depth and in scope—within each of the three relational dimensions.

Think of yourself as a vessel filled with need reservoirs. Some reservoirs pertain to just you, and some to your relationship. To the quantity and level each are filled, will determine just how deeply satisfying your self and intimate relationship will be. The deeper you can fill each reservoir makes you proportionately more fulfilled. Expanse at the expense of depth, or, depth at the expense of expanse, are not good recipes for growth. An ocean of film, or a mile deep pinhole will both dry up rather quickly. Ultimately, relationship growth will be dependent upon two fundamental factors:

1. *Your capacity for needs fulfillment.*

There are a multitude of variables that determine how large your capacity for growth will be. These include your desire and willingness to learn, overall emotional intelligence, outlooks, innate curiosity level, disposition, attitudes, creativity aptitude, upbringing, beliefs, past experiences, intellect, unconscious enablers or disablers, as well as other characteristic traits. There may also be "external motives" for growth; job and career demands, relationship strain, family perspectives, peer pressure, etc. For most of us, growth is aspired because its pursuance or the arrival of its objective will bring us more satisfaction (or less pain) than "staying still". In other words, it feels better to grow than not to grow. This growth process is primarily done at the unconscious level. That is, the drive for growth is done without even thinking about it. It is part of who we are, and we do it for its own sake. Certainly the mechanics; the actions, details, planning, timing, and so forth, of how we put this growth together is done at a conscious level. For example, if we want to learn more about a certain job skill, painting, communicating, or becoming a better partner, we would have to study, learn, and then apply this new information. This "how to" process of getting from point *a* to *b* then to *c* and *d* is done at a conscious level. But our ongoing motivation to learn and grow is done predominately at the plane of unconsciousness. This is not to say that if we inherently have a weaker drive to learn and grow, that conscious efforts cannot be made to push us into a growing direction. That is one of the beauties of being human; we have the ability to mold ourselves in the direction that we deeply aspire. However, if you

feel that your growth "results" are not matching your desires, take a close look at the variables listed above and see just what it is that's holding you back. Then do something about it!

2. *The degree to which your partner encourages you to grow.* This reflects the type of atmosphere that is created by your partner's attitude toward your growth process and potential (and theirs). Is growth discussed, articulated, encouraged, and planned? Do you feel completely open to discuss any aspects of your growth path or direction ... or are there hesitations? If a relationship partner, either directly or indirectly, inhibits, limits, or impedes growth, an automatic barrier is created. Even if these barriers are overcome, it can still be a limiting factor that subtracts from your growth possibilities. At best, overcoming these obstacles takes away valuable time and energy. At worst, they set a precedent for future roadblocks. Relationships that hinder or neutralize growth opportunities are doomed for frustration, resentment, and probable failure (just "remaining together" doesn't constitute success). The ideal relationship cultivates and adds to growth—not takes it away. It recognizes how extremely important needs fulfillment is. But, even when you encourage each other to grow, it does not mean you will grow in the same

direction, at the same speed, or always see eye to eye on your growth paths. It's healthy for relationship when both partners can challenge one another. This applies to growth and any other aspect as well. The key is for the challenging process to be constructive, not derogatory, condescending, or selfish. When challenging or being challenged, look at the potential that lies on the edges of your comfort zones. These can be some of your best opportunities for development, for they call into question your insecurities, fears, and paradigms. This doesn't mean you automatically say yes ... it just means you keep an open mind in your decision making before you say no. Remember, while an individual's needs can be fueled by many sources, relationship needs are only fueled by the couple.

James Allen said, "The man who sows wrong thoughts and deeds and prays that God will bless him is in the position of a farmer who, having sown tares, asks God to bring forth for him a harvest of wheat." If your relationship isn't harvesting growth, what can be done to change what you are sowing...?

Thanks for reading! Please send any questions or comments to 1and1equal3@gmail.com.

In our next column, we will take a look at additional relationship growth factors. 🍀



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THE RAILROAD THAT



By David Odziana ThumbPrint News Writer and Field Reporter

Before automobiles were able to transport large amounts of supplies throughout the vast interior forests of Michigan, railroads made some of the state's biggest industries, such as logging and mining, possible.

The birth of the railway system in Michigan began seven years before the territory was even considered a state, quickly becoming a venture involving many successful entrepreneurs. While its beginnings were slow, starting in large cities, such as Detroit and Pontiac, there were over 3,800 miles of railroads throughout the state by the 1880s. Not only did this means of transportation make the shipment of goods in hard to reach places possible, it also helped create settlements in areas that were yet to be permanently inhabited. There are few places that are a better example of this than in the Upper Peninsula's Huron Mountains between the towns of Michigamme and Champion.

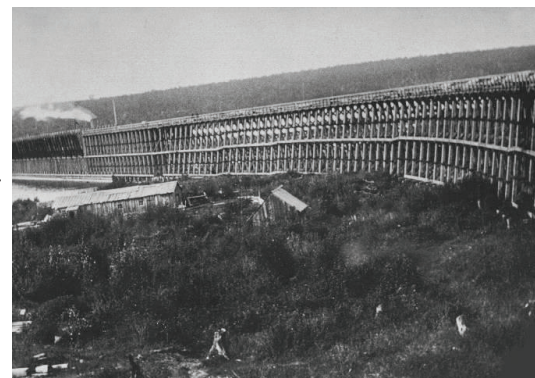
In the late 1880s, a plan was proposed to build a 35-mile-long railroad from the town of Champion, northwest to the ore docks on Huron Bay. Milo H. Davis, engineer from Detroit, was hired to determine if this was possible, and if so, discover the best possible route. By the 1890s, the railroads in Michigan exploded to over 6,900 miles and the state was now the largest supplier of iron ore in the country. Davis' findings were the railroad construction could be done. He mapped what he believed was the best possible course. The railroad was to carry the iron ore surrounding Lake Michigamme to Lake Superior, as well as accumulate many other abundant raw materials in the surrounding area, including gold, silver, granite, marble, asbestos, lead, graphite and silica. On June 27, 1890, the idea to create the Iron Range & Huron Bay Railroad (IR&HB) was born - the stockholders included Christian Buhl, Theodore Buhl, James

Joy, Jefferson Thurber, William DeGraff and Frank Dodge. A few weeks later, Henry Stephens and Christian Buhl teamed up with James Turner to build the railroad, each taking responsibility for a third of the total cost.

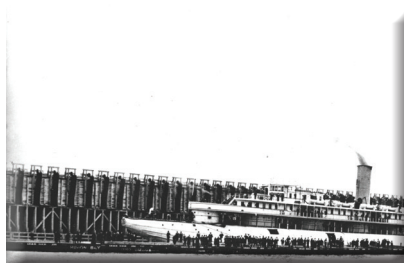
On August 16, 1890, Turner named Davis chief engineer of the project, and the three man team promised the railroad would sell within three years of completion. Wallace Dingman, railroad contractor from Battle Creek, was hired to ready the land to lay the railroad; this included clearing the land, installing bridges where they were needed, grading, as well as furnishing railroad ties. This labor intensive task was said to be finished by August 1, 1891. Work began later that month with 500 men employed on the project making \$1.75 a day, but it soon became evident that more men were needed, which increased to 800 men by November.

By the time winter weather ended work for the season, 14 miles of pathway were graded and four miles of tracks were finished. Around this time, another contract for the ore docks needed on the Huron Bay was signed with John Munro Jr. A sawmill was erected in Arvon, employing 50 men to cut lumber from nearby forests to construct the docks. This massive wooden structure was 1,000 feet long, requiring two million feet of timber and 3,000 pilings; pounding in the logs required two pile drivers, one of which was equipped with a 7,300-pound hammer. Just this task alone cost \$170,000 to complete.

When the weather broke the next year in May, 1,500 men were now working on the IR&HB; supplies were needed constantly, with six stagecoaches coming and going all day, and shipments coming by boat, as well. By August, all the supports were in place for the ore docks and the whole railway bed was finished, aside from a section at the peak of the line. With the massive undertaking coming along, troubles began to surround the venture.



1890s picture of the Huron Bay Ore Dock which was never used (contributed by Baraga County Historical Museum)



IR&HB ore dock (contributed by Baraga County Historical Museum)

See *NEVER RAN*, Page 16

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ThumbPrint News Traveled to Iowa! We are one state closer to having traveled to all 50 states by the end of 2016!



Brian Cameron of Fort Worth, Texas, sent us these pictures of himself with the paper in Iowa, and had this to say:

I'm a former Michigan resident and current Texan who often returns to the Wolverine State to visit my family on Harsens Island. I took *ThumbPrint News* with me to Des Moines, Iowa, where I was volunteering for the Cruz campaign during the Iowa caucuses, and I am proud of our teams' success. While taking a break from our get out to vote initiative, I captured a photo with *ThumbPrint News* in downtown Des Moines.

Thank you Brian! We are now over halfway in making our goal – only 24 states to go!



We are asking our readers to help complete our list of 50 states. If you are traveling to one of the states listed to the right, please take a copy of the newspaper with you and photograph yourself somewhere in that state and send it to us with a paragraph or so about your travels. We will print it in a future edition of *ThumbPrint News* and will send you a complimentary copy. Or, if you have a friend or relative in one of those states, send them a copy and let them take a picture and send it in.

We need high quality .jpg photos, which can be emailed to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net.

We would like to be able to say that we have traveled to all 50 states by the end of 2016! Please help us in our quest.

ThumbPrint News still needs to travel to the following states: AL, AR, CO, CT, DE, ID, IN, KY, LA, MN, MS, MT, NE, NH, NJ, ND, OK, OR, RI, SD, TN, VA, WI & WY.

(We will still accept photos from states where TPN has already traveled, or from any countries in the world, whether featured in a past issue or not.)



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Thumb Birds

Gather for the Fifth Time

On January 30, 2016, the Thumb Birds gathered once again and enjoyed seeing old faces and meeting some new ones. Everyone brought a dish to pass and the food was delicious. The weather cooperated with a perfect 70 degree day in Sarasota, Florida.

If you would like to join our Thumb Bird group, the only requirements are that you live or have lived in one of the nine counties that *ThumbPrint News* covers (Genesee, Huron, Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair, Sanilac, Tuscola or Wayne) and that you now spend either part or all of the year in Florida. We meet once in the winter in Florida and once in the late summer in Michigan to socialize and enjoy wonderful food together.

If you want to become a Thumb Bird, please send your name, addresses in both Michigan and Florida, your email and phone number to our email address ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net, and we will welcome you to our group and invite you to our next get-together this summer.

Editor's note: For a wonderful slide show of the 5th Thumb Bird Gathering, created by Harvey and Ethel Lovelace, visit <http://epropix.com/thumbbirds16/>.



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MY INHERITANCE

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

Often when writing this column I have taken a snippet of memory of something that may have seemed meaningless and expanded upon it as I dig into why I even remembered it. Over the few years I have expounded on these pieces of the past I have especially been pleased when others who read them recall like experiences from their past. This, of course, leads to a conversation that seems to keep yesterday alive.

There are other times when my mood suggests I be more philosophical or idealistic about life. It is then that I move in a different direction with the hope that others will find enough interest to explore their own similar thoughts. This is one of those times.

Several years ago I wrote a manuscript I thought might someday be "the book" many others also think about writing. It wasn't and probably never will be. In it I told how I sincerely believe we all have an obligation to leave an inheritance for those who come after us. It explained that the form inheritance takes is up to each of us to determine.

Biblically we are told, "A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's

children." Certainly if defined in a lexical sense, we would accept

that inheritance is the passing on of a form of wealth or rights to another person. That's simple enough to understand and, if we follow adopted guidelines, we should have no problem accomplishing it as long as we have something to pass along. However, that may be far too simple or, over time, even meaningless.

I suggest that when reference is made to "his children's children" there should be an understanding that the implication is to those who come after us, not necessarily those to whom we are directly related. Let us also realize that we are children of children and, as such, are also the receivers of an inheritance from those who have come before us. With that as the understanding, the inheritance we receive or that which we leave is from or to a far greater number of people, if not from or to all people.

As a young adult I found myself searching for success for whatever that word seemed to mean at the time. Normally, it meant something attached to a dollar sign. As an older adult I'm still searching, but no longer for the meaning of success. I now place my full focus on significance – mine as well as that of others. Certainly a review of my bank account will tell you that I haven't

benefited from the inheritance of another's financial success. An examination of my memory bank will tell a much different story. There's a wealth of significance provided by others that continues to earn high levels of interest.

I have a significant inheritance from a grandfather who travelled as a poor adolescent immigrant Spaniard to the Western Hemisphere alone. He survived by taking any job he could find, learned our language sitting through hours in movie theaters, and studied hard and long to become an American citizen. He taught me more about our republic and its Constitution than I ever learned in school. He had a great pride for his adopted country and especially its national flag. I become emotional at the sight of our flag, and I'm confident it's because of the inheritance of humble perseverance he left me.

The school subject I disliked the most growing up was English. I don't think I'm alone, but my English composition teacher would have no part of it. It didn't help that he was a neighbor too. He pursued me all through high school with a continuing reminder that I could do better. It wasn't until long after I left high school, and even after college, that I fully appreciated the significance of the inheritance of patience and determination I received from this educator.

It was my mother's demonstrated belief in prayer, and her children's church attendance, that established a spiritual foundation in my early life. Although I substantially abandoned it for many years as an adult, there was still enough remaining to guide me through difficult times. It was a return to that foundation that is so meaningful now, thanks to the significant inheritance of faith and compassion.

I have a great deal of respect for these and others who have provided guidance through their words, actions and the purposeful lives they've lived. It is from others that I have learned the meaning of humility, patience, perseverance and compassion. I, too, have learned that true knowledge and wisdom is a gift. Isn't it interesting that none of these inheritances of significance have a dollar sign attached to them? 🌱



NEVER RAN

Continued from Page 13

In May of 1891, the builders of the ore docks began experiencing financial troubles, which left many companies in the nearby town of L'Anse looking for payment. This opened up a budgeting firestorm, and soon James Turner sold his interest to the remaining co-founders, Christian Buhl and James Joy. Dingman also dried up all available funds by August, which caused him to abandon his work, resulting in the project coming to a standstill. With many workers unpaid, the company announced they would only pay out claims in person at their Detroit office, which was a daunting trip at the time from the Upper Peninsula. This also wreaked havoc on the economy of the Upper Peninsula, which was now home to over 1,500 unemployed residents seemingly overnight. The October 17, 1891, edition of the *L'Anse Sentinel* stated, "Expenditures from the poor fund have been materially increased the past year principally on account of so many laborers being discharged from the Iron Range & Huron Bay Railroad without their pay. Many such individuals were without means and, being unable to get away, had to be cared for by the county."

*Iron Range Huron Bay Railroad Locomotive**IR&HB rock cut (contributed by Baraga County Historical Museum)*

In order to alleviate some of the troubles surrounding the area, duties and responsibilities changed hands in September of 1891. The former superintendent of the Flint & Pere Marquette Railroad, Sanford Keeler, took over Davis' position, while Michael Lally of Detroit relieved Dingman of his grading obligations. Once Davis was relieved of his duties, he fled to Mexico in order to avoid the numerous lawsuits sure to come. The largest focus now was to complete the final 1,000 feet of the line located near one of Michigan's highest points on Mount Arvon, which required digging a 60-foot deep canyon into the mountain through solid granite. A large group of men began working on this, with 200 remaining employed throughout the winter of 1891-92. In the summer of 1892, tons of dynamite and huge power drills were used at an altitude of 1,960 feet to blast away 40,000 cubic yards of rock, which connected both sides of the grade. Although the huge engineering feat was finally complete, it wasn't without more financial troubles, costing \$135,000 more than the original estimate. With the rails now being put in place, the company ordered two 80-ton Mastodons, which were some of the largest freight engines in the country.

By November of 1892, the railroad was complete and was ready to begin shipping goods. With a depression hitting the country's economy around this time, demand for iron ore greatly decreased. To make a bad situation worse, the mines the railroad was to serve began to diminish, so it was proposed to extend the line east, but this was shot down because of the amount of debt the company had already accumulated. The main reason the project was so far behind budget was because Davis said it could be completed for \$15,000 a mile at 35 miles in length, when in reality, the final cost was over \$2,000,000 and seven miles longer than the original estimate. In order to save the railroad, the IR & HB sold \$600,000 in bonds to help pay off their debt. To make this happen, the company had to sign contracts with mining companies to deliver goods to the market, but because the railroad had the most difficult grades, it was never able to compete with rates of other companies. When the time came to test the railroad, a few men boarded the train and traveled about 20 yards before the railroad bed gave way and the locomotive tipped into the Peshekee River; another run was never attempted. Due to many of the court cases

*Construction workers at the rock cut (contributed by Baraga County Historical Museum)*

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resulting from unpaid debts surround the railroad, the project couldn't be used or sold until they were resolved in court. While the IR & HB couldn't find iron ore to ship, it was believed that even if it did, it wouldn't have been able to complete a shipment. It is generally known by engineers that anything over a three percent grade is steep, and four and a half percent is the max. With that in mind, the Iron Range and Huron Bay Railroad had some astonishing statistics, boasting a grade of five percent in some areas, with some statements claiming them to be as high as eight percent.

At the turn of the century, most of the outstanding debts had been paid, some of which were a small percentage of what was actually owed. With this now taken care of, the railroad was no longer in lockdown, but that didn't mean the railway would finally make its first shipment. Instead, the project was sold, along with all its assets. In return for the minuscule price of \$110,000, the Detroit Construction Company received 5,000 tons of rails, a fully equipped machine shop, a blacksmith shop, 3,000,000 feet of pine lumber, two Mastodon locomotives, 20 flat cars, 500,000 feet of bridges, as well as a massive amount of iron and additional railroad supplies.

What began as a sales pitch by Milo Davis as a sure way to get rich ended with the loss of millions of dollars and countless lives throughout the operation. Today, little remains of what used to be, aside from the massive cut into the Huron Mountains, laying as a reminder of what could have been. Instead of going down in history as a highly successful railroad, it will always be remembered as the only major railroad in the world ever completely built that never operated. 🇺🇸

*2003 picture showing the remains of the Huron Bay Ore Dock (contributed by Baraga County Historical Museum)*



Are You Ready to Sell?



Melanie Duquesnel

Thinking about taking advantage of the renewed housing market? Forecasters say it will be a good year to put your house on the block if you're looking to make a change. According to the Case-Shiller National Home Price Index, home prices have climbed higher since early 2012, and will be coming close to the numbers of 2006 and 2007.

Whether you're selling it yourself or hiring an agent to sell it for you, there are a few things to do to get your home ready to sell.

1. Research what would be a reasonable price for your home. Look at comparable homes in your neighborhood that were recently sold. Be sure to take into consideration upgrades and renovations in either your home or the comparable homes.
2. Make sure that all closets and cabinets are half-empty. People viewing your home like to see that there will be room for their things.
3. Light up the space. Remove anything that blocks light from entering into the home in each room, such as curtains. Do what you have to to make the home bright and cheery.
4. Conceal animals. If you have dogs or cats, make sure to get rid of pet food bowls, kitty litter boxes and the hair they may have left behind.
5. If you find that upgrading your home will increase your asking price, be sure to check out contractors with the BBB before hiring. However, don't assume that a mammoth makeover will get you the money you want.
6. It is important for you to take the "home" out of your house. Remove all the personal items, so that those looking at the home can imagine it the way they would want it to be.
7. If you're going to put money into remodeling, put it into the kitchen and/or bathrooms. Upgrading appliances, countertops, cabinetry and fixtures will help to make sure you get your asking price.
8. Always be ready to show your home. You never know when it will be convenient for a prospective buyer to come by and look, so be sure the home is always in tip-top shape.
9. Spruce up the exterior of the home as much as possible. Curb appeal is very important. Buyers will judge your home before they even walk through the door. Plant some cheery flowers.
10. If you're selling through an agent, check their BBB Business Review before hiring. Also, make sure the agent knows the neighborhood, understands your budget considerations and is tech savvy, so that your home is viewed by the widest possible audience.

Selling your home will be stressful even though it is a seller's market. Doing a few of these things should help you breathe easier. Checking with the BBB before hiring anyone surely will. 🐾

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.

BOAT4VETS

Submitted by **Forrest A. Walker**

Commander Lake St. Clair Chapter



What we do is simple - give any and all veterans a fun day out on the water. The day includes a boat ride and some swimming, then returning back to the marina for BBQ, camaraderie, and giving out the gifts and donations collected from local businesses. We are currently in the process of obtaining boat captains and helpers to assist in our outing for our vets.

Thanks to people like you, our event last year (our third year) on Lake St. Clair was a huge success, as we hosted over 200 people, and this year will be even larger, as we are anticipating well over 250 people. Photos, sponsors and details about how far we've come up to this point can be seen at boat4vets.com.

Our event this year is on Saturday, July 23, 2016, at the Idle Hour Yacht Club on Harsens Island at 10 a.m.

Our boat captains and helpers are the ones that make this a very special day for our veterans and we cannot do this without your generous help. Please join us in showing how much we appreciate our veterans' service to our country.

I can be contacted at walker00@comcast.net or at (810) 512-4660 or (248) 613-6071. Boat4vets is a 501c3 organization. 🐾

Earth Fair Opens for Reservations

Submitted by **Sheri Faust**

St. Clair County Health Department

Earth Fair is now accepting registrations for school field trips, exhibitors and volunteers to participate in this year's annual Earth Fair event. Earth Fair will be at Goodells County Park on Friday, April 29, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and on Saturday, April 30, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Admission and parking are free. Teachers with a 3rd – 5th grade class are invited to sign up for a free field trip to Earth Fair. Earth Fair is a tool teachers can use to augment science lessons taught in the classroom and enables students to interact with "field experts" in a hands-on learning environment. Spaces are limited, so teachers are encouraged to register early.

A non-profit, business, agency, individual or youth club with a mission that addresses the environment is also encouraged to become an exhibitor by completing a registration form on the website. Exhibitor registration closes March 18.

The Earth Fair committee is also searching for individuals who are interested in becoming an Earth Fair volunteer. Volunteers work in shifts on the day and time of their choice and receive a free Earth Fair t-shirt.

Earth Fair is St. Clair County's largest Earth Day celebration. It is a two-day festival designed to showcase healthy, good-for-you organics in food, energy, transportation, clothing, home, garden and more. Families can enjoy a blend of companies, artisans, demonstrations, displays and entertainment acts, as well as specialty attractions and furry friends.

Those interested in attending as an exhibitor, a school field trip, or becoming a sponsor should contact Sheri Faust at the St. Clair County Health Department at (810) 987-5306 or by email at earthfair@stclaircounty.org. For more information, visit www.EarthDayFair.com. 🐾

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OAKLAND COUNTY

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The Deckerville Community Development Corporation is in need of craft and food vendors for the Deckerville Heritage Festival to be held on Saturday, May 28th, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please contact the Deckerville Community Development Corporation at (810) 404-3373 for more information and a registration form.

Your help is greatly appreciated!
Angie Wagester, Deckerville

Dear Editor,

Applications are being accepted for the John S. Beagle Scholarship established by the Genesee County Bar Foundation to assist students from Genesee County, Michigan, with financial support while in their second or third level of law school. It is through the generosity of the late John S. Beagle and his family that the scholarship has been established.

John S. Beagle was a distinguished member of the Genesee County Bar Foundation and Genesee County Bar Association. He was affectionately known as "Legal Beagle," a man of impeccable character and good will who had a passion for justice. He was also a man who recognized the struggles of those less fortunate and thought that economics should not be a barrier to attending law school. Those fortunate enough to be the recipient of a John S. Beagle Scholarship will never have the opportunity to know this eminent attorney, but his memory will be embraced by those he helped.

A minimum scholarship of \$5,000 will be awarded. The application deadline is May 1, 2016. For those

interested in learning more about the Genesee County Bar Foundation and the John S. Beagle Scholarship, information can be found at <http://www.gcbalaw.org/page.cfm?pageid=66> or by calling the Foundation at (810) 232-6000.

Tatilia Y. Burroughs, Flint

Dear Editor,

I just finished reading David Odziana's article on the Japanese-Americans of WWII in December's *ThumbPrint News*. Perhaps you weren't aware, but dozens of these families were rescued from the internment camps and brought to Mt. Clemens to work in the Mt. Clemens Rose Gardens.

Attached is my article on their story, as published in the Historical Society of Michigan's *Chronicle* magazine. I will also be giving a presentation on it at the HSM's Local History Conference, March 11th-12th in Sterling Heights. I invite you to attend this wonderful conference, chock full of Michigan history! Here's their brochure: <http://www.hsmichigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Michigan-in-Perspective-online.pdf>.

Incidentally, actor George Takei (Mr. Sulu from TV's *Star Trek*) and his family were interned in the camps, and lost everything upon their release. George talks about it in his biography, and has produced a Broadway musical based on his experiences called "Allegiance". George plays his grandfather in the show. To learn more, visit their website at <http://allegiancemusical.com>.

Thank you for letting me share this additional information with you!

Rose Rumball

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FOREVER HOMES

Continued from Page 1

ABC, a state licensed company which offers humane wildlife trapping and releasing, in addition to many other services, quickly began corralling as many of the felines as possible. Although trapping will continue until all the cats are captured, ABC has saved 12 so far. While many people think of feral cats as vicious or timid, the interaction with their caregivers is proof that the Kroger Kitties do not fit this profile.



Dr. Kaylee Long & Dr. Stacy Schramm
Greenwood Veterinary Associates

Chris Winters, from Algonac, who has been feeding and visiting with the cats for nearly three years, describes them as quite friendly. "Some of them will come right up to you and don't even care about the food; they just want to hang out and have

someone to visit with; there are a couple that recognize you and let you pet them. The cats are definitely not what you think of when you hear the word feral." When Chris first heard of the felines, he became involved because of the unfavorable and possibly dangerous conditions in which they were living.

For eight years numerous cats considered this tiny parcel of land next to Kroger as home and Nathalie Slevin, also from Algonac, has been with them from the very beginning. Throughout the years, Slevin has found homes for many of the cats

Kroger Kitties New Homes

Two of the rescues, **Bacon & Olive Oil**, got to stick together! They were adopted by the same family.

Call (810) 794-5678 if you are interested in learning more about adopting one of these kitties!



Honey Bun stuck to the vets!



Corn Pops will be moving soon!



Lucky Charms & new big brother Pumpkin!

that resided on the property and continues to do what she can for the most recent generation of felines. Following the cats' eviction, she has been visiting them at their temporary housing location a few times so they see a familiar face, often bringing necessities with her, such as litter, food and water. Her interaction with homeless cats doesn't end when she leaves the Kroger Kitties. At home, despite her severe allergy to cats, she has eight cats of her own who were feral cats she adopted and also looks after about seven other feral cats that roam near her house.

neuter all the Kroger Kitties, as well as check them for other health issues, through a grant program at their business, which allowed ABC to incur no costs in receiving the services rendered for the Kroger Kitties' care. In order to decipher between all of the felines, the two doctors decided it was fitting to give them food names (since they had lived by a grocery store), such as Bacon, Lucky Charm, Keebler, Sugar Snaps, French Fry, Little Debbie, Honey Bun, Ritz, Ginger Snap, Olive Oil and Corn Pops.

While the majority of the cats had a clean bill of health, Honey Bun was rescued with a missing eye and was later discovered to have a heart murmur during

its checkup. Despite the kitten's unfortunate happenings, the Greenwood Veterinary Associates fell in love with the cat. Due to the additional health care required, the veterinarians decided to adopt it and give it the opportunity to live out the rest of its life in a safe

environment surrounded by those that love animals. Additionally, four other cats have been adopted! The remaining seven Kroger Kitties are now safe from the frigid cold that comes with Michigan winters and are being well taken care of; the remaining felines are waiting for the animal lovers of the area to open their homes to them, hopefully making each kitty's story one with a happy ending. 🐾

Editor's note: If you wish to consider adopting one of the remaining Kroger Kitties, please call ABC Home & Commercial Services at (810) 794-5678 to make an appointment to view them.



Swiss Miss - female



Keebler - boy



Ginger Snap - female



Sugar Snap - female



French Fry - boy



Ritz - boy



Little Debbie - female

Once ABC Home & Commercial Services began obtaining numerous cats, getting them in for a checkup with a veterinarian was the next task at hand. Through the aid of social media, the company got in touch with Greenwood Veterinary Associates, located at 80871 Main Street in downtown Memphis. In an amazing act of kindness, Dr. Kaylee Long and Dr. Stacy Schramm agreed to spay or

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WHAT ARE YOU SAVING IT FOR?

By R.L. and C.L. Christensen

ThumbPrint News Contributors

Many of us older Americans have accumulated significant wealth by hard work, wise investing, careful spending habits and living through several decades of a growing economy. Rather few inherited wealth; we express pride in having earned what we have in our homes, IRA's, annuities, investments and other forms of wealth. We saved so that savings combined with pensions or Social Security (if eligible) would allow us to retire with money to live on in our old age. We saved so we would have funds to allow us to enjoy travel and have comforts we may not have been able to enjoy while in our earning years. We saved so we would have money to pay for medical and nursing home expenses, should we need them in later years. Obviously, many still do have these goals.

But, we often have heard friends say they can't afford the new kitchen or bathroom remodel, the ocean cruise, or the new car because they are saving their money to leave to their kids or grandkids when they die. People make these sacrifices so the generations that follow them won't have to work as hard. It may also allow the younger generation the comfort to splurge on luxuries, like a new kitchen, without pinching pennies. They are focused on preserving that wealth for the use of their heirs. But, is that goal the most rational and will it have the desired effect for their heirs?

Reflect on the fact that when most young people begin their working and family lives it is also the time when they are most in need of money. But most of their parents and grandparents are likely to live another 20 or 30 years. By then those children are doing well financially and no longer are in need of the money.

It's usually the grandchildren, facing career choices and beginning families of their own, who could benefit most. To make this happen there needs to be careful thought given to how to best bequeath significant wealth to grandchildren. The grandparent may have legitimate concerns that the grandchild lacks the maturity or judgment necessary. Will the money be spent on a sports car and a vacation in Italy rather than as a down payment on a home or on college tuition?

Typically the adult children are, therefore, the beneficiaries when the accumulated wealth in the estate is

distributed. But might there be a way to get the money where it's most needed WHEN it's most needed?

How can one put together a plan to accomplish these somewhat conflicting objectives?

Objective number 1 – to preserve wealth in order to have sufficient funds for the needs of self and spouse in elder years in order to continue living well and to cover any unexpected health care costs.

Objective number 2 – to provide money for the needs of children, grandchildren and others. Any "surplus" identified beyond that needed to fulfill Objective 1 may then be distributed through lump sum bequests or in a percentage amount via a will or a trust.

Consider an alternative to objective 2. Having made an estimate of the "surplus", you could disburse some portion of that amount year by year to the intended heirs using the tax-free gifting provision allowed by the IRS. (This limit is currently \$14,000 a year per donor to each heir. A couple, therefore, can give up to \$28,000 to as many people as they wish.)

You needn't give every year or give the same amount each year. You can thus allow for the variation in earnings which your savings from investments may provide. However, the point is that you are providing supplemental money to your heirs during the time in their lives when they probably need it the most. You are also reducing the potential estate taxes that may be levied at the time of your death because the wealth already given as gifts has been non-taxable to the recipients. You have saved some portion of your accumulated wealth for your heirs and given it to them to use before you pass on. Isn't that a win-win option?

Many wealthy people (and some not so wealthy) object to paying federal estate taxes on their accumulated wealth. The fact is that these taxes do not exist on the majority of estates because the estates are not large enough to be taxed. Currently estates of less than \$5.43 million are exempt from the federal estate tax.

Author's note: The authors of this essay are not investment advisors, lawyers, CPAs, accountants or tax specialists. These thoughts are a distillation of what we have learned as we have dealt with our parents' estates and making plans for our own. Readers considering our suggestions should discuss them with a financial professional before making any decisions.

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If you have an event in April that you would like listed in the April issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by March 12, 2016. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some of the events that were submitted to us, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

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

Genesee

No events were submitted for Genesee County this month.

Huron

Bad Axe - March 5 & 19

Tip of the Thumb Dancers, Huron County Senior Center, 150 Nugent Rd., 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Bring finger foods and friends. March 5 entertainment provided by Lighthouse Three. March 19 is our St. Patrick's Day Dance, with a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by entertainment from The Natural Tones at 7:00 p.m. For more information call (989) 269-6348.

Lapeer

Lapeer - March 1

Spaghetti Dinner, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee, 4:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. \$6 per person, \$5 seniors, \$3 7-12 years (under 7 free). Public welcome. All proceeds go toward scholarship fund. For more information contact americanlegion16@gmail.com.

Lapeer - March 5

Shop for a Purpose Craft Show, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Public welcome. For more information call (810) 664-9312.

Lapeer - March 6

Muzzle Loading Arms Show, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Open to the public. \$5 donation at the door - 12 and under free accompanied by an adult. For more information contact americanlegion16@gmail.com.

Lapeer - March 8

Taco Night, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Public welcome. For more information contact americanlegion16@gmail.com.

Lapeer - March 12

Euchre Tournament, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Public welcome.

Lower hall. Sunrise Kawanis Club. For more information contact americanlegion16@gmail.com.

Lapeer - March 19

Vegas Night - Millionaire Party, American Legion Post 16, 1701 W. Genesee St., 5:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Public welcome. For more information contact americanlegion16@gmail.com.

Macomb

Richmond - March 1

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

New Baltimore - March 6

New Baltimore Flea Market, VFW Hall, 35011 23 Mile Rd., 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. For vendor information call (810) 388-0908 or (586) 256-0212.

Washington - March 6

Book Sale, Graubner Library, 65821 Van Dyke, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Contact medea.north@gmail.com for more information.

Utica - March 13

Country Hoedown Dance, K of C Hall, 44425 Utica Rd., 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Warren Polka Boosters will be dancing and listening to the One More Shot band from Michigan. Western or casual dress. We welcome old and new friends. Cost \$17. Open bar. For more information call (586) 566-8936 or (586) 756-9259.

Richmond - March 19

Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society's 4th Annual Historic Tea, Maniaci's Banquet Hall, 69227 N. Main St., 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. In addition to tea, sandwiches, scones and sweets, Kim Parr will be presenting a lively, laughter-filled program, "Mentioning the Unmentionables" (a history of women's undergarments). Advance tickets only: \$25. For more information call (586) 727-7776.

Romeo - March 19

Book Sale, Kezar Library, 107 Church St., 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. For details, visit www.romeodistrictlibrary.org/friends.

New Haven - March 28, 29, 31 & April 1

Unlock Revelation: Bible Prophecy Seminar, New Haven Church Auditorium, 30844 Clark St., 7:00 p.m. Pre-register today at UnlockRevelation.com, or call (844) 250-4000 and receive a free prophecy DVD on opening night.

Oakland

Pontiac - March 6

Water Walkers - Experience the Journey, Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, 405 Cesar E. Chavez Ave., 2:00 p.m., in the Carriage House. Carol Ann Trembath, a teacher, librarian and media specialist, will talk about her children's book, *Water Walkers*, a story of a Native American girl, Mai, who raises awareness of the damage being done to the Great Lakes. \$5 admission includes refreshments. For more information call (248) 338-6732.

Novi - March 18 - 20

Backyard Pool and Spa Show, Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. on Friday, 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. on Saturday and 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission \$8, \$4 for children 6-14, children 5 and under free. Discount coupons and more information are available at the show's website www.NoviPoolShow.com or call (734) 398-9700.

St. Clair

Casco - March 2, 9 & 12

Midweek Lenten Worship, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 5322 Palms Rd., 7:00 p.m. Soup supper in the basement fellowship hall at 6:00 p.m. - worship follows. Everyone welcome. For more information contact pdalrick@comcast.net.

Casco - March 4, 11, 18 & 25

"All-You-Can-Eat" Lenten Fish Dinner, Perch Point Conservation Club, 7930 Meisner Rd., beginning at 5:00 p.m. \$10 includes all-you-can-eat fish, green beans, baked potato, roll and dessert. Cash bar. For more information call (810) 765-4966.

Marine City - March 4 - 20

Production of "The 25th Annual Putnum County Spelling Bee", Riverbank Theatre, 358 S. Water St. Music and lyrics by William Finn; book by Rachel Sheinkin. An eclectic group of

mid-pubescent (played by adults) vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. Go to www.riverbanktheatre.com to buy tickets online or call (810) 278-1749 for more information.

Casco - March 5

Sportsman's Swap Meet and Gun Show, Perch Point Conservation Club, 7930 Meisner Rd., 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Admission \$2, kids under 12 free. Guns, knives, bows and arrows, hunting, fishing, camping and outdoor sport related items only! Tables \$10; setup at 8:00 a.m. (two admissions per vendor). For more information or table rental call (586) 738-5038.

Casco - March 6

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Annual Chili Cook-Off, Perch Point Conservation Club, 7930 Meisner Rd., 4:00 p.m. Chili judging starts at 3:30 p.m. Dessert and silent auctions, plus hot dogs, snacks and fun for all. Adults \$8, children 6-12 \$5, children 5 and under free. Proceeds go to St. Paul's Community Ministries. For more information or tickets call Linda at (810) 765-4808.

Lakeport - March 8

Christian Open Mic Night, Central Lakeport United Methodist Church, 3579 Milwaukee Rd., 7:00 p.m. Everyone welcome. Hymns, Contemporary and Southern Gospel preferred. Refreshment and fellowship follow. For more information call Tom or Barbara Drake at (810) 385-9037.

Port Huron - March 8

Trinity Lutheran School Open House, 1517 10th St., 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. The event is free and encourages anyone with children preschool through 8th grade to come for a visit and tour the school. Refreshments and door prizes. For more information contact the school office at (810) 984-2501.

Algonac - March 10 - 12

Friends of the Algonac-Clay Library Book Sale, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., March 10 from 9:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m., March 11 and 12 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For more information call (810) 794-4471.

Port Huron Twp. - March 12

Blue Water Humane Society 14th Annual Charity Auction, 4100 Griswold Rd., doors open at 9:00 a.m.; auction begins at 10:00 a.m. Preview Friday, March 11, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Many varied lots including tools, huge collection of Fiesta Ware, Precious Moments, sofas, dining and bedroom sets, chest of drawers, antique secretary, in-box Ashton Drake dolls, Persian rug, adult bicycles, roll top desk, keyboards,

guitar, name brand purses and much, much more coming in each day. Food available for sale. Accepting donations of items (tax deductible). For more information call (810) 794-7906 in the daytime or (810) 984-2840 after 5:00 p.m.

Port Huron - March 17 - 20
Spring Musical "Singin' in the Rain", Port Huron Northern High School, 1799 Krafft Rd. Matinees on March 17 at 11:30 a.m., March 18 at 9:00 a.m. and March 19 and 20 both performances at 2:00 p.m. Evening performances at 7:00 p.m. March 17 - 19. \$10 adults, \$8 seniors/students. Contact (810) 531-7379 for more information or group discounts.

Avoca - March 19
Euchre Night, Avoca Community Hall, 5396 Kilgore Rd., 6:30 p.m. registration begins; play starts at 7:00 p.m. \$25/couple or \$15/individual. A light meal will be included. Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd highest scores. Door prizes. A grand prize will be given to the player with the highest total monthly score at the end of the season. For more information call (810) 324-9433.

Port Huron - March 23
St. Clair County Family History Group, Port Huron Museum, 1115 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. Cheryl Morgan will talk about the early people in the area - Blackwater River People and Bluewater Indian History. Anyone interested in local history or researching their family tree may visit our programs as a guest or can become a new member of the group. For more information visit the website www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miscfgh/ or call (317) 600-7813.

Memphis - March 26
Euchre Tournament, Memphis Lions Club, 34758 Pratt Rd., 7:00 p.m. \$10 per person. Snacks available. For more information contact Frank at (810) 392-3717 or (810) 543-1875.

Port Huron - March 28, 29, 31 & April 1
Unlock Revelation: Bible Prophecy Seminar, Blue Water Convention Center, 800 Harker St., 7:00 p.m. Pre-register today at UnlockRevelation.com or by calling (844) 250-4000 and receive a free prophecy DVD on opening night.

Sanilac

Sandusky - March 12 & 26
Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Everyone welcome - bring finger foods (for 9:00 p.m.) and friends. \$5 for members, \$6 for guests, \$10

membership per year. On March 12 the club provides chicken and entertainment will be provided by Melody Magic. Entertainment on March 26 by Dick Hedrich and Son. For more information call (810) 657-9349 or (810) 404-4250.

Lexington - March 20
The Great Southern Sound of "The Gospelmen Trio", Lexington United Methodist Church, 5597 S. Main St., 6:00 p.m. Promoting Southern Gospel Music and Christian Unity. Sponsored by Lexington Southern Gospel Concert Committee. No admission, but a free will offering will be taken for the artists. For information visit the website www.lexingtonsoutherngospel.com contact Tom Drake at (810) 385-9037.

Port Sanilac - March 20
Concert in the Museum Church, Sanilac County Historical Village and Museum, 228 S. Ridge St., 3:00 p.m. What would St. Pat's Day be without our very own "Ourselves" performing? As usual, they are always a fun "foot-stomping" group. Included in the ticket price will be corned beef sandwiches and beer or root beer. \$20 adults, \$10 students. Seating is limited to the first 497 people (114 inside seating, rest outside - dress warm). You may want to purchase tickets in advance by calling (810) 622-9946.

Tuscola

No events were submitted for Tuscola County this month.

Wayne

Detroit - March 5
Annual Mudpuppy Palooza, Belle Isle Nature Zoo, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The mudpuppy is a large, permanently aquatic salamander native to the Detroit River. The event features fun and educational activities such as mask-making, games and mudpuppy cookie decorating. Zookeeper talks and the opportunity to view mudpuppies up close will also be happening. The Belle Isle Nature Zoo is located at the east end of Belle Isle near the Blue Heron Lagoon. For more information, visit www.detroitzoo.org.

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INFO WANTED, Cherry Beach Inn Restaurant postcards, information or pictures of the inside or outside restaurant from the past, located at 7200 River Rd. in Cottrellville, Michigan. If you have any of the above items, we would love to have a copy. Please either email a copy to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net or call ThumbPrint News at (810) 794-2300.

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Use of Mineral Much Older Than Most Realize

By David Odziana

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer and Reporter

It is often thought that asbestos was a recent discovery, but in reality, the mineral that holds many unique characteristics, has been in use for thousands of years.

The items that are usually associated with asbestos today are paint, roof shingles and sewer pipes – not to mention the fact that it is known to cause many adverse health issues. The asbestos cement sewer pipes were one of the last major uses of asbestos throughout history, which started being installed in the 1930s. Prior to this, the material had many other uses and was even believed to be provided by a mystical creature.

One of the first recorded references to asbestos took place in 300 B.C., by one of Aristotle's students, stating it resembled rotten wood and would burn without being harmed when covered with oil. At the beginning of the discovery, the fibers were used to make items such as fireproof clothing, wicks for lamps and pottery. During the Middle Ages, many cultures believed asbestos fibers were actually hairs removed from fireproof salamanders, while in China it was thought they came from snow white dragons. It is speculated that the origin of the word salamander is an Arab-Persian word meaning *lives in fire*. While visiting China in the 13th century, Marco Polo said he would discredit the thought that the fibers came from animals, but

instead believed it was taken from the earth. Despite Polo's attempts, the word salamander remained associated with the material until the 1900s.

Amazingly, the serious health risks associated with this miracle material have been known for almost as long as it has been in use. It was quickly learned that the fibers created by weaving the material into fabric caused problems in the lungs of the workers. The issues with asbestos were so well-known that it was common knowledge to never buy a slave that worked in an asbestos quarry because they often died at a young age. Despite the documented warnings from the Romans and other civilizations, the deadly material was continually used in hundreds of products, and it is just recently that the use of asbestos has been greatly reduced, although it is still used in some items today, such as automotive parts, insulation and roofing materials. While the material is still legal to use in select products, the law states that the items can only contain less than one percent asbestos.



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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, 2016, one winner will be drawn out of all the monthly winners and the lucky person will be notified.

For our February contest, we asked our readers to identify the following character to the right and tell us about its significance:

Of all of those submitting the correct answer, Bill Zimmer of Marysville, Michigan, was randomly chosen to be entered into the year-end drawing. Bill identified that this character was Kilroy.

"Kilroy was here" is an American culture expression that became popular during World War II; it is typically seen in graffiti. There are several different theories on how the character began, but the phrase and the distinctive accompanying character became associated with GIs in the 1940s.

The major Kilroy graffiti fad ended in the 1950s, but today people all over the world still scribble the character and "Kilroy was here" in schools, trains and other public areas.

For our March contest, we are asking our readers what the following object which is pictured to the left is and for what it was used. Remember, go to our website www.thumbprintnews.com if you know the answer. **Good Luck!!**



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