

# ThumbPrint News

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

SEPTEMBER 2015

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## Inside This Issue

**Page 8** Guess who the ABC Critter of the month is!



**Page 15** "Thumbs Up To Seniors" Section



**Page 24** Do You Have a Love of Labor?



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

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, the United States was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."

Those powerful words were delivered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt the day following the attacks on Pearl Harbor as part of his announcement that the United States was now part of the largest war in history. Once the President announced America's commitment to fight, nearly all able-bodied young men were



quickly sent overseas to aid in the war. This left a huge void in competent workers, especially those capable of performing grueling agricultural tasks – Michigan would soon become a major contributing factor in the war effort. Aside from the automobiles produced in

## Michigan's City of Croswell Plays Major Role in WWII

the "mitten" state, the crops grown in Michigan were used to feed an enormous amount of soldiers overseas.

Two important factories that were heavily involved and greatly affected by the war effort were located in Croswell. Not only was the Michigan Sugar Company in Croswell, which meant sugar beet fields were seemingly countless in the surrounding area, Croswell was also home to the W.R. Roach Canning Factory. This manufacturing plant was said to be the largest pea canning factory in the world, producing 66,000 cans per hour, and also processed beets, beans and other locally grown vegetables. These two companies provided hundreds, if not thousands of people with employment, but when a majority of their workers were gone in the blink of an eye, the two factories were scrambling to find help in the fields and factories.

One result of the war was an influx of enemy soldiers captured during battle; this brought the question of where to house them once they were seized. Many of our allies overseas were experiencing extreme overcrowding from prisoners of war and soon called on the United States to help alleviate the issue. Prisoners were first sent to southern states because it was thought to be more cost effective

See *MAJOR ROLE IN WWII*, Page 12

## AMISH IN THE THUMB

**By William Easton**  
*ThumbPrint News Contributor*

A familiar sight along the roads of several Thumb area counties are the horse drawn buggies. They are the means of transportation favored by a religious group known as the Amish. Fairly recently people of this persuasion have purchased farm lands in the Thumb, built homes, established schools and churches for their flock, seemingly incongruous to Ford's automobile state, as they mostly adhere to their conservative religious principles.

My attempt to briefly summarize the sect's origins lacks both religious and historical acumen. The groups identified as Amish are descended from the Anabaptists, led by Jakob Ammann, who broke away from the Roman Church about the same time as Martin Luther, during the Protestant Reformation.

Escaping persecution for their beliefs and lifestyles, many came to America during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. They settled together in communities just like other immigrant groups. Most of them were self-sustaining farmers (although now they are willing to sell their excess produce to outsiders, "The English", as they call them). Those who remained strict to their religion continued to till their fields, care for their livestock, and maintain their "simple life". Occasionally, their principles came into conflict with societal rules, such as ending the children's schooling at 8<sup>th</sup> grade, objecting to building codes and payment for public



Photo by Janelle Will, Akron, Michigan

See *AMISH IN THE THUMB*, Page 6



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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Over the years that we have been publishing *ThumbPrint News*, some of the most rewarding moments for us have come when we have received input from our readers – either by phone calls, emails or letters. It has helped us to gauge what types of articles our readers enjoy the most and has also helped us to improve the paper in many ways.

Now we would like to get to know our readers even better! On our website there is a link to a **Reader Survey**; go to [www.thumbprintnews.com](http://www.thumbprintnews.com). We are asking that you spend just a couple of minutes to take this very brief survey so that we can cater to you, our readers, better. Your feedback will be greatly appreciated! If you do take the survey and enter a valid email address where one is requested of you, you will be entered into a drawing to receive two free tickets to the **12<sup>th</sup> Annual History of the Christmas Tree Walk** in December (go to [www.thechristmaswalk.com](http://www.thechristmaswalk.com) to learn more about this amazing holiday event, or see our ad below). Only Reader Surveys completed by November 30, 2015, with a valid email address, will be entered into the drawing. Only one lucky winner out of all of the completed surveys will be chosen on December 1, 2015.

At this time, I am also putting out my yearly plea for new writers for *ThumbPrint News*. Many of our articles are written by guest writers who write every month, occasionally, or sometimes just submit one article for consideration. Perhaps some of our readers have ideas for articles or submissions that they feel would be interesting to the readers of *ThumbPrint News*. Topics might include historical articles, anecdotes, remembrances from the past, poetry, photographs, hobbies, interesting persons in the community, non-fictional or fictional subjects, or many other ideas. The lengths of articles can vary from a few paragraphs to a few pages. If you have an idea, please submit it to me at [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net) for consideration. All articles or submissions will be reviewed by me and I will let you know if I feel it is something that could be used in a future edition. I reserve the right to edit any articles or submissions for clarity, grammar and length. *ThumbPrint News* does not compensate guest writers monetarily, but you will be credited as being the submitter. Please do not submit articles that have appeared in another newspaper in the Thumb area in the past.

If you plan on submitting an article, please be sure it is emailed to me in word document form. I normally cannot accept articles that are mailed to me. All photographs should also be emailed in jpeg format, high resolution.

Hopefully, by having you, our readers, complete the online survey and by reaching out to new writers, we can continue to make *ThumbPrint News* one of the most read and respected newspapers in the Thumb of Michigan! 🌱



# 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

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The bus departs Nashville at 8PM



## 36th Annual Renaissance Festival

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September 13<sup>th</sup>

The bus departs Port Huron at 9AM



## Detroit Tigers Games

\$45 PER PERSON

vs Indians - Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

vs Royals - Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

vs Twins - Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

5pm departure for 7pm game  
11am departure for 1pm game



## Pre-Season Detroit Lions Game

SEPTEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> 5:30 PM to 10:30PM  
VS BUFFALO BILLS \$35 PER PERSON

## Opening Game Detroit Lions

SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup> 6:00PM to 11:30PM  
VS DENVER BRONCOS \$159 PER PERSON



## Casino Day Trips

\$25 PER PERSON

FIREKEEPERS: Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

SOARING EAGLE: Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

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## St. Clair County International Airport Slogan Contest

Submitted By Kathy Reaume

The St. Clair County International Airport invites you to participate in a slogan contest to describe our airport. This event begins September 27, 2015, providing you with 30 days to enter your slogan. The winner will be selected by the Airport Aeronautics Board, and if your motto is chosen you will win a free 30 minute flight!\* Please send your entries to 177 Ash Drive, Kimball, Michigan 48074, or email it to [phnairportdirector@gmail.com](mailto:phnairportdirector@gmail.com).

Thank you and good luck!



The judges are seeking a slogan that is:

- Original
- Creative
- Memorable

It should also:

- Be trendy or catchy
- Generate positivity
- Communicate a key benefit of our community

Some examples of other airport motto's are:

Detroit Metropolitan-"We're Making it Happen."

Flint Bishop Intl.-"You CAN Get There From Here!"

Grand Rapids-Gerald R. Ford Intl.-"West Michigan's Gateway to the World."

\*This flight will be given by a qualified, professional flight instructor.



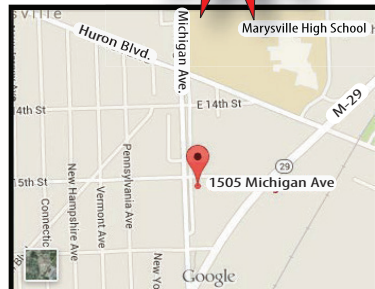


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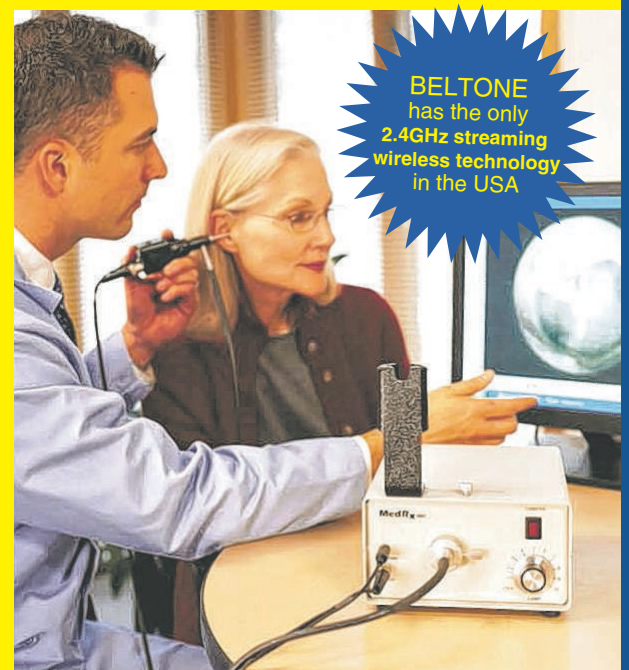
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# BACK TO SCHOOL

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P	F	R	R	C	M	L	S	T	B	R	G	Z	X	B	K	U	U	Q	C
Q	I	W	Z	M	S	Z	O	R	S	A	Y	A	W	L	L	A	H	L	W
D	H	T	V	U	W	K	U	O	H	T	M	M	R	V	L	F	B	Y	M
U	U	Z	V	N	G	T	I	P	H	E	N	G	V	L	D	R	N	E	H
I	V	T	C	N	N	N	R	E	H	C	A	E	T	Q	J	I	G	C	C
P	B	Q	V	P	I	E	O	R	P	I	S	T	D	P	V	E	N	H	D
F	Q	D	G	J	T	M	D	X	E	F	I	N	E	U	Z	N	R	I	P
L	Y	M	E	Q	I	N	H	U	K	F	U	N	E	J	T	D	L	R	Q
D	A	L	T	A	R	G	E	L	C	O	M	I	M	X	R	S	I	R	E
N	J	P	I	V	W	I	O	D	R	A	O	B	K	L	A	H	C	C	N
Z	L	O	I	B	K	S	A	G	N	D	T	B	L	I	L	J	N	I	D
V	U	N	O	C	R	S	Y	S	Y	E	P	I	T	W	F	X	E	F	U
K	W	A	O	S	N	A	H	Z	S	R	T	H	O	X	I	F	P	N	Q
Q	G	L	Q	C	L	I	R	I	K	E	U	N	R	N	E	P	E	Q	P
J	C	O	C	P	P	D	R	Y	G	C	M	L	I	O	G	T	E	S	S
P	J	W	S	C	A	S	E	P	T	E	M	B	E	R	T	K	L	H	A
P	J	O	Q	K	U	A	A	O	Y	S	U	P	L	R	E	L	Z	Y	E
L	D	E	U	W	O	U	L	S	R	S	G	Z	P	Y	R	P	K	D	J
W	R	A	U	P	N	O	U	B	A	Z	R	C	Y	X	S	T	U	B	U
Z	N	G	Z	M	H	O	B	K	E	Z	K	U	A	E	U	G	T	S	L

### Words to Find

ART	GYMNASIUM	REPORT
ASSEMBLY	HALLWAY	RULER
ASSIGNMENT	LIBRARY	SCHOOL
BOOKS	OFFICE	SEPTEMBER
BUS	PENCIL	STUDENTS
CHALKBOARD	PENMANSHIP	SUPERINTENDENT
CLOCK	PLAYGROUND	TEACHER
EDUCATION	PRINCIPAL	TEXTBOOK
FRIENDS	RECESS	WRITING

Designed by Freepik.com

## AMISH IN THE THUMB

Continued from Page 1

services they didn't use.

During the world wars, when the country had the first drafts since the Civil War, their pacifist principles forced some into prison, but most accepted alternative service without bearing arms.

Historians who have traced the migration of various Amish groups in America have noted several reasons for moving from one area to another. When confronted with unacceptable local rules and/or prejudices, some have chosen to leave rather than fight. Early settlements in the southwestern part of Michigan resulted from those types of circumstances being encountered in Indiana. Harsh climates not suitable to farming also caused other communities to fail, such as two in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

A brief text published in 2000, cites just two Amish settlements in the Thumb, one in Marlette in Sanilac County, and the other in Cass City in Tuscola County. Both were settled after 1980, presumably for reasonable farm acreage prices.

Besides avoiding all forms of motorized vehicles, Amish homes have no electricity and no personal telephones. To some this may seem very old fashioned, fitting more into the 19<sup>th</sup> century before inventions by those two famous Michiganders, Henry Ford and Thomas Edison. Plain dress



family groups. Their Bible-oriented service was led by an elder, although other males contributed. Sunday services now are held at their plain church buildings, with ministers conducting the service. The church districts now hold regular conferences and meetings as well.

Among other continuing beliefs is the rejection of infant baptism, delaying that until a person can make a more mature choice.

Usually the decision to join the faith is made during the teenage years when the adolescent exercises some personal freedom before preparing for his/her vocation – typically a farmer or a farmer's spouse. This adolescent "sowing of oats" is called "Rumspringa" in the traditional Pennsylvania Dutch grammar. A report in the *Canadian Maclean's Magazine* discusses how an Amish community dealt with rebellious youths by passing bylaws imposing a curfew and fines for swearing and yelling. Most young people return to the faith, are baptized, married within the faith and raise large families of their own.

The Thumb area Amish today comply with motor vehicle regulations, marking their buggies and using reflector lights. Nevertheless, they can create a hazard to faster moving traffic (but of course so do slow moving gas-powered hay wagons). The community of Brown City in Sanilac County had a bit of controversy recently when some citizens complained of "residue" dropped by the buggy "engines". Among other semi-serious suggestions was one to equip the animals with diapers! Fortunately, less fastidious leaders prevailed and the Amish farmers and carpenters continue to contribute to the Thumb's economy – and tax base.

A Google search for famous Amish persons turns up only a few, understandable because of their dislike of publicity and photography.

See *AMISH IN THE THUMB* Page 25





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## ABSTRACTED (ab- 'strak-təd)

**By Scherryl Antoniadis**

ThumbPrint News Columnist



I recently took advantage of a perfect summer day to indulge in one of my favorite pastimes – shopping.

Truth be told, I didn't "need" anything, but as I've explained to my husband on a number of occasions, sometimes it's just about the hunt for us ladies.

So . . . I drove to a nearby mall, parked in the garage and set out to catch my prey. However, after several hours of scavenging, without finding anything that interested me, I decided to call it a day. As I walked out of the mall, I reached in my handbag for my sunglasses. After making many, very thorough searches, I finally accepted the fact that I had misplaced them. I was in deep despair as this was not just any pair of sunglasses, it was my very favorite pair.



I quickly began retracing my footsteps; going from store to store to see if anyone had found my glasses. All of the salespeople were sympathetic, but no one had seen them. Seeing my desperation, they were kind enough to take my number and promise to call me if they showed up – that was some comfort.

With nothing more to be done, I headed for my car. As I opened the door . . . there were my treasured glasses, on the passenger seat right where I had apparently left them. Obviously I was *abstracted* by thoughts of scoring some great sales and failed to take them with me -- no matter how much I would have sworn I was wearing them as I walked into the mall.

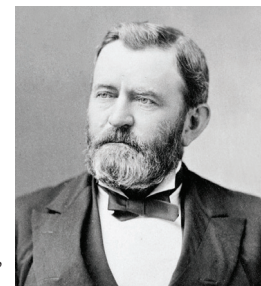
*[ABSTRACTED: adjective, not paying attention to what is happening or being said; inattentive to one's surroundings; absence of mind or preoccupation; distracted]*

When I complain to my friends about

the ever-increasing frequency of my *abstractions*, they comfort me with their own stories. One of the more amusing was when one friend took the train home from work; not realizing until she went into her empty garage, that she had actually driven to work that day. And several of us have admitted to renting a movie only to discover, on popping it into the DVD player, that we had already seen it.

Although such instances of *spacing out* are now most often referred to as *senior moments*, they happen to everyone – no matter your age – at one time or another. Here are just a few classic examples.

President Ulysses S. Grant had no ear for music; neither did he have any memory for it. When he was asked one evening if he had enjoyed a concert, he replied, "How could I? I know only two tunes. One of them is 'Yankee Doodle' and the other one isn't."



Actor A.E. Matthews' memory deserted him at the most inopportune times. Matthews once appeared in a play involving a telephone call that was critical to the plot. It was a call that Matthews was supposed to answer, but when the phone rang on cue and Matthews picked up the receiver, his mind went blank. Desperate, he turned to the other actor on stage and said, "It's for you."

The great conductor Arturo Toscanini would often sing along with the orchestra during rehearsals. But sometimes he would forget what he was doing. Once, during a dress rehearsal, his voice was so loud that it could be heard above the instruments. Suddenly he stopped the orchestra. "For the love of God," he snapped, "who's singing here?"

Doris Day was walking down a Beverly Hills street one day when a man stopped her. Assuming he was a fan, Day said





hello and started to move on. "Don't you remember me," the man called after her. "No," the actress replied. "Should I?" "Well, you didn't have *that* many husbands," replied her second husband, saxophonist George Weidler.

When the renowned actor Sir

John Gielgud told Elizabeth Taylor that



Richard Burton's acting had gone downhill "since he married that terrible woman," he had clearly forgotten that the woman Burton had married in 1964

was Taylor herself.

The notoriously forgetful Russian composer Alexander Scriabin once arrived at a party wearing a pair of brand-new boots. But when he returned home, he was wearing a pair of old boots instead, although he couldn't remember putting them on. More astonishingly, the boots did not match.

A Greek physician named Asclepiades, who practiced in ancient Rome, was so sure of his medical expertise that he swore he would stop being a physician if he ever became ill himself. His boast was never truly tested, however, because while still in good health he *abstractedly* fell down a



stairway and broke his neck.

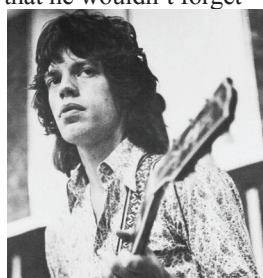
In 1960, the young Dame Judith Dench was playing Shakespeare's Juliet at the Old Vic Theatre in London. As she tells it, she was crouching over the lifeless body of her cousin Tybalt, crying out, "Where are my father and my mother, nurse?" when her actual

father, a doctor, who was in the audience with her mother and apparently seized by a senior moment, stood up and announced, "Here we are, darling, in Row H!"

Like many chronically absentminded people, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart often forgot names and places. But his most impressive *abstractions* seemed to occur at the dinner table, where his wife cut his meat for him so that he wouldn't forget what he was doing and cut his fingers.

The rock and roll 'premature senility sweepstakes winner' is . . . Mick Jagger!

It was reported in 1968 that the Rolling Stones' lead singer, still only in his mid-twenties, was forced to return a \$5 million advance for his memoir because he couldn't remember enough about his own life to write it.



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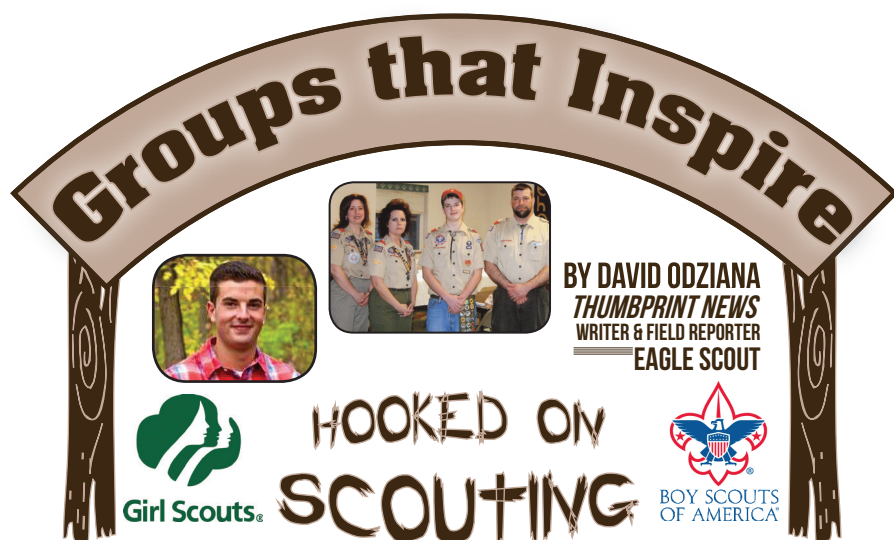
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Scouting has been a staple in the lives of millions of boys over the past 105 years of its existence – in an attempt to interest more of today's youth, the organization is trying to find unique ways to attract new members.

This October, boys all over Michigan will be presented with the opportunity of learning all the ins and outs of fishing. This will be conducted through a fishing event, dubbed "Hooked on Scouting", which is broken down into many different categories. Once the event is completed, the boys who join scouting for the year will receive a gift and get the opportunity to test out their newly acquired skills.

"There are about eight different stations at the fishing event that they get to go through," said Brent Hortze, District Director for the Water and Woods Field Service Council of the Boy Scouts of America in Michigan. "They are taught things like how to tie on lures, the correct way to cast, safety and fish identification. There's a bunch of different ways for them to grasp the whole idea of fishing."

Once the application to join the Boy Scouts is filled out by the parents, the new scouts will receive a rod and reel, as well as a tackle box to keep. Depending on the district your local scouting organization is located in will determine what day the event will take place (either Oct. 3 or 10).

"This is the second year we are conducting this event," Hortze said. "Scouting has recently experienced a decline in numbers, but last year we had a growth of members in scouting throughout Michigan, which is very exciting."

Volunteers with fishing expertise are welcome to help conduct the event and are not required to have any involvement in the Boy Scouts, although some of the adults will be troop leaders. To assist in the fish identification section of the program, the Boy Scouts call on the Department of Natural Resources to conduct that particular station.

This incentive is intended more for

younger scouts, who would be entering Cub Scouts, but the older scouts are not excluded from this event.

"The fishing event is geared more to the younger kids, usually from first grade up to sixth grade," Hortze said. "We also have an incentive for older scouts who recruit new members. Both Boy Scouts will receive a nice scouting lure to entice them."

Hortze hopes that this year's recruitment continues to increase the number of youths becoming involved in all the Boy Scouts has to offer.

"We want to let people know scouting is alive and well in Michigan," Hortze said. "Scouting offers many things, whether it's the wilderness aspect, such as the outdoor programs, or character building of the future citizens of our communities; the scouts give back so much to the community."

The organization also provides children with a type of guidance that isn't always available to them, getting them off the couch and making them more active.

"This gets them outdoors and involved with giving back, all while building moral character and teaching them how to work as a team," Hortze said. "I see that a lot of the youth today spend a majority of their time inside playing video games; scouting gets them out in the wilderness, doing things such as shooting bows and arrows, kayaking or building their own camp."

*Editor's note: For more information about when and where the Hooked on Scouting event is being held in your district, visit [www.michiganscouting.org/2015DistrictHOSLocations](http://www.michiganscouting.org/2015DistrictHOSLocations) or contact the Water and Woods Field Service Council Port Huron's Service Center at (810) 982-9529.*

*To learn more about the Boy Scouts, contact the Blue Water Council Boy Scouts of America at (810) 982-9529 or for the Girl Scouts, contact the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan at (313) 972-4475. If any scouts, past or present, would like their pictures included in a future edition of ThumbPrint News, please send your photographs, along with a caption, to [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net).*

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## Stop the Blight, Join the Fight

State Representative Dan Lauwers says it's a common sight in communities all over the country to see utility poles and/or easements on highway corners covered in thousands of rusty nails from decades of people posting signs. Although some may view this means of advertising as a harmless act, the truth is, not only is it destructive, but it is also against the law. The Michigan law reads as follows...

### THE MICHIGAN PENAL CODE (EXCERPT) Act 328 of 1931

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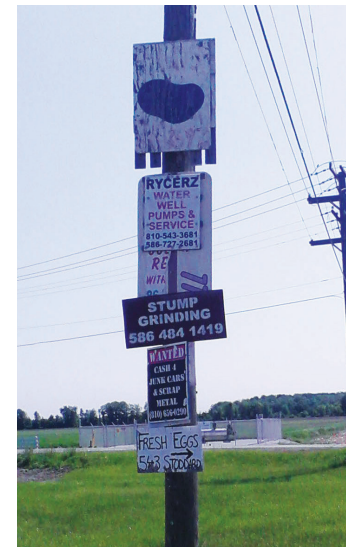
*or post, telegraph line or post, telecommunication line, tower, or post, electric line, post, tower or supporting structures, electric wire, insulator, switch, or signal, natural gas pipeline, water pipeline, steam heat pipeline or the valves or other appliances or equipment appertaining to or used in connection with those lines, or any other appliance or component of the electric, telecommunication, or natural gas infrastructure that is the property of a utility. A person who violates this section is guilty of a **felony** punishable by imprisonment for not more than 5 years or a fine of not more than \$5,000.00, or both. As used in this section, "utility" includes any pipeline, gas, electric, heat, water, oil, sewer, telephone, telegraph, telecommunication, radio, railway, railroad, airplane, transportation, communication or other system, whether or not publicly owned, that is operated for the public use.*

Consumers Energy has addressed this issue in the past by stating, "Consumers Energy has a friendly safety reminder for those looking to promote a new business or service – don't attach signs to utility poles. Nailing, stapling, tacking or pinning posters or fliers of any type on utility poles is not allowed and can be dangerous."

"We've noticed an increase in sign attachments on utility poles, particularly in promoting new businesses. We ask people to refrain from doing this, both for their own safety, as well as the safety of our electric line workers," said James Feahr, Consumers Energy's land management field representative.

The company also asks residents to keep in mind that electrical wires run through the poles, which can result in a substantial spark if struck. This is evident from an incident in Grand Rapids, in which a person nailing a sign to a utility pole pierced a power line, which sent 7,200 volts of electricity surging, causing burns on the person's hands and face. The event also knocked out power to more than 6,500 homes. In addition to keeping yourself safe and your city's lights on, safety of the workers, who must climb the poles to repair issues on the power lines, is a big issue. The thousands of nails and screws anchored into the pole hinder the worker's ability to secure his/her climbing spikes to the pole. If a worker loses his/her footing while servicing a line, this could result in serious injury or even death, not to mention the hazard of the copious amounts of nail heads that can cause severe damage. Aside from the numerous threats this practice poses, it also causes an eyesore for residents.

State Representative Lauwers said this illegal act causes blight for the cities and townships in which this occurs. Due to this, Representative Lauwers is encouraging people, as well as the cities, townships and municipalities, to join him in an effort to clean up the blight and stop this illegal activity. Consumers should proceed with extreme caution when conducting business with companies who use this means of marketing, as some may not be properly licensed or insured. Representative Lauwers encourages all to stop the blight and join the fight. To get in touch with Representative Lauwers, you can call (517) 373-1790 or email him at [DanLauwers@house.mi.gov](mailto:DanLauwers@house.mi.gov).





## MAJOR ROLE IN WWII

Continued from Page 1

during the winter months, but it was eventually realized they could assist in the northern states and were sent there as well. Michigan soon became home to numerous POW camps, one of which was located in Croswell. Although there were three different locations where the prisoners were kept in the city, it was officially only one site. The camps were located at the Michigan Sugar Company factory, the W.R. Roach Canning facility and the south end of Croswell's old airport on Sanborn Street. Many residents were understandably hesitant about the prisoners coming to their city, but it was essential to get the factories back to full production, so they were not given a choice. Prior to the prisoners coming to Croswell, the canning plant was forced to run at half capacity because of an employee shortage, which



W. R. Roach Canning Factory in Croswell

was risking all the freshly grown crops in the fields.

Unfortunately, few details of the camps are available because most files were destroyed during the 1950s, and since it was often illegal to take pictures of POW camps, few, if any pictures exist. The first of many shipments of POWs arrived on July 10, 1945, and were sent to work in the canning factory, which quickly returned the facility to full production. On October 24, 1945, a few hundred more German prisoners were sent to Croswell to help harvest sugar beets for the Michigan Sugar Company. Many of the POWs were quoted saying they were treated very well – so well in fact that many U.S. citizens complained the prisoners ate better than the civilians who were forced to ration food.

The Army's reasoning for this was to lead by example in hopes of encouraging



Rationing poster from WWII

Germany to treat the American prisoners in the same manner.

Due to the fact that the prisoners were treated so well, the guards did not have to worry about being



Michigan Sugar Company Factory in Croswell

Germany, a surge of soldiers surrendering became an issue, believing they could leave their country where death was prominent, and come to the POW camps in the United States where the treatment was exceptional. The prisoners were even paid 80 cents a day for their work, which was given in camp scrip and was able to be traded for items such as tobacco, books and candy. It was quickly discovered the German POWs were a great help to Croswell; the majority were described as hard working and easy to work alongside.

At the time, Croswell was a key contributor in the war effort by producing canned vegetables solely for the soldiers overseas. During the time troops were fighting in WWII, the company produced 450,000 cases of canned vegetables, which were painted black to avoid light reflection that could give away their position on the battlefield. Without the German prisoners coming to Croswell to work, the sugar and canning companies wouldn't have been able to operate as needed. Although the war ended on September 2, 1945, many POWs remained in the United States until June of 1946, for various reasons. Some of those included the vast amount of prisoners that had to be sent home; aid was still needed in the fields and there was a mass of paperwork that needed to be completed. Some of the POWs didn't want to return to Germany, but the Geneva Convention removed their choice in the matter.

Just as many German soldiers were captured and became prisoners, the same happened to numerous American soldiers as well. Although the United States Army treated German prisoners well, this wasn't always the case in Germany; of the thousands of Americans captured in WWII, some were from the city of Croswell. One of those prisoners was part of a family that is still prominent in Croswell.

Harold A. Nehmer was a first lieutenant and communications specialist in the United States Army. While overseas, Nehmer was captured on December 19, 1944, when German soldiers raided a command center in Bastogne, Belgium, where he and 15 other soldiers stayed

hurt or that the prisoners would attempt to escape. Once word of the good treatment reached



behind to destroy important records. The men were forced to walk for four days through battlefields as bombs and bullets whistled over their heads. When interviewed, Nehmer recalled seeing numerous American aircrafts being shot out of the sky, and when the pilots reached the ground with their parachutes, they were captured as well. Once the fourth day of walking commenced, the soldiers were loaded into boxcars, where they were kept for about three days without food or water before being shipped to a prison camp. In January, 1945, General Patton ordered troops to Hammelburg to free Col. Waters, Patton's son-in-law, who was being held along with Nehmer. Although the raid was unsuccessful, some officers were able to escape, including Nehmer.

They sprinted for the woods on foot and carefully traveled through the forest, hiding during the day and navigating the unfamiliar terrain at night. After the second day of their excursion, they accidentally walked upon armed German soldiers and were recaptured. Nehmer, along with the rest of his fellow soldiers, were forced to trek 100 miles, drinking water from the side of the road and only given potatoes to eat. They

eventually made it to Mooseburg, where they remained for two weeks until the war was finally terminated. After his two stays in German



American POWs in Manila, 1945

POW camps, Nehmer withered down to 105 pounds and also contracted blood poisoning in his thumb; once he was released, he spent a week in the hospital. After his time in the Army, Nehmer took over his father's company, Nehmer's Jewelry Store, which is still in business in Croswell.

While Americans were optimistic that U.S. soldiers would receive the same treatment as German troops held in POW camps, the fact that the average prisoner held in America gained weight, while most American prisoners were malnourished, proved otherwise. Even though Croswell was thousands of miles away from the battlefields of WWII, many men and women from the city proudly served the country at home and overseas. While it was unfortunate some had to experience the turmoil of war, all involved greatly influenced the war and those serving. 🌱

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In the August 2015 edition of *ThumbPrint News*, the Mariner Theater ad on page four ran with the incorrect phone number. The correct phone number for the Mariner Theater in Marine City is **(810) 765-5155**. Our apologies to the Mariner Theater for this error.



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## Celebrating Balance in Pinot Noir

By David White  
*ThumbPrint News Guest Writer*

"If a Pinot Noir is overwhelmed with fruit – or, indeed, by any element, like oak, fruit extraction, fruit ripeness, or alcohol – you're going to lessen the possibility that the wine can express essential place. And for me, Pinot Noir is all about essential place."

If any grape demands contemplation, it's Pinot Noir. The great ones translate time and place, clearly expressing the characteristics of their vintage and the soils and climate in which they're grown.

So I wasn't surprised to hear these words from Jasmine Hirsch, as her father, David, planted what is considered one of America's top Pinot Noir vineyards nearly 35 years ago.

We were chatting about an annual wine event she launched with Rajat Parr, a celebrity sommelier, in 2011. Dubbed "In Pursuit of Balance," it applauds the California winemakers who eschew ripeness and power in favor of restraint and elegance.

The event has helped counteract the notion that California only makes fruit bombs. And it's brought attention to some of California's top Pinot Noir producers.

In Pursuit of Balance traces its roots to 2008, when Hirsch entered the wine industry by taking over sales and marketing for her family's winery. At the time, she was living in New York and had fallen in love with Pinot Noir, so it made sense to join the family business.

But the wines that stole her heart came from Burgundy. She was continuously "blown away by what they were able to achieve" in France.

When she started working for her family, she began drinking more California Pinot Noir. Too often, she didn't enjoy the wines. They were, quite simply, too big. In ripeness, alcohol and oak, they lacked the subtlety and poise she'd grown to love in Burgundy.

Around that same time, Hirsch developed a friendship with Rajat Parr, the wine director for the Mina Group, a restaurant management company with a global reputation for its wine program. Parr was known for his obsession with Pinot Noir, so Hirsch asked him why California couldn't produce more elegant wines.

Parr showed Hirsch that the state could. Indeed, a handful of producers had been making Pinot Noir that achieved the grape's higher purpose –

translating both time and place – for decades. The two friends soon hashed out a plan for a formal tasting for sommeliers, journalists, and eager consumers. The first event brought together nearly 25 California producers and generated tremendous buzz.

At that time, Hirsch said, "California was facing an identity crisis."

Most oenophiles believed what Hirsch thought just a few years prior: that California wines were over the top. Parr and Hirsch sought to debunk this notion.

The wines they showcased weren't always popular. Then, as now, the best-known critics gave their highest ratings to ripe, powerfully concentrated wines. While this praise is certainly defensible, such wines were the antithesis of what Parr and Hirsch looked for in Pinot Noir.

Naturally, the event stirred controversy. By presenting a limited number of producers, Hirsch and Parr created an exclusionary event. Plus, the word "balance" – which refers to fruit, acidity, structure, and alcohol coexisting harmoniously, with no single element dominating – is a lightning rod. Last year, Wine Spectator's Harvey Steiman proclaimed that he "[resented] the implication that richer, more full-bodied wines can't be balanced."

Hirsch and Parr acknowledge these criticisms. Today, wineries that hope to join their tasting must first pass muster with a panel of judges who taste blind. And Hirsch admits that the event might have been misnamed.

For my palate, the wines that Hirsch and Parr have chosen to celebrate are among America's most exciting and delicious. Producers like Copain, Littorai, and Peay make precise, focused wines that are full of charm. The wines from Hirsch's own property and Rajat Parr's two labels, Sandhi and Domaine de la Cote, are similarly stunning.

Pinot Noir is one of viticulture's most fickle grapes. It's challenging and expensive to grow. By bringing attention to the California wineries that work hard to achieve Pinot Noir's higher purpose, Hirsch and Parr deserve everyone's praise.

*Editor's note: David White is the founder and editor of Terroirist.com, which was named "Best Overall Wine Blog" at the 2013 Wine Blog Awards. His columns are housed at Grape Collective.*







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## Lost Towns of the Thumb Part Two

By Alan Naldrett  
ThumbPrint News Contributor

Many towns and settlements of the Thumb area have seen more prosperous times but are still hanging in there. Among the more notable of these is **Smiths Creek**, located in St. Clair County with its nexus at Smiths Creek Road and Henry Street. On Henry Street is the still extant post office, zip code 48074, which opened its doors in 1861. The town was named for local landowner Elisha Smith.

If you went into the Pink Elephant tavern, also on Henry Street, you would get a number of patrons assuring you that Smiths Creek was alive and well. However, if you told any of them that Smiths Creek was once the county seat of St. Clair County, they would check the calendar to make sure it wasn't April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Yes, Smiths Creek was once the county seat of St. Clair County! A long, hard battle for the original county seat, which was St. Clair, commenced when they were named the seat in 1820. Down the river, the new town of Newport (now Marine City) wanted to be the county seat and continually harassed St. Clair when it took St. Clair seven years to build the county courthouse. After it was built, Newport cooled its heels while the new city of Port Huron began growing and making some noise about being the new county seat. Port Huron passed referendums against St. Clair which St. Clair had disavowed in the Michigan Supreme Court.

Port Huron felt that as long as St. Clair had its iron grip on the county seat designation, Port Huron would never become the county seat. So Port Huron officials schemed to have the seat moved just to get it out of the clutches of St. Clair. And in 1869, the place it was moved to was Smiths Creek! Reportedly, no business was ever conducted there since St. Clair refused to transfer any county records. Finally, Port Huron won a referendum to become the new

county seat, but it took another ruling by the Michigan Supreme Court before the records actually got transferred to Port Huron.

Another claim to fame for Smiths Creek, which once had depots on the Grand Trunk Railroad line, is that Thomas Edison, who set off a fire while mixing chemicals on the train, was thrown off in Smiths Creek along with his chemistry set.

The first Smiths Creek depot is now in Greenfield Village, although most long-time residents can show you the place by the tracks where it was originally located.

Another thing Smiths Creek is known for is the Smiths Creek Blues Festival, held the second week of August every year for decades. It is sponsored by the Friendship Club, a barrier-breaking group originally of African-American skeet shooters who, during less receptive times, were refused admittance to the local skeet clubs. In response, they purchased their own land to use, naming themselves the Friendship Club. They have hosted many national and local blues bands and singers at their annual blues festival over the years and presently have such regulars as the Blues Creators from Saginaw, as well as Lady Laverne, who sings for another band that also has



The skyline of Smiths Creek is punctuated by the Smiths Creek Community Church steeple in this photo from the early 1900s.

See *LOST TOWNS*, Page 17

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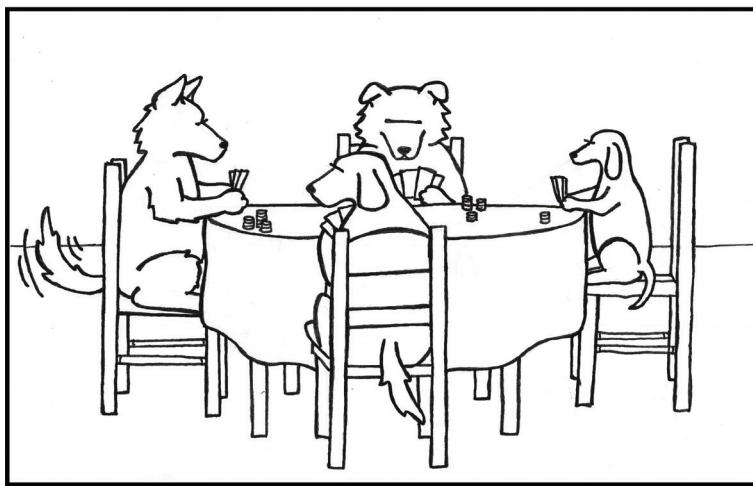




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## QUALITY OF HEALTHCARE DEPENDS ON LOCATION



**By David Odziana**

*ThumbPrint News Writer and Field Reporter*

For people facing the possibility of surgery, whether in the near future or years down the road, the situation can be very scary and overwhelming to think about.

While some people may not think twice when a doctor informs them surgery is needed to fix their health problem, the truth is there are often multiple non-invasive alternatives a person should explore before going under the knife. This is true for a broad range of health issues, such as obesity, back pain and artery blockage, but the success of these simple options often depends on if they are implemented in the early stages of the issue. Even though today's technology has raised the bar on safety and lowered the risk involved, the majority of people would rather alleviate the problem without a hospital stay if possible.

Unfortunately, a survey conducted in the *Dartmouth Atlas* has found that even though these simple solutions are available and can often eliminate the need of surgery, many patients are not made aware of these options. Another issue discovered was the outcomes of the same procedures vary a great deal depending on the hospital, just as the option recommended by the doctor differs depending on where the patient is treated.

One major issue reviewed in this study was the relationship of diabetes and peripheral arterial disease, or PAD, which is narrowing or a blockage in the artery. People with this disease face a higher risk of limb amputation than people without the condition because of the restricted blood flow. Amazingly, in Medicare recipients alone, there are almost 100,000 leg amputations performed each year, with more than half caused by diabetes. One prominent factor that determines the rate of leg amputations depends on your location. While rates are three to four times greater for those living in rural southeastern United States, other areas of the country have much lower rates. It was found that from 2007 to 2011, the national average of amputated legs for Medicare patients was 2.4 for every 1,000 people. Interestingly this varies more than fivefold, from 1.2 per 1,000 in Royal Oak, Michigan, to over 6 per 1,000 in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Patients with diabetes and PAD are lucky enough to have many options to hopefully avoid losing a limb. One major issue with these diseases is healing a wound, especially on the feet. The best option for a person with foot trauma is to keep weight off it, although this can be very difficult to do. Other alternatives involve controlling blood sugar levels, keeping cholesterol low, eliminating use of cigarettes, as well as treating wounds immediately to lower the chances of ulcerations. While these options are available to anyone suffering from the diseases and are low cost, it is unknown why the uses of the preventative treatments vary greatly across the country. The study found that blood lipid tests were conducted much less in the mountain and central states and much higher in the upper Midwest region. For example, only about 54 percent of patients received this test in Wyoming, compared to nearly 93 percent in Wisconsin.

Although it's not known exactly why the use of alternative options would be nearly double that of another region, one thing is for sure – invasive vascular treatments are very expensive and society often carries the burden of caring for the ill patients. With this being known, the uses of inexpensive options should be exhausted before choosing the costly surgeries for the good of both the country and the patient. 🌱



## Thumb Birds

If you have not yet joined our Thumb Bird group and would like to do so, the only requirements are that you live or have lived in the Thumb of Michigan and that you now spend part or all of the year in Florida. Email us your name and addresses in both Michigan and Florida, your phone number, and an email address where we can contact you. The purpose of this social group is to share ideas, places to visit,

restaurants, etc. that have to do with our Florida experiences and to occasionally get together in both Florida and Michigan to talk about all things Michigan and Florida. Email your information to [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net). We will welcome you to the group and send you an invitation to our Florida get-together next winter (date not yet established).

Recently we received the following letter from one of our readers:

***I just got through reading ThumbPrint News and came across the Thumb Bird article again and it got us to thinking. We have been going to Arizona every year since 2001, have lived in the Ugly area for a long time and wondered why there isn't a group that gets together for Arizona. Maybe, in your next publication you might want to put something in it about how many Thumb retirees go to Arizona and it could start the same gathering as the Florida retirees get now. This was just a thought as we really enjoy Arizona – tried Florida one year and it was too humid, just like Michigan. Arizona does have hot weather, but not as hot when we are there from November through the end of March. Thank you for your time.***

***Henry and Shirley Piontkowski, Ugly, Michigan***

Here is our response:

Thank you for your Thumb Bird input. We realize that many Thumb area residents winter in Arizona as well as other areas besides Florida. Our editor started the Thumb Bird group as she has both a home in Michigan as well as Florida and she has been the one who has been organizing the get-togethers. However, we think it would be a fabulous idea if someone who winters in Arizona would like to start a Arizona Thumb Bird group and arrange a get-together there as well. If there are any takers on the idea, email us at [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net) and we would be more than happy to put an announcement in a future edition and share with you any tips that may be helpful to the organizer.







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## LOST TOWNS

Continued from Page 15

been appearing (gratis) at the blues fest for over twenty years, the F Street Blues Band. The F Street band is almost the Smiths Creek "home band", since they have also been seen playing at the town's Pink Elephant tavern.

Another town, further into the Thumb, which might object to being called a "lost town," is Lum, of Lapeer County. Lum was organized in the 1880s and named for Colonel Charles Lum, who was in charge of Detroit's Light Guard Armory during the Civil War. In 1884, the Pontiac, Oxford and Northern Railroad built a depot in Lum which became a center for farmers for miles around to come to when they shipped their livestock and farm products via the railroad. Some years over a hundred boxcars full of potatoes would be just some of the farm products shipped from the town. Lum grew to include a hotel, general store, grain elevator, creamery, town hall, saloon and several more stores and businesses. A pickle factory with its own brass band was located in Lum.



The train going by the Lum grain elevator, c1910. The depot is on the left side of the tracks.

In 1904, Lum began having electricity, provided by a generator, and also gained a bank and telephone service. In 1909, an explosion destroyed the depot and the one remaining wall was used to build a schoolhouse. The death knell sounded for Lum in 1922, when the railroad, nicknamed the Polly Ann, greatly cut down on its runs through Lum. The hotel closed and some of the businesses literally picked up their buildings and



Ray Center Drive is the main drag of Ray Center. The brown building on the right was once the general store but is now a party store and market. The white building more to the center of the photo was once a gas station.

moved them to nearby King's Mill.

Somewhat new life came to Lum as a factory named Lumco took up residence in the 1990s. Besides the factory, little remains of Lum except a golf course and party store.

Another village hanging in there is Ray Center, in Ray Township of Macomb County. It started in the

1820s and got its post office in 1846. The post office closed in 1906, around the time Rural Free Delivery got started. Its location at 29 Mile Road, Hartway Road and Indian Trail Road, with Ray Center Road running through it, is still the location of its old general store, now a market.

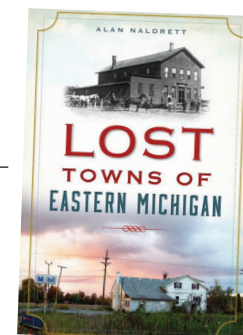
Ray Center went into decline when the railroad bypassed it and instead passed by Romeo and Armada.

Another Ray Township settlement was called Ray and was located in the center of the Macomb County township. It had a post office from 1827 until 1868, and, like Ray Center, was originally called Rhea after a river in Europe but shortened to Ray. The school of the settlement was called the Frog Mountain School, for the sound the frogs made in the nearby creek. The school's ruins still remain. 🐸

Editor's note: For many more stories of the lost towns of the Thumb area, pick up Alan Naldrett's book, *Lost Towns of Eastern Michigan*, available at Amazon, Abe Books, and all other online bookstores, as well as Barnes and Noble, Celtic Sisters in New Baltimore, and the Paperback Writer bookstore in Mt. Clemens.



The old gas station in Ray Center is now an antiques store.





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## What Happened On This Day In History?

# SEPTEMBER

1. On this day in 1882, the first Labor Day is observed in New York City by the Carpenters and Joiners Union.

2. On this day in 1666, the Great Fire of London, which devastates the city, begins.

3. On this day in 1976, the unmanned U.S. spacecraft *Viking 2* lands on Mars and takes the first close-up, color photos of the planet's surface.

4. On this day in 1951, the first transcontinental television broadcast in America is carried by 94 stations.

5. On this day in 1975, President Gerald Ford evades an assassination attempt in Sacramento, California.

6. On this day in 1953, the last American and Korean prisoners are exchanged in Operation Big Switch, the last official act of the Korean War.

7. On this day in 1916, the U.S. Congress passes the Workman's Compensation Act.

8. On this day in 1504, Michelangelo's



13-foot marble statue of David is unveiled in Florence, Italy.

9. On this day in 1776, the term the "United States" is adopted by the Continental Congress to be used instead of the "United Colonies".

10. On this day in 1846, Elias Howe patents the first practical sewing machine in the United States.

11. On this day in 2001, in an unprecedented, highly coordinated attack, terrorists hijack four U.S. passenger airliners, flying two into the World Trade Center towers in New York and one into the Pentagon, killing thousands. The fourth airliner, headed toward Washington D.C., likely to strike the White House or Capitol, is crashed just over 100 miles away in Pennsylvania after passengers storm the cockpit and overtake the hijackers.

12. On this day in 1919, Adolf Hitler joins the German Worker's Party.

13. On this day in 2008, hurricane Ike makes landfall in Texas; it had already been the most costly storm in Cuba's history and becomes the third costliest in the U.S.

14. On this day in 1975, Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton becomes the first native-born American saint in the Roman Catholic Church.

15. On this day in 1959, Nikita Khrushchev becomes the first Soviet leader to visit the U.S.

16. On this day in 1620, the Pilgrims sail from England on the *Mayflower*.

17. On this day in 1796, President George Washington delivers his "Farewell Address" to Congress before concluding his second term in office.

18. On this day in 1793, President George Washington lays the foundation stone for the U.S. Capitol.

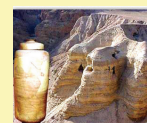


19. On this day in 1783, the first hot-air balloon is sent aloft in Versailles, France, with animal passengers including a sheep, a rooster and a duck.

20. On this day in 1850, the slave trade is abolished in the District of Columbia.

21. On this day in 1915, Stonehenge is sold by auction for 6,600 pounds sterling (\$11,500) to a Mr. Chubb, who buys it as a present for his wife. He presents it to the British nation three years later.

22. On this day in 1991, Huntington Library makes the Dead Sea Scrolls



available to the public for the first time.

23. On this day in 1806, the Lewis and Clark Expedition arrives back in St. Louis just over three years after its departure.

24. On this day in 1960, the *Enterprise*, the first nuclear powered aircraft carrier, is launched.

25. On this day in 1959, President Eisenhower and Soviet Premier Khrushchev begin Camp David talks.

26. On this day in 1972, President Richard M. Nixon meets with Emperor Hirohito in Anchorage, Alaska, the first-ever meeting of a U.S. president and a Japanese monarch.

27. On this day in 1950, U.S. Army and Marine troops liberate Seoul, South Korea.

28. On this day in 1959, *Explorer VI*, the U.S. satellite, takes the first video pictures of earth.

29. On this day in 1513, Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa discovers the Pacific Ocean.

30. On this day in 1954, NATO nations agree to arm and admit West Germany.

31. On this day in 1971, Walt Disney World opens near Orlando, Florida, the second of Disney's "Magic Kingdoms."







## Heat Stroke in Pets

By Dr. DiBenedetto

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Hyperthermia is the term used to describe an elevation in body temperature. When a dog or cat is exposed to high ambient temperatures, heat stroke or heat exhaustion can result from hyperthermia. Animals do not have efficient cooling systems and can get overheated easily. They do not sweat through their skin like we do - they release heat primarily by panting and they sweat only through their foot pads and nose. Because they cannot effectively expel heat, the internal body temperature can rise quickly. Normal body temperature for cats and dogs is around 100° to 102.5°F. A pet with moderate heat-stroke (body temperature from 104° to 106°F) can recover within about an hour if given prompt first aid and veterinary care. Once the temperature reaches 106°F or above, damage to the body's cellular system and organs may become irreversible and immediate medical attention is needed.

Early recognition of the common signs of heat stroke is critical to saving your pet's life. Symptoms include: rapid breathing/panting, bright red tongue, dark red gums or pale gums, salivating excessively, weakness or dizziness, depression, vomiting or diarrhea that could contain blood, bleeding from the nose or heavy bruising on the body, shock and possible coma.

As soon as you see signs of heatstroke in your pet it is imperative that you evaluate the pet's temperature and begin a cooling method, unless the temperature is greater than 106°F, in which case you should get them in to the nearest veterinary hospital as soon as possible. First and foremost get them out of the heat immediately. Soak towels in lukewarm to cool water and place them on your pet's underside and between the back legs. Never use cold or ice water because if the cooling happens too rapidly it can be harmful to your pet. You can also place your pet in front of a fan to help reduce the body temperature and use cotton balls saturated with rubbing alcohol on the pads of their paws and abdomen (be sure to not allow them to drink the rubbing alcohol). Allow your pet free access to water but do not force them to take water if they are not



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able to swallow well enough. The rectal temperature should be checked every five minutes. Once the body temperature is 103°F, the cooling measures should be stopped and your pet should be dried thoroughly and covered so he does not continue to lose heat. Once you are able, get your pet to your veterinarian as soon as possible. They should still be examined since they may be dehydrated or have other complications.

Pets who suffer from heatstroke once have an increased risk of developing it again and steps must be taken to prevent it, especially on hot, humid days. Following these guidelines can help prevent serious problems. Keep pets with predisposing conditions like heart disease, obesity, old age or breathing problems, cool and in the shade, provide access to water at all times. On hot days, restrict exercise and don't take your dog out with you, especially to places where there is very little shade like a beach and **never leave your pet in parked car!** In warm weather, the temperature inside a vehicle can reach 120°F within minutes, even parked in the shade with the windows slightly down for ventilation. 🌿

*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](http://www.mvhvet.com). Dr. DiBenedetto can be reached at (248) 585-2622 for other pet related questions.*

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# 1 + 1 = 3

## The New Math of Relationship

By John Vincent Senkus

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

The beauty and the beast of new love ... the perfect double-edged sword. On one hand, it has broken and dashed countless hearts and dreams. On the other, it has planted the seeds from which endless years and lifetimes of happiness were harvested from. No doubt the possibilities of new love can be very powerful, but it's much easier to start than it is to finish. Successfully navigating its terrain means satisfying the needs that encompass its realm:

1. Heartfelt Emotions reflect our need to feel and to give love. When two kindred hearts intertwine,

their emotional energy lightens the soul, and your feelings of love and connection can take off like a jet on a runway. And during this adrenaline rush, these emotions can dominate your thoughts and senses. But because there is such a strong flow of emotional energy, it can become too easy for these positive feelings to suppress and overshadow any significant concerns, limitations, or differences that may be trying to surface. Look closely at these "signals", as they may be red flags for long term compatibility. Overall, there will always be areas that lack a perceived best fit, and many of these will become some of your best growth opportunities. However, some of these mismatches can stretch too far and eventually cripple your relationship.

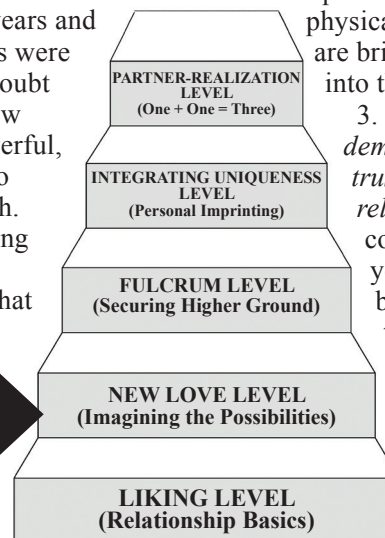
2. Beginning Intimacy expresses the need to continue sharing with our partner, but at a deeper and more emotionally intimate level. This stage marks the start of a journey in which you begin sharing some of your innermost thoughts and expressions. The dreams you both wish upon start to commingle along the lines of a single path, signifying you are beginning to intertwine your future with theirs and picturing how they can

be part of bringing your life intentions into reality. This is a crucial first step toward building true intimacy in the relationship. At this level, intimacy will start manifesting through heart to heart conversations, romantic expressions, and increased physical closeness. All in all, you are bringing yourself more out into the "open".

3. Outward Commitment demonstrates the need to trust and depend upon the relationship. As this stage continues to develop, you outwardly grow to become a "couple". You typically spend more time together and are becoming integrated with each other's friends and family. Symbolic gestures may be given or exchanged indicating this more

formal commitment (engagement/commitment ring, jewelry, etc.). Your thoughts, actions, and even decisions begin to move in the direction of considering your partner. There still may be some lingering fears and hesitations that a full commitment is the right choice. This may generate thoughts like *are they really right for me? I wish they would be more of this or less of that.* But some may have everything to do with your own personal fears. Thoughts may loom of *am I really ready? Could the grass be greener? Will I get hurt?* However, despite any possible reservations or jitters, you continue to move forward.

4. Chemistry represents the need for a unique and deep attraction to our partner—one that transcends the physical realm. A strong attraction at an emotional, mental, intellectual, or spiritual level constitutes the elements of chemistry. These are the layers that go well beyond just the physical and sexual. Chemistry is an internal magnetism. It demonstrates the underlying "pull" you have toward the intriguing dimensions of your partner. This inner attraction creates a powerful stimulus as your dynamics mingle and interact. Ample chemistry automatically raises the energy



## HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT TRUE... FACTS ABOUT PENCILS!

With September being the month when many children return to school after summer vacation, here are some little known facts about that school staple, THE PENCIL

Pencils can write in zero gravity, and were used on space missions by American and Russian astronauts. They can also write under water.

Before the invention of erasers, writers and artists used bread crumbs to erase mistakes.

Earnest Hemingway and John Steinbeck both used pencils to write their novels.

Thomas Edison had pencils specially made so that they were thicker than regular pencils.

It is said that the average pencil can draw a line 35 miles long, although this has never been tested.

Pencil marks are made when tiny graphite flecks, often just thousandths of an inch wide, stick to the fibers that make up paper.

More than half of all pencils come from China. In 2004, factories there turned out 10 billion pencils, enough to circle the earth more than 40 times.





levels within intimate relationship. That makes it a very powerful factor. Much of this inertia is generated at an unconscious level, meaning there is little to no conscious effort required. Quite literally, it then becomes a reservoir of free “perpetual” energy. This is a great boost at any time, and especially during the lull and difficult times that may crop up as the relationship further develops.

5. *Passion exhibits the need for our love life to have stronger and more special energy than our other relationships, career, or outside interests.* Fortunately in this stage, it normally abounds in high gear, and can run for extended periods on the adrenaline flowing from your feelings of attraction and affection. Passion though goes well beyond just what you feel affectionately or sexually. It also means you have enthusiasm, desire, and strong feelings for many other aspects of your relationship—the relationship as a whole. If passion is too one-sided as in only for physical pleasures, it will too easily weaken. Its energies should also be allocated for exploring your chemistry and the many other relationship dimensions you potentially share.

6. *Romance expresses the need to feel specially loved by our partner.* The intimacy, passion, and sweetness that develop during this level can easily sweep you off your feet. So much attention to give and to receive and so many pleasures to experience. Shared hopes and dreams start creating a deeper connection and understanding of one another. Physically your body is releasing more “feel good” hormones, mentally your thoughts are consumed by this new love, and emotionally you are captivated by all you are feeling. This is all good, but the “heightened euphoria” isn’t meant to be permanent. Romance is like a rocket booster. It provides the energy and momentum to overcome any initial relationship fears such as change, opening up, feeling vulnerable, commitment, compatibility concerns, all the what ifs, etc.—launching your love into the more steady orbit required for transitioning to the long term. Keep in mind, romance is a component of love, not its nucleus.

7. *Affection fulfills the need to satisfy physical closeness with our partner.* Becoming physically close with your partner usually draws in much energy and passion. This can unleash quickly like an avalanche,

or slowly escalate and occur later in the relationship. Affection builds up from the attraction, chemistry, intimacy, and romance factors that have been developing since your initial courtship in the liking phase. When it reaches the “tipping point” for sex to enter is a very personal choice, and all depends upon you and your partner’s dynamics and perspectives. While passionate sex can be very exhilarating, for some it becomes a disproportionate “center stage”, taking away from other relationship building factors, and becoming a substitute for true emotional intimacy (especially for men). When this happens, instead of sex becoming an enabler for further relationship development—it becomes a disabler that helps maintain emotional distance.

8. *Shared Beliefs satisfy the need for an expanding common ground of one another’s deep convictions.* A solid base of collective beliefs creates a mutual foundation to fall back on as you continue exploring each other’s values. As your intimacy grows, there will be more and more sharing of the viewpoints that you hold dear. These are conveyed through spiritual or religious preferences; the priority of love, relationship, possessions, career, and interests; how to best raise children; the importance of learning and nurturing interests; as well as other significant facets of how to ideally live a life. Balance is key. Too much sameness will have a dulling effect since there will be minimal learning (growth) due to lack of divergence. Too much diversity can cause excessive strain and tension by constantly pushing one another out of your comfort zones. Pay extra attention to this area, as significant belief misalignment can eventually crumble relationship underpinnings.

9. *Complementary Differences reflect the need for our partner to be different in ways that we find appealing.* While overlapping similarities and interests hold a relational foundation together, it is the favorable differences between you and your partner that can be the most stimulating. Complementary differences add positive energy and open your eyes to different activities and points of view, whetting your appetite to try new and different things. These contrasts feel good because they’re pulling you from an old direction and into one you would like to explore, providing new experiences and perspectives that feel safe and

enjoyable. Keep an open mind when evaluating these differences, and take advantage of those that will help you grow in a positive direction.

10. *Playfulness signifies the need for lightness in our relationship, helping to offset how serious our daily routines and life can sometimes be.* Having fun and feeling happy go hand in hand with new love. Its energy creates a lightness, relieving much of the weight burdened on your shoulders. The ability to interject a sense of humor is invaluable, especially during moments of tension and stress. A good joke and laugh can be very therapeutic. When arguments arise, well timed humor can serve as a catalyst, initiating the first domino to fall—subsequently leading the walls of disagreement and bickering to come tumbling down. These energies of playfulness are fed by the emotions, chemistry, affection, and passion you share.

11. *Potential displays the need to imagine and aspire to the inherent possibilities our relationship may hold.* Thoughts of a promising future together cross your mind repeatedly. The mingling of the “possibilities” between you and your partner now

enter into the realm of “probabilities”. It’s fun and healthy to visualize and dream, and new love provides abundant opportunities for this. However, possibilities can only be realized when there is ample alignment between each partner’s aspirations. Usually, the closer dreams come to earth, the more detailed they become. The better you can delve into and articulate the meshing of your personalities, strengths and weaknesses, beliefs, and so forth, the more likely your potential will come to fruition. Every couple realizes their relationship will eventually come down from the clouds. However, accurately recognizing what the landing will look like—will help make certain you want to remain on the flight.

Remember, even though the adrenaline rush of new love eventually tapers off, it’s the sparks that were created here that will provide the footings and fuel to enter love’s next level.

Thanks for reading! Please send any questions to [land1equal3@gmail.com](mailto:land1equal3@gmail.com).

In our next column, we will take a closer look at the Fulcrum Level, and why it can be so difficult. 🌱



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## How to Get an 'A' in Back-To-School Shopping



Melanie Duquesnel

Class is almost back in session and to your kids, shopping for new clothes, gear and school supplies may be the only good thing about going back to school, but that doesn't mean you have to spend a fortune every year. BBB advises consumers on how to not get caught up in the hustle and bustle.

### Learn BBB's ABC's of back-to-school shopping:

**Assess needs.** Take an inventory of what children already have and what is still needed; reuse if possible.

**Budget.** Make a shopping list and stick to it; avoid impulse purchases and place "needs" over "wants."

**Check grades.** Visit [bbb.org](http://bbb.org) to find BBB Business Reviews on reliable local retailers.

### Some Other Tips:

**Make a shopping list.** Even if you don't have a school supply list, you can still purchase other items like school clothing and in-class school essentials such as pens, notebooks and backpacks. For some items, it's worth spending a bit more (a high quality backpack will last for years).

**Create a budget.** Do a quick price search online for the items on your list and add them all up. Be sure to clip coupons, and make note of discount codes and any cash-back or rebate programs. If your goal is to reduce spending, now is the time to decide how much you want to cut.

**Sign up for email alerts at your favorite stores.** Many sites will have an informed community of savvy shoppers on their blogs or in their forums who willingly share deals, coupons and insider information on the best prices and products. These alerts mean you don't miss out on limited opportunities.

**Ask about returns and refunds.** When buying new gear, ask the store about its return policy and always keep the receipts. Keep in mind some stores charge restocking fees. Make sure you know the policy before you buy.

**Ask about the warranty.** How long is it in effect and what does it cover? Weigh the pros and cons of an extended warranty plan.

**Don't be fooled by misleading bargains.** Back-to-school sales may not be the bargains they appear to be. Read ads and coupons; conditions, timeframes and restrictions must be listed. If an offer is misrepresented, see the store manager.

**Shop smart online.** Find out the physical location and phone number of the merchant. Be familiar with delivery/shipping costs and time schedules, feel comfortable that the merchant is reliable and not the subject of an unusually large number of consumer complaints, and when you're checking out, verify that the process is secure by looking for "https" or the lock symbol in the address bar of your browser before you provide any personal or payment information. If it's not secure, shop elsewhere.

**If your child is in the market for a computer, BBB recommends doing your research:**

- Determine what your child's needs will be.
- What is the computer going to be used for: word processing, graphic/web design, gaming?
- Determine what type of hardware and software will be required.
- Find out what you have to do if the computer breaks down.
- Check out the warranty on the computer.
- Call your school or university and ask what the school's requirements are and what other students in the class use. 🍀

*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](http://www.bbb.org).*

# HOUSE FOR LIFE

By Paul Welch

ThumbPrint News Columnist

In all of my articles, I make sure to remind you to know your limits and hire someone when needed. The problem is that there are many options when it comes to hiring someone to do work on your home. There are people advertised on TV, to the cousin of a friend who can give you a great price. With all of these options, it is good to weigh your options carefully to save you from regrets later. Here are some tips for hiring the right person for the job.

**Bidding Wars** – When hiring a professional, cost is always a concern. It can be expensive to hire and you want to make sure you are not being overcharged for doing the same work. It is important to contact more than one recommended professional and get quotes for the job so you are getting the best price. Don't go with anyone who pressures you to hire them that day. At the same time, price alone should not be a deciding factor.

**Too Good to be True** – Sometimes a friend may tell you that his cousin or buddy can do the job cheaper and save you some money. This sounds good, but I will warn you to be wary of this situation. If the person is licensed and insured, it is a good start because it protects you as the customer. The only problem is that you have no way of checking to see if this person is reputable and has many satisfied customers. If the deal goes south, it could also put a strain on the friendship. It is best to go with someone who has a good reputation among his or her customers.

**I've Heard About You** – There are so many resources available that all it takes to find a reputable professional is just a little bit of homework. There are websites with customer feedback that you can check. Your local lumberyard

or home center (not the big box stores) who deal with these professionals and homeowners daily, can often give good recommendations. At work I have a list of trusted painters at my counter so I can suggest a few to any customer who asks. Friends who have hired someone are a good source because they can let you know who they have hired who has done a good job. Your best professionals will rely on word of mouth to get more work. They understand that their work is their reputation and will stand by it.

**Honesty is the Best Policy** – Any job has the potential for hidden costs. A remodel can reveal unknown problems and that may increase the price of the job. Trustworthy professionals will be up front with you about what will be involved in order to reduce any surprises. When you find a trustworthy professional, it becomes a relationship you can rely on for years to come. When you find an honest professional who does great work at a fair price, help them out by telling others who are looking for the same service.

I hope this article helps you avoid being ripped off or taken advantage of. If you do your homework thoroughly, you will find the professional who will treat you right and that you can trust. I hope everyone has a safe Labor Day. Remember that fall will be here soon and it will be time to prepare for winter. If you have any comments or questions send them to [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net) and I will reply in a timely manner. 🍀

*Editor's note: Paul Welch has 16 years of experience working in retail hardware and has been trained and has learned much about home improvement, maintenance and repair. He currently is employed by LumberJack and runs their paint department.*

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ThumbPrint News



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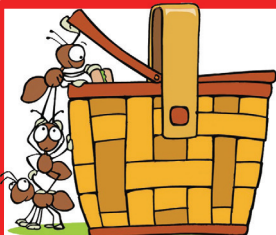
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## The Love of Labor

By Patricia Cosner Kubic

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Last year at a Labor Day picnic, I heard my friends excitedly tell me how happy they were to have an additional day off from work. At the annual September picnic, the extra skip in their step wasn't hard to miss.

One of my friends is an attorney; another is a well respected teacher. One friend earns what I assume to be oodles of income; the other devotedly spends her days doing a labor of love.

But, they got me thinking: what about the love of labor?

I understand their giddy reactions to Labor Day. They both work hard and certainly have earned an extra day off. But, despite some current reports, there are still far too many people who are still looking for that elusive full time job - the job that can actually cover all the bills, not just the "it'll do for now" job. Not surprising, their take on Labor Day is a bit different. It is disappointing to feel like you haven't earned that three day weekend that tops off the summer. Having been there, I can tell you that this particular disappointment lingers long after getting home from the picnic.

To job seekers, each weekday morning it seems like the entire world goes off into some distant work vortex that you are not invited to. You feel left out and the only way back in, it seems, is to scan endless lists of jobs on the internet. When you are out of work long enough, you get to the point that you define a good day by the number of jobs you applied for. All you want to do is get back to work; and, if you are like me, you might even miss being tired after a hard day's work.

As odd as it sounds, you miss doing labor. And, that makes celebrating Labor Day a tricky thing.

The love of labor looms within many of us, especially in my town - a town whose labor built the car and quite literally helped to win that second huge war. Labor is exactly like other things we take for granted; when we don't have it or don't do it, we realize how necessary it actually is. And, then we immediately miss it.

But with any luck, all the job seekers out there have cheerleaders who regularly and preciously assure them that getting a job offer is an eminent part of their future if they just keep at it. They earnestly remind you that you are making vital contributions even if it isn't done with dollars and cents. And, as hard as it can be to see that and to honestly feel that, they are right.

Labor Day, 2016, is only a little more than 365 or so days away. Right now, that date sounds lost in another far off vortex, especially if it's been a while since you celebrated Labor Day. But the truth is, a lucky break can happen in one single, simple day. We know this because it happens every day to someone who didn't stop trying and never gave up hope - even on those days when they wanted to just chuck it and give up.

And, because that hope is real and true, next year it wouldn't surprise me a bit to see a lot more people skipping around in early September celebrating labor, but also looking forward to getting back at it on Tuesday. 🍀





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**AMISH IN THE THUMB**

Continued from Page 6

The Amish in Michigan, as most elsewhere, do accept medical care, vaccinations, etc. They pay taxes and will ride with others in motor vehicles as necessary, such as in an emergency. The self-employed members are expressly exempt from Social Security and Medicare taxes. However, if employed by others or if they themselves employ nonmembers, then those taxes are imposed.

As the Thumb traveler motors past Amish homes, he/she will probably see no electric lines leading to the house or to the barn. Their refusal to electrify in order to maintain milk at government designated cool temperatures has cost the Amish rewarding markets such as PET, but now they can sell promptly to cheese plants without such a requirement.

The Amish in the Thumb do engage in commerce with their "English" neighbors. Those who have hired Amish carpenters



have been well satisfied with the work. Plain, unpainted Amish furniture is in high demand, found at shops throughout the Thumb. Amish baked goods receive grand accolades as well. Country View Bulk Foods on Germania Road just north of Sandusky in Sanilac County, Michigan, is one of the Amish's commercial enterprises.

Although the customs of the Amish people in the Thumb of Michigan may differ from "The English", and at times viewpoints may be at odds with others in the community, they contribute to the "melting pot" of our great nation. As Gertrude Huntington states in her book, *Amish in Michigan*, published by Michigan State University in 2001, "The Amish increasingly contribute to Michigan's diversity, adding to the rich texture of cultures." We are fortunate that at least some groups of Amish have chosen to call the Thumb of Michigan their home. 🌱



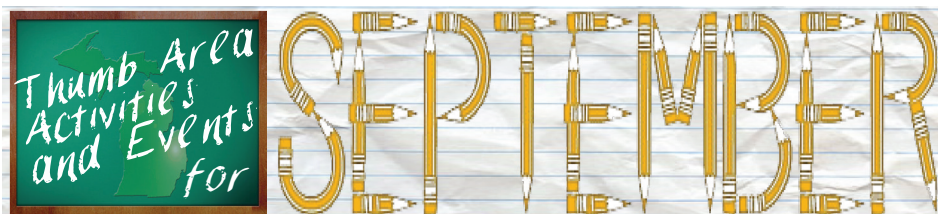
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If you have an event in October that you would like listed in the October issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net) by September 12, 2015. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space 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 for the month of September. If you would like to see your county's event for October included, please submit it to [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net) no later than September 12, 2015.

## Huron

**Port Austin - September 5**  
**"Bats of the World", Huron County Nature Center**, Loosemore Rd., 10:30 a.m. The Organization for Bat Conservation will have live bats on hand to teach us about these nocturnal wonders and their beneficial effects on the environment. For more information call (989) 551-8400 or visit [www.HuronNatureCenter.org](http://www.HuronNatureCenter.org).

**Bad Axe - September 19**  
**Tip of the Thumb Dancers**, Huron County Senior Center, 150 Nugent Rd., potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m., dancing from 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Admission \$5. Cancellations on WLEW and WMIC radio. Bring finger foods and friends. Entertainment provided by Lighthouse Three. For more information call Jerry at (989) 269-6348.

**Port Austin - September 19**  
**Annual Fall Dinner**, Loosemore Rd., 6:00 p.m. Enjoy a delicious catered meal in the Nature Center Community Room and afterward Al and Dave Eicher will present "Lumbering Days and Camp Life in Michigan". Tickets are required. For more information call (989) 551-8400 or visit [www.HuronNatureCenter.org](http://www.HuronNatureCenter.org).

## Lapeer

**Dryden - September 4, 11, 18 & 25**  
**Euchre Tournament**, Dryden Vets Hall, 4223 S. Mill, 8:00 p.m. \$10 to play; no partner is needed. Players can bring additional players. Snack food is available. 50/50 raffles and more. For more information call (810) 796-3746.

**Almont - September 8**  
**Almont/Dryden Seniors Potluck Lunch and Program**, Almont Lions Club, 222 Water St., noon. For more information call Dan at (810) 798-8321.

**Lapeer - September 11**  
**Labor Day Dance**, Lapeer County Community Center, 880 S. Saginaw St., 8:00 p.m. Cost \$9. For more information call (248) 228-4876.

**Almont - September 12**  
**Almont Lions Euchre Tournament**, Almont Lions Club, 222 Water St., doors open at 6:00 p.m., play starts at 7:00 p.m. \$15 donation includes prizes and food. For more information call Dan at (810) 798-8321.

## Macomb

**Richmond - September 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 18, 19 & 20**  
**Richmond Community Theatre Production of *The Music Man***. Richmond Community Theatre, 69619 Parker St., 8:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, 2:00 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets: adults \$17, seniors and children \$12. This is the start of our 50<sup>th</sup> season! For more information call (586) 727-1973 or email [upnorthtwo@earthlink.net](mailto:upnorthtwo@earthlink.net).

**New Baltimore - September 5 & 6**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Annual "Art on the Bay" Fine Arts & Crafts Show**, 36300 Front St., 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Features paintings, photography, pottery, metal works, fibers, mixed media, etc. Food and beverages, including wines and craft beers, are available for purchase. For more information visit [www.artonthebay.com](http://www.artonthebay.com).

**New Baltimore - September 6, 13, 20 & 27**  
**New Baltimore Farmers Market**, Washington St. in the heart of downtown, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Features fruits, vegetables, baked goods, homemade salsas, jams, etc. and a variety of other locally made products. For more information contact Donald at [ldhuff1231@att.net](mailto:ldhuff1231@att.net).

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**Memphis - September 8**  
**Woman's Life Chapter 855**, 6:30 p.m. Bring a friend and join us. See how being a part of something special can change the way you feel about yourself and your community. For more information on the location of the meeting call (810) 392-5136.

**New Baltimore - September 14**  
**Beginning of New Baltimore Interfaith Choir Rehearsals**, Christ the King Lutheran Church, 29920 23 Mile Rd., 7:00 p.m. No fees. No audition. Choir was founded in 1966. Christmas concert is on Sunday, December 6, 2:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, New Baltimore. For more information and to be a part of history call Director Bette Carrothers at (586) 725-8051.

**Memphis - September 26**  
**Memphis Lions Euchre Tournament**, Memphis Lions/Youth Center, 34758 Pratt Rd., 7:00 p.m. There will be snacks and drinks available. Top three players will be awarded prizes. \$10 donation requested. Please make this a success - it is for a very good cause. For more information contact Frank at (810) 392-3717 or [fravis53@comcast.net](mailto:fravis53@comcast.net).

**New Baltimore - September 26 & 27**  
**Radiant Beings "Living Well" Expo**, VFW Hall, 35011 23 Mile Rd., 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. Per day admission: \$5. Free raffle, free presentations. For more information email [radiantbeings0112@gmail.com](mailto:radiantbeings0112@gmail.com).

## Oakland

No events were submitted for Oakland County for the month of September. If you would like to see your county's event for October included, please submit it to [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net) no later than September 12, 2015.

## St. Clair

**Kimball - September 4, 11, 18 & 25**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Farmer's Market, Flea Market and Arts & Crafts Market**, 4521 Ravenswood Rd., 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Price is still only \$10 per parking space outside for vendors. Our concession stand will also be available for your convenience. For more information call (810) 364-6800 or (810) 824-7435.

**Yale - September 6 & 13**  
**Yale VFW Flea Market**, 4 W. Mechanic St. A large variety of items including rummage sale merchandise, craft show items, jewelry, baked goods, sporting goods, and much more is available. Food, beverages and sweet treats can also be purchased. Please join us as a seller or buyer - proceeds from table rental support the VFW. Tables rent for \$15 for the first and \$5 for each additional. For more information call Mark at (810) 334-3799.

**Goodells - September 7**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Annual BlueChiliGrass Festival**, Goodells County Park, 8345 County Park Dr., 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Featured will be eight hours of continuous music with a variety of genres and a chili cook-off from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. by eight Blue Water area chefs and caterers. Tickets for sampling will be available for 25 cents for each sample. Winners will be announced at 6:00 p.m. Artisan booths and displays will also be featured, as well as a variety of food vendors. \$1 admission, with ages 12 and under admitted free. Attendees should bring chairs or picnic blankets. Food and refreshments may also be brought. For more information contact [bluechilisue@yahoo.com](mailto:bluechilisue@yahoo.com).

**Port Huron - September 10**  
**100 Men: Big Toys for Big Boys**, Blue Water Convention Center, 500 Thomas Edison Parkway. This is the region's best opportunity to get men





together to socialize, talk about what's important in our communities, and raise a lot of money for a randomly selected program, project or organization. (Each guy that attends gets to nominate his own favorite local program, project or organization to win at least \$10,000 again this year.) Tickets are \$100 and you can find out more information, register and buy your tickets at <http://stclairfoundation.org/>.

**Fair Haven - September 12**  
**St. Peter Lutheran Church Cemetery Walk**, 6745 Palms Rd., 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Take a horse drawn carriage ride and learn what transportation was like for our ancestors. Our grave diggers will be giving a demonstration of grave dowsing. On your walk through time you will learn about the families buried there, with some of the graves having a descendant of that family standing on the grave and telling his or her story. Additional activities include a wedding gown display, tour of church and lunch. Call (810) 765-8161 or (810) 794-3894 for a tour time; space is limited so call right away.

**Kimball - September 12**  
**Kimball Township Big Fall Extravaganza**, corner of Wadhams and North River Rd., 4:00 p.m. - ? Free entertainment includes inflatables for kids, music, games, crafters, radio controlled airplane demo, Indian powwow entertainers, Kimball Fire Department demo "Jaws of Life" and a movie at dusk with free popcorn and bottled water. Food concessions will be on the ground as well. For more information email [greenbarnwinery@hotmail.com](mailto:greenbarnwinery@hotmail.com).

**Port Huron - September 14**  
**First Session of Widowed Care**, Colonial Woods Christian Counseling Center, 1101 Military St., 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. This is a group for processing grief in a supportive environment. Group will run for 10 weeks on Mondays. To register or for more information call (810) 984-5575.

**Emmett - September 17 - 19**  
**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Indoor/Outdoor "Junque and Treasures" Sale**, 10828 Brandon Rd., 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. - noon on Saturday. We will have

something for everyone! Lunch, bake sale and farmers market (fresh daily) as well. Donation drop offs are Saturday, September 12 to Tuesday, September 15, from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For more information call Darlene at (810) 384-1786.

**Casco - September 19**  
**Perch Point Conservation Club 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Elimination Raffle**, 7930 Meisner, doors open at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m., raffle at 7:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Only 199 tickets sold! First ticket and every 10<sup>th</sup> ticket will win from \$100 to \$190. Donation of \$100 includes dinner and drinks for two. For tickets call Bob at (586) 917-5796, Dana at (586) 484-9175, or stop by Adair Grain and Feed, 3536 Palms Rd., Casco.

**Columbus Twp. - September 19 & 20**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Studio in the Pines Art & Craft Show**, 1244 Bauman, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., rain or shine. With over 50 vendors, there is something for everyone. Alpacas, artists, jewelry, wood décor, wood burners and carvers, glass, foods, teas, candles, soaps, birdhouses and much more. For more information call (586) 727-9966.

**Port Huron - September 21**  
**First Session of the GriefShare Support Group**, Colonial Woods Christian Counseling Center, 1101 Military St., 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. This is a support group for those who are grieving a loss due to death. For more information or to register call (810) 984-5575.

**Port Huron - September 23**  
**St. Clair County History Group**, Port Huron Museum, 1115 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. There will be a round table discussion on genealogy subjects such as stumbling blocks, troubles you may be experiencing in your search and brick walls. If you are just beginning genealogy this is a good starting place to meet others who have both knowledge and experiences to share. You do not have to be a member to attend. You may visit our programs as a guest or become a new member of the group. For more information visit <http://www.rootsweb.com/~miscfhl/> or call (317) 600-7813.

**Kimball - September 27 - October 27**  
**St. Clair County International Airport Slogan Contest**. Judges are seeking a slogan that is original, creative and memorable. It should also be trendy or catchy, generate positivity and communicate a key benefit of our community. Winner will be selected by the Airport Aeronautics Board and if chosen will win a free 30-minute flight. Mail your entries to 177 Ash Drive, Kimball, Michigan, 48074 or email it to [phnairportdirector@gmail.com](mailto:phnairportdirector@gmail.com).

**Port Huron - September 27**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Alzheimer's Walk**, Vantage Point River Walk entrance, 51 Water St. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. and walk begins at noon. Cost to participate is \$25 before September 7<sup>th</sup> or \$30 after the early registration deadline. Individuals who register before September 7<sup>th</sup> are guaranteed a free event t-shirt. Registration for children age 17 and under is \$7 with a t-shirt or free without. To register online go to [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com). For more information call Marcy at (810) 966-7814.

**Smiths Creek - September 27**  
**St. Clair County International Airport Wings, Wheels and Watercraft Airport Appreciation Day**, 117 Ash Dr., 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Static displays. Pancake breakfast 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., adults \$6, children \$3. Young Eagles Flights, free plane rides for youth ages 14 - 17 (parental permission required and weather permitting). For more information call (810) 364-6890.

**Sanilac**  
**Sandusky - September 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 September 12, it is our hot dogs (club provided) and blue jeans night and entertainment will be by Lighthouse Three. On September 26, entertainment provided by The Natural Tones (TNT).

**Port Sanilac - September 15**  
**Presentation by Local Genealogists and Historical Society Members**, Jolene Fischer and Ella Klein, Sanilac County Historical Village and Museum, Museum building rear, 228 S. Ridge St., 7:00 p.m. For more information call (810) 710-1680.

**Croswell - September 19**  
**Harvest Music Festival**, downtown area, 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Live music

all day, kids' zone, cornhole tournament, donut eating competition, food vendors and much more. Free - join the fun! Find us on Facebook for schedules and more events. For more information contact [jeremyjmcclellan@gmail.com](mailto:jeremyjmcclellan@gmail.com).

**Deckerville - September 19**  
**Oktober Fest**, Main St., 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Fun for everyone. For more information call Angie at (810) 404-3373.

**Port Sanilac - September 19**  
**House in Mourning and Walking Tour of Port Sanilac Cemetery**, Sanilac County Historic Village and Museum, 228 S. Ridge St., 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For more information visit [www.sanilaccountymuseum.org](http://www.sanilaccountymuseum.org) or call (810) 622-9946.

**Deckerville - September 26**  
**28<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Heritage Day**, Reid Music and Event Hall, 4028 Ruth Rd., 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Features the lives of Indian men. Indian archaeologists from across Michigan will show their private collections and will detail uses of the artifacts on display. Several of the collectors are Native American and can authenticate any items you may wish to have them see. A potluck luncheon will be held at noon and everyone is welcome to attend - just bring a dish to pass. Several presentations and programs will take place throughout the day. \$3 for adults and \$1 for ages 5 - 12. Under 5 is free. For more information call Joyce at (810) 376-6695 or (810) 404-4028.

**Tuscola**  
**Cass City - September 27**  
**(rain date of October 4)**  
**Elkland Township Cemetery Walk**, Elkland Township Cemetery, 6897 Cass City Rd. The purpose of the walk is to educate area residents about the lives of the people who contributed to the business, academic, spiritual, civic and other aspects of the local culture. Local actors become storytellers at the graves of past residents. The day is a walk through time with 5 - 7 minute one-person, one-act plays. Tours available at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and all proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. May sell out! For more information or tickets call Kate at (989) 872-2856 or (989) 912-9702.

**Wayne**  
 No events were submitted for Wayne County for the month of September. If you would like to see your county's event for October included, please submit it to [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net) no later than September 12, 2015.



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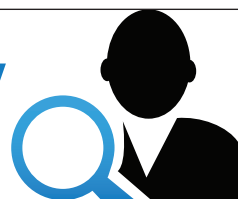
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## Enter Stage Right Finds Permanent Home in the Citadel Stage

Submitted By Regina Spain

Enter Stage Right, a local nonprofit community based theatre established in 2008, is working in partnership with Port Huron Citadel LLC to bring a black box performance venue to downtown Port Huron. The Citadel Stage, set to open in 2016, will be professional quality, accessible and affordable, with the transforming ability to fit multiple event and performance needs.

The Citadel, a renewed pillar of Port Huron's downtown will bring entertainment, education, and enrichment for our area residents and visitors. As Sanctum Contracting restores the beautiful and historic Citadel building, the Citadel Stage will bring life back to the original Salvation Army gym, once an essential part of our town. In the spirit of this space's original goal, it will be used in a variety of ways. During the day, community, youth and education based programs may call the Citadel home. By night, the stage can help charge the downtown atmosphere with the lively experience brought by the performing arts. According to Regina Spain, Executive Director of Enter Stage Right, "The Citadel Stage will offer new possibilities for community, youth and educational programs. Our goal for the Citadel Stage is to collaborate with the other local venues, artists, organizations and businesses to ensure downtown Port Huron as an entertainment destination for residents and travelers alike."

Also instrumental in bringing the project together has been the Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County. David Haynes of the EDA described the project, "This is another example of the continued growth in the downtown, especially in bringing evening entertainment on top of our many restaurants."

For more information or to support the Citadel Stage, visit [www.thecitadelstage.org](http://www.thecitadelstage.org), [gofundme.com/The-Citadel-Stage](http://gofundme.com/The-Citadel-Stage), or "like" us on Facebook.

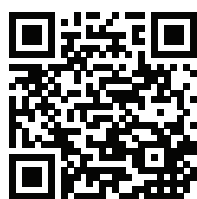
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### Help Wanted

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# THUMBPRINT NEWS CONTEST

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object, place or person for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, go to [www.thumbprintnews.com](http://www.thumbprintnews.com) and enter your answer. Of all persons submitting the correct answer by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 31, 2015, one winner will be drawn out of all the monthly winners and the lucky person will be notified.

In the August 2015 edition, we asked our readers to identify who the following person was (shown here as a young child). Of all of those submitting the correct answer, Alicia Byrd of Flat Rock, Michigan, was randomly chosen to be entered into the year-end drawing. Alicia identified that this young girl was Lucille Ball, one of America's most beloved female comedians. Here are some little known facts about Lucille Ball (1911 – 1989), found during an internet search:



- After her father's death in 1914, from typhoid fever, Lucille was raised primarily by her mother and her stepfather. The family was so poor Lucille couldn't even afford the pencil she needed for school. She would hoard pencils for the rest of her life.
- *I Love Lucy* was the first comedy to be filmed before a live audience. When it aired, department stores closed early and telephone and water usage dropped.
- Lucy and her husband, Desi Arnaz, were the first interracial couple on TV.
- Lucy was also the first woman to be shown as pregnant on TV, although she had to promise the producers to use the word "expecting", rather than "pregnant"!

For our October contest, we are asking our readers to identify what the object to the right is and what it was used for. Remember, go to [www.thumbprintnews.com](http://www.thumbprintnews.com) if you know the answer. **Good luck!**



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# Forgiveness

**By Rennae Hardy**  
*ThumbPrint News Columnist*

Forgiveness is not an act of acceptance, pardon or reconciliation. Forgiveness is a "gift" received by, and benefiting the forgiver through the act of "letting go".

We have all experienced genuine and perceived acts of wrong-doing. Initially, our response is one of anger accompanied by thoughts of retaliation. Eventually, at some time following the immediate impact of the incident, we make the decision to hold on to our anger or release it. Shifting our mindset to "letting go" initiates the "healing" process which is the "gift" forgiveness brings.

Our healing begins gradually as we release each negative emotion attached to the person and/or incident we have chosen to forgive. By letting go we "free" ourselves of the burden and health risks linked to harboring these emotions. We free ourselves from judgment, anger, hatred, grief, resentment and bitterness - to name a few. "Letting go" of these emotions reduces stress and anxiety, as well as minimizing the manifestation of their related health issues, such as heart, respiratory and digestive disorders. Forgiveness is focused on the forgiver and offers an outlet for self-healing.

Our feelings reveal where an act of forgiveness is needed. Memories we recall and/or review generally provide neutral or pleasant feelings. As the observer of a memory, should we find ourselves reliving the moment and re-experiencing indignation or other unpleasant emotions, these feelings suggest that this person and/or incident is in need of our forgiveness.

Creative methods to assist in "letting go" include meditation and candle exercises, writing in a journal, release work and ceremonies, plus purposeful prayer with loving intent. When practicing forgiveness, remember - forgive yourself too. 🌱

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# Shoes - A Necessity or an Addiction?

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist



"That's my dog Tige, he lives in a shoe; I'm Buster Brown, look for me in there too." Do you remember this unforgettable slogan? Most of us over 60 years of age recall the words well as the marketing moniker of the Buster Brown Shoe Company. Originally, Buster was an early 20<sup>th</sup> century cartoon character and his pet canine, Tige, a pit bull terrier. The shoe company adopted Buster and Tige to help sell shoes.

When I decided to focus on shoes for this month's column, Buster and his dog immediately came to mind. In the late 1940s through the mid-1950s it would be difficult to walk into a shoe store and not see the image of the two. I believe I even owned at least one pair of Buster Brown footwear in my early life.

I recently took a look in my closet at the number of shoes neatly arranged side-by-side and thought to myself, "Why do I have all these shoes?" That same observation was greatly magnified when I visited my wife's closet, although I would never verbally express that thought to her. You see, my mother didn't raise me to be so foolish.

My somewhat fixation with shoes may very well relate to the limitation of them in earlier years. I grew up in a family with five children and shoes became an important consideration, especially as school began each September. I know my mother struggled to dress us for the new school year and shoes were at the high-end of the financial outlay. Until we became teenagers, we normally had but two pairs of shoes – the old ones and the new ones. All others were too worn and too small to keep. When arriving home from school each day, the new shoes were to be removed and the old ones took their place. That was the ritual and no questions were asked.

Shoe styles didn't seem to matter much for the under 12-year-old in the 1950s, certainly not like they do now. Footwear manufacturers have since learned to market to the youngster and not the parent, fully understanding that mom and dad will normally respond accordingly. As we moved into our teenage years, how others perceived us became much more important and shoes were an integral part of the perception.

As I recall for teenage girls in the early fifties (I had four sisters), penny loafers, saddle shoes and

even ballet-style slip-ons were popular. For the guys, we, too, found ourselves in loafers much of the time. Then, in the middle of that decade, something happened to and for our feet. I believe television and, in particular, Dick Clark's *American Bandstand* caused us to all begin looking at our feet.

As we watched the cameras pan the dance steps of America's favorite teens, we began to notice change. Previously relegated to physical education classes and known as "gym shoes," the sneaker became fashionable on the dance floor and in school. Until then boy's shoes were made of smooth leather and the color didn't vary much – either black or brown. When Pat Boone introduced everyone to "white bucks" we all, of course, needed a pair. For the really adventurous few, various colors of suede shoes attracted attention.



A fashion statement I attempted to make in about 1957 was with a pair of Thom McAnn "snapjacks", where the shoe's tongue was attached with metal guides or tracts. You would lift the tongue, put the shoe on, and clamp down to close. Of course,

moving metal parts don't wear well, especially with dampness and a rusting effect, which is probably why we don't see them anymore. Now we have Velcro.

So, my thought process suggests that shoes may have been created out of necessity as protection for our feet, but somewhere early in history became an addiction motivated by cultural change. Jealousy obviously played a part in shoe fetishes as well. Men were the first to wear shoes with heels, but who claims a right to them now? It is estimated that the average woman owns 19 pairs of shoes. Is that necessity or an addiction?

As I return to my closet I see moccasins, slippers, a couple pair of tasseled loafers, several pair of canvas slip-ons, two pair of casual walking shoes, four pair of dress shoes in three colors, sneakers or whatever they call them now, sandals and some flip-flops. That's not the full extent of what's there, but is all you'll read about here. Needless to say, there's no room for Buster Brown and his dog Tige in there. Additionally, I won't even venture again into my wife's closet, but, so you will fully realize, will quote Marilyn Monroe who said, "Give a girl the right shoes and she can conquer the world." Based on that statement, Alexander the Great and my wife are equals. 🐭

## ThumbPrint News travels to Bar Harbor, Maine

ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb of Michigan (over 1,000 businesses in nine Thumb counties are now drop locations for the newspaper), but readers have also taken ThumbPrint News with them to many different states and countries (listed on the right on the chalkboard). ThumbPrint News was even seen on television on the *Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and at Walt Disney World in Florida with several of the Disney characters! The newspaper is very well-traveled, having been to all of the seven continents with our readers.

This month we are featuring ThumbPrint News when it travelled to Bar Harbor, Maine, with Scott and Denise Doan of St. Clair, Michigan. Denise is pictured in the photos on the chalkboard on the right. Here is what she had to say about their trip:

On our recent road trip, we went to Bar Harbor, Maine. It is a quaint little town located on the eastern side of Desert Island. It sits right on the harbor and treats tourists to an amazing ocean view. The town has many shops and lots of restaurants where you can satisfy your lobster cravings! This place also offers a number of boat tours where you can see puffins, whales, sharks, learn about lobsters or even go fishing! We were lucky to see seven humpback whales and one basking shark on our tour that took us 25 miles out into the Atlantic Ocean. Minutes from town is Acadia National Park where you can go to the top of Cadillac Mountain and see where it's the first place in the U.S. to see the sun rise. It was a magnificent site to see! We had an amazing time there and hated to leave!

If you are a reader of ThumbPrint News and have taken our newspaper with you on a vacation or to an unusual place – or if you have been able to get a famous person or character to be photographed with our paper, you may submit an email and photo to us at [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net) (jpeg format preferred). Please write a paragraph or so about the photo and include your name, address and phone number. Please be patient as you wait for your photo to appear in ThumbPrint News. When it does appear, we will send you a complimentary copy of the edition. There are many places where ThumbPrint News has not yet been – and lots of famous people to track down. Who will be the next person to help us in our quest?

WHERE HAS YOUR THUMBPRINT NEWS BEEN?




Over  
**5,316,000**  
lobsters are eaten in  
Bar Harbor every year!



THUMBPRINT NEWS HAS TRAVELED TO:  
THESE STATES AK, AZ, CA, FL, GA, HI, IL, MA,  
MI, MO, NV, NM, NY, NC, OH, PA, SC, TX, UT & WA  
& TO THE COUNTRIES AFGHANISTAN, AMERICAN SAMOA,  
ANTARCTICA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, SAUDI ARABIA, BARBADOS,  
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