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Alcona County Review

\$1.25

VOL. 154 No. 1

January 3, 2024 1 Section

Serving Alcona County Since 1877

Harrisville, Michigan 48740

City of Harrisville to receive \$10.3 million

By Mary Weber
Staff Writer

The City of Harrisville received an unexpected gift last month in the form of a \$10.3 million grant to assist with updating sewer infrastructure.

Without the funding, Mayor Jeff Gehring said they would have had to look at raising city water and sewer rates substantially, something that hasn't been done for about a decade.

Gehring has not received the final cost of the entire project yet but expects it to be about \$12 million.

"All sewer lines will be inspected. The project has three main components: the Huron pumping station, the Clark Road station and a total renovation of the holding ponds/lagoons. Most of the infrastructure we are talking about dates to the early to mid-1970s," Gehring said.

He explained there is some ancillary work that needs to be done, but all work should be minimally invasive. "We won't be digging streets up or anything like that. It will include raising all operating components from underground to above ground so we will no longer have confined space and safety issues."

The grant was awarded from the State of Michigan. Gehring believes it was ARPA funding the state had left over. "We started (investigating) this project before COVID-19 shutdowns. We haven't had any major issues with the pumps, but we knew it was coming because of their age. We were looking at a very scary scenario. The work needed to be done and we had no idea where we would get the funding from," Gehring said.

He explained the engineering firm the city was working with, OHM Consultants, assisted with advising the city about the grant.

With the scope of the project being so large, the city does not expect to break ground on it until 2025. It will be meeting to work on details, such as specific pump manufacturers and models, in the coming months.

There is still the matter of coming up with the additional

funding needed to complete the project, but Gehring is optimistic the city will not have to raise rates and said that OHM Consultants is looking for additional grants and means to cover the \$2 million, or more, needed.

"If we do have to raise rates it will be minimal. We hope that doesn't happen. We don't want this to cause people problems. With the general demographic of people on a fixed or lower income in the city, we just don't want that affecting their day-to-day living. This would affect a lot of people. Nobody wants rates raised," Gehring said.



An aerial view of the undeveloped Hull Island property with downtown Oscoda in the background. Photo courtesy of Huron Pines.

Huron Pines secures 42 acres, 3,300 feet of AuSable riverfront for permanent protection

A 42-acre forested tract along the AuSable River near downtown Oscoda is under permanent protection following its recent acquisition by conservation nonprofit Huron Pines.

Known as the Hull Island property, the dynamic parcel is home to mixed hardwood and pine forests, sudden elevation changes and 3,300 feet of river frontage. Along with having high conservation value for wildlife habitat and water quality protection, the historic site holds poten-

tial for recreation.

Huron Pines plans to transfer the property to Charter Township of Oscoda as a public nature preserve.

This venture comes less than a year after Huron Pines completed a similar acquisition of Lake Huron Coastal Preserve—a 145-acre tract and 4,000 feet of coastline—and its transfer in January to Alabaster Township, Iosco County.

According to Heather Huffstutler, development director for Huron Pines, the

urgency to preserve and ensure public access to undeveloped lands has increased as the demand for waterfront real estate continues to grow across the region. Oscoda Township officials reached out to Huron Pines earlier this year for assistance in acquiring and protecting the Hull Island property.

"The permanent protection of Hull Island is a direct result of our vision for conservation driven by engaged and empowered communities," said Huffstutler. "Community leaders who understand the value of protected places and are motivated to achieve this goal are vital to our success as an organization. This latest acquisition gives us the momentum we need to secure a healthy future for land and water across more of Northern Michigan."

Huron Pines closed on the property December 5 for a purchase price of \$325,000. Oscoda Township has applied for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant which, if awarded, will be used to help reimburse Huron Pines for the acquisition.

Huron Pines has no plans to develop public access infrastructure before the transfer to Oscoda Township which is expected to occur sometime in 2024. Guided public

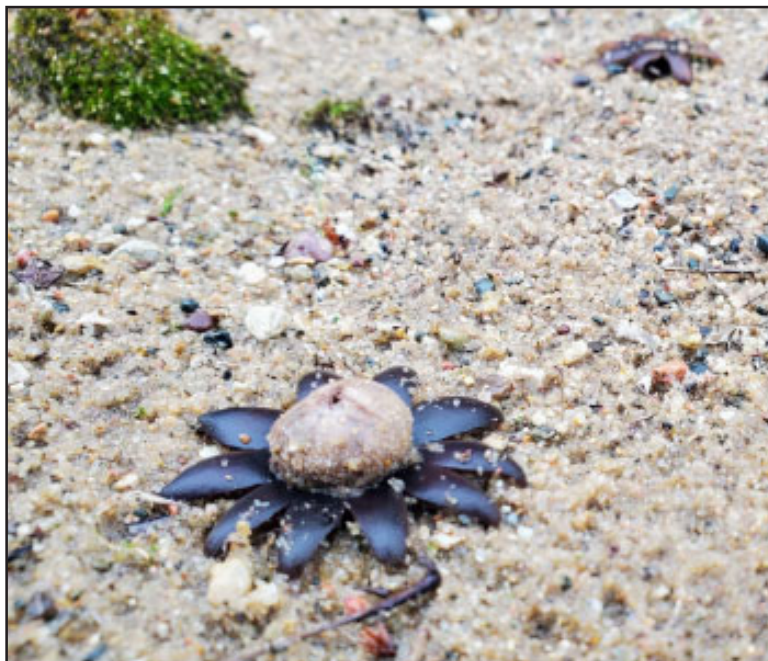
tours and events will be advertised at huronpines.org/events.

Julia Butch is Land Protection Coordinator for Huron Pines and has been working with township officials on the acquisition and transfer. She said the diverse landscape combined with its closeness to Oscoda makes the Hull Island property an ideal place for a public nature preserve.

"The variety of landscapes in a relatively small area paired with elevated views of the AuSable River really enhance the visitor experience, and it's all right in the heart of Oscoda," Butch said. "This has been a great opportunity to work with a community who shares our priorities in conservation and we're opening new possibilities with Oscoda Township."

Along with its recreational and ecological value, Hull Island has historical ties to Oscoda's peak lumber era of around 1870 to 1895.

Fred Glass, president of AuSable-Oscoda Historical Society & Museum, said the island was named after the Hull Ely Mill which stood at the current site of Admiral gas station and the bridge to the island. Finished lumber was stacked on Hull Island



An earthstar puffball fungus rests on the sandy soil of Hull Island. Photo courtesy of Huron Pines.

Continued on page 12



God Bless America

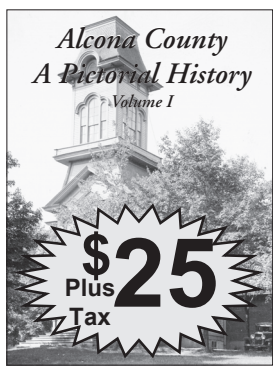


Publications from the Alcona County Review *Crime Beat*



Crime stories taken from the files of the Alcona County Review Available at Amazon.com and the Review Office 111 N. Lake St., Harrisville

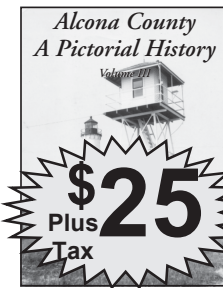
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Alcona County Review

111 Lake Street, P.O. Box 548 Harrisville, Mich. 48740 (989) 724-6384 Toll Free (877) 873-8439 Fax: (989) 724-6655 www.alconareview.com

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PUBLISHED weekly on Wednesday at the county seat of Alcona County. Mailed as periodical class matter at Harrisville, Michigan 48740. (UPS 012-900).

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS are \$28 for residents of Alcona County, \$32 for snowbirds and \$35 for out-of-county subscribers. Rates are based on mailing costs. Online subscriptions are \$25 per year. Subscriptions are not refunded.

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POSTMASTER send address changes to the Alcona County Review, P.O. Box 548, Harrisville, Mich. 48740.

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Correspondence

To the Editor,
I am writing to express my heartfelt appreciation for the wonderful event held on Saturday, Dec. 9 at Mikado's Civic Center, organized by the Mikado Goodfellows Association.

I was in attendance with my daughter and three-year-old grandson. We were touched by the thoughtful planning and selection of gifts for the children. The effort and dedication put into making this event memorable for families in our community did not go unnoticed.

The effort poured into selection gifts for the kids was truly remarkable and the quality of the toys and overall experience exceeded all expectations. It is indeed a generous act to put together an event of this scale for families in our community.

The funds required to organize and execute this event were made possible by the generosity of individuals within the community. We are pleased to witness these funds being reinvested locally for the community's benefit, distinguishing it from other toy programs like Toys for Tots.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the organizers, volunteers, and sponsors who make this event possible. I hope this letter serves as a small token of appreciation for the joy and warmth you have brought to our families.

Pamela Milwrick
Greenbush

Super Crossword

Answers

VET	HUNH	SPITES	BJORN
EGOMANIA	URSULA	FEDON	
NAGURSKI	ROLLIN	LAINIE	
INASPOOF	FCASABLANCA		
	BLAM	YMA	ROTH
PANACEA	ELOT	NUS	ALMS
FEATURING	ANCIENT	GREEK	
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TORA	ION	ABID	STOGIE
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THE	MOST	MEMORABLE	LELINES
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OMANT	REPEAT	INTERCOM	
DENTS	SNARLS	IGOR	ELI

top ten

WORLD'S LARGEST METEORITES

- Hoba West, Grootfontein, South Africa **54.4 TONS**
- Ahnighito (The Tent), Cape York, West Greenland **30.9 TONS**
- Bacubirito, Mexico **27 TONS**
- Mbosi, Tanganyika **25 TONS**
- Agpalilik, Cape York, West Greenland **20.1 TONS**
- Armanti, Western Mongolia **20 TONS**
- Chupaderos, Mexico **14 TONS**
- Willamette, Oregon **14 TONS**
- Campo del Cielo, Argentina **13 TONS**
- Mundrabilla, Western Australia **12 TONS**

Source: The Travel Almanac

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Obituary

Jean M. Beard

Jean M. Beard, 77, of Greenbush, died on Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023, at home.

She was born September 27, 1946, to Robert L. and N. Evon "Bonnie" (Robieson) French in Port Huron City, Mich. She was raised in Footsite.

On September 3, 1966, she married Charles E. Beard Jr. in Oscoda. In 1973 they moved to Greenbush.

Mrs. Beard was a member of St. Raphael Catholic Church in Mikado, and volunteered at St. Vincent DePaul.

A devoted homemaker, she enjoyed tending to her garden, and working on her craft projects, especially crochet. She was an avid reader and loved spending time with her grandchildren.

Mrs. Beard is survived by one son, Charles E. "Chuck" (Amy) Beard III of Harrisville; two daughters, Michelle (Michael) Valentine of Livonia, Mich. and Rebecca "Becky" Zerod of Bay City, Mich.; nine grandchildren, Robert Fraser, Matthew Fraser, Michael Fraser, Andrew Fraser, Elizabeth Fraser, Charles Beard IV, Daniel Beard, Sarah Zerod, and Emily Zerod; six great-grandchildren; four sisters; four brothers; numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles, on October 27, 2017, and by one daughter, Theresa Fraser, on April 14, 1997.

The funeral was held Friday, Dec. 29, at St. Raphael Catholic Church in Mikado. The Rev. Basil Leek officiated. Burial will be in St. Raphael Catholic Cemetery, Mikado.

Arrangements were handled by Gillies Funeral Home, Lincoln.

Local Notes

Senior Menu

The following meals will be served at 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the Lincoln Senior Center, 207 Church Street, Lincoln. Reservations are required by 11 a.m. each day by calling (989) 334-3470.

- Monday, Jan. 8: Corn dogs, French fries, green beans, mixed fruit.

- Tuesday, Jan. 9: Pork roast, mashed potatoes, carrots, salad, banana.

- Wednesday, Jan. 10: Meat loaf, scalloped potatoes, broccoli, Jello.

- Thursday, Jan. 11: Cabbage rolls, buttered noodles, peas, cottage cheese, pineapple.

All meals include milk, bread and butter according to guidelines. Menu is subject to change due to food availability. A donation of \$6 for folks under 60 and \$3 for those over 60 is welcome. For home delivered meals, call by 8 a.m. Monday through Thursday.

Auditions for Comedy

Shoreline Players will be holding auditions to complete the cast for the winter comedy production "Boeing Boeing," by Marc Camoletti.

"Boeing Boeing" is the story of an American playboy Bernard Lawrence as an architect based in Paris, France. He lives with his three fiancées, but none of the women know about the oth-

ers, and this is exactly the way Bernard has designed it. This works just fine as long as their flight schedules bring them home every three days.

Bernard's live-in maid, Berthe, is key in pulling off this ruse, managing three sets of clothing, photographs, bed linens, and food preferences. However, this perfect schedule is bound to run into trouble and soon things begin to unravel.

Auditions will be held at the theater Thursday, Jan. 4 and Friday, Jan 5 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 6 at 2 p.m. Needed to complete the cast of six for this hilarious show are two men ages 20s - 50s, and four women ages 20s - 60s.

No experience is required to audition and no singing either, just a willingness to try something new and have fun. Those auditioning will be reading selected parts from the script which are part of the audition packet that can be found by clicking the link on the Players website, shorelineplayers.org.

The performance dates for "Boeing Boeing" are March 2, 3, 8, 9 and 10. The Shoreline Players Theater is located at 6000 N. Skeel Avenue in the Wurtsmith district next to the Robert Parks Library in Oscoda.

For more information on this production or upcoming events go to shorelineplayers.org, or call (989) 739-3586.

Check out the
Alcona Review Website
www.alconareview.com

For events, local news & much more!



Calendar of Events



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

The Alcona County Baby Pantry is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Raphael Church, 2531 E. F-30, Mikado. Alcona County residents with newborns through age four are eligible and welcome. This is not an income-based program. There is free formula, diapers, toys and new and gently used clothes and shoes. Layettes are available in the eighth month.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

The Community Walking Club for Everyone will meet in the parking lot of the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library at 9 a.m. Call (989) 724-6796 for more information.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

There will be a children's craft activity and story time at 10:30 a.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library. See the library's Facebook page for updates and information about each week's book and craft activity. For information, call (989) 724-6796.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

Forge new friendships, learn to strategize and be creative in the teen-exclusive Dungeons & Dragons Club, which meets from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

It's a potluck of palates and a feast of friendship at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library with the Cookbook Club, which meets at 5 p.m. Select a recipe from January's cookbook, "Six Seasons: A New Way with Vegetables," by Joshua McFadden. Select a recipe, make it and share with fellow club members. For more information, call (989) 724-6796.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

Practice ukulele at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library from 10 to 11:30 a.m. If needed, uku-

les are available for check-out and players of all skill levels are welcome. The ability to read music is not required. For more details, call (989) 724-6796.

Play euchre at the Lincoln Senior Center, lower level, 207 Church Street, Lincoln from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. All seniors are welcome to participate in this free activity.

Alcona County's Golden Grocery Giveaway will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Lincoln Senior Center, 205 Church Street, Lincoln. (If schools are closed due to weather, distribution will be rescheduled.)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

Homeschoolers, seasoned or curious, are invited to the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library from 1 to 2 p.m. to offer inspiration and camaraderie for school-aged children. For more information, call (989) 724-6796.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

The Community Walking Club for Everyone will meet in the parking lot of the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library at 9 a.m. Call (989) 724-6796 for more information.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

There will be a children's craft activity and story time at 10:30 a.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library. See the library's Facebook page for updates and information about each week's book and craft activity. For information, call (989) 724-6796.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

The Curtis Township Library Board of Trustees will meet in the conference room of the Curtis Township Library in Glennie at 10 a.m. For details, call (989) 735-2601.

Forge new friendships, learn to strategize and be creative in the teen-exclusive

Dungeons & Dragons Club, which meets from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

Recycle Alcona County will hold drop off day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the ARA site on Barlow Road in Lincoln. Enter and exit through the north gate. For more information, call (989) 724-5077.

(Editor's Note: Entries for Calendar are always welcome. The deadline is Friday at noon. They will be published in chronological order as space allows. Entries should be turned in at least two weeks prior to the date of the event. Events sponsored by businesses or individuals to make a profit or governmental units for meeting notification are not eligible for this free public service. Sorry, bingo, garage sales, raffle ticket sales, or political campaigning information is not eligible.)

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Americanisms



“First you take a drink, then the drink takes a drink, then the drink takes you.”
—F. Scott Fitzgerald

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Under review: New compound may expand sea lamprey control

By Ben Eiler
Capital News Service

A recently discovered chemical compound that makes it difficult for invasive sea lamprey to find their breeding grounds may be a new tool for controlling a parasite that threatens Great Lakes fish.

Anne Scott, an assistant professor of fisheries and wildlife at Michigan State University, and her research team are creating a new method of sea lamprey control using a newly discovered chemical compound, petromyzonol tetrasulfate – also known as 3sPZS. It is similar to a pheromone that male sea lampreys release in rivers and streams before breeding.

The natural pheromone attracts females ready to breed to the males' nests. But when 3sPZS is released into a river system, females can't find the nests and are unable to breed, Scott said.

Sea lampreys are invasive parasitic eel-shaped fish that have been present in the Great Lakes for over 100 years.

They latch onto the sides of fish with their suction cup-shaped mouth, pierce the fish's skin with their tongue and, after secreting a blood-thinning enzyme, drain the fish's fluids. In the Great Lakes and nearby water bodies, sea lampreys kill 40 percent to 60 percent of their hosts.

A long process lies ahead for the researchers before the new method can be used. Efficacy tests, like those that prescription drugs must undergo, and trial applications in diverse river systems are the next steps of the journey, she said.



Michigan State University assistant professor Anne Scott is testing a new method of controlling parasitic sea lampreys in northern Michigan streams. *Courtesy photo.*

The tests are promising and the new compound seems both safe and effective, Scott said. It will naturally break down in the water and, due to its similarity to the naturally occurring pheromone, it influences only the lamprey.

"Sea lampreys have been present in Lake Ontario since the 1830s," said Marc Gaden, the deputy executive secretary of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. It was not until 1921, after improvements to a canal that connected Lake Ontario to Lake Erie, that the lamprey began to spread uncontrollably. "By 1939 there were sea lampreys in every lake."

Not long after their arrival, the lampreys had a massive effect on the Great Lakes fishing industry. At the height of their populations between the 1950s and 1960s, sea lampreys had reduced the annual pounds of fish caught in the lakes by 98 percent, Gaden said.

That led to a huge effort to control the lamprey population by employing many techniques. Of those, the most effective has been a lampricide, 3-trifluoromethyl-4-nitrophen-ol, also known as TFM, that kills the larvae before they develop into adults and leave the rivers and

streams where they hatched.

Scott described TFM as "the cornerstone of the control program," but said it has limitations. The lampricide requires a strong flow through a river, she said. If there are dams or pools anywhere along the river, the chemical can get trapped, rendering the treatment ineffective. The treatment must be carefully applied to avoid any effect on the native fish populations.

Another management option is using natural or artificial barriers to restrict lampreys from accessing their spawning ground and to reduce their spread into new water bodies. While barriers are quite effective, they may not be a permanent solution, Scott said.

"There is a large push throughout the Great Lakes and beyond to restore connectivity to our systems. In some areas, folks are advocating for removal of barriers," Scott said, but that could lead to increased populations and spread of sea lamprey.

However, according to Gaden, those methods and others have helped managers reduce populations by an average of 95 percent in all the Great Lakes. While experts say that's a huge success, the work is far from over. "The Great Lakes Fishery Commission and its partners spend around \$25 million each year on sea lamprey control to preserve a fishery that is worth over \$6 billion," Gaden said.

"I don't think that there's a control tactic that exists at this point that's a silver bullet," Scott said. The addition of 3sPZS will make it easier "to tailor some of our approaches to certain streams and make sure that we have tactics in place for those more problematic systems."

CEDAR LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Cedar Lake Improvement Board (the "Board") will hold a public hearing to consider the Board's proposed 2024 budget. The public hearing will be held at the Alcona County Building, 106 5th St, Harrisville, MI 48740, in the Commissioner's Room, located in the north end of the lower level on Friday, January 12, 2024, at 10 AM EST.

The Board may not adopt the proposed budget until after the public hearing. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Oscoda Township Clerk's Office, 110 State St. Oscoda MI 48750, and during normal business hours at the Alcona County Clerk's Office, 106 5th St, Harrisville, MI 48740. The budget will also be available for download online on the Oscoda Township web site: <https://www.oscodatownshipmi.gov>

The budget will be found in "Government Departments", select the "Cedar Lake Improvement Board" section, then select "Agendas & Minutes".

Members of the public will be given the opportunity to be heard in person at the public hearing regarding the proposed budget. Members of the public will also be able to listen remotely to the public hearing via Zoom Webinar, see below for access information.

The Board will provide reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities at the public hearing following five (5) days advance notice. Persons with disabilities requiring such accommodations should contact Rex Vaughn, Board Chairman, at 810-516-6686 during normal business hours.

This Notice of Public Hearing is given by:

Rex Vaughn, Chairman
Cedar Lake Improvement Board

ZOOM WEBINAR SERVICE ACCESS INFORMATION:

To listen to the Public Hearing via Zoom Webinar, participants should do one of the following at the time of the meeting:

- Windows & Mac Desktops & Laptops, direct your web browser application to this web site: <https://zoom.us/join> and enter using Webinar ID: 823 6866 1390, Passcode: 849020. Zoom Client required.
- Phone Call (No Video) - Call 312-626-6799 and enter Webinar ID: 823 6866 1390, Passcode: 849020
- For Android and Apple iPhones and Tablets - Download the Zoom app from the Apple App Store or Google Play store prior to the meeting, open the app, and then use Webinar ID: 823 6866 1390, Passcode: 849020

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Only three U.S. states have official domestic state cats: Maine, Maine coon; Maryland, calico; Massachusetts, tabby.



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Closing social media accounts of a deceased loved one, tips on caring for an aging parent

Dear Savvy Senior,
How do I go about canceling a person's social media accounts when they die? My wife passed away a few months ago and her social media accounts are still active.

Sad Spouse

Dear Sad,
I'm very sorry for your loss, but this is a smart move on your behalf and one that often gets overlooked. Social media is part of many people's daily lives, but when a person passes away their dormant accounts can become vulnerable to scammers who can hack into them and even steal your deceased loved one's identity.

Here's a run-down of how you can cancel or change many different social media accounts after a loved one dies.

- Facebook: If your wife used Facebook, you can either "memorialize" or "delete" her account.

A memorialized account serves as a place where family and friends can share memories to celebrate the deceased person's life, with the word "Remembering" shown next to the deceased person's name. Once an account is memorialized, content the person shared is still visible on Facebook to the audience it was originally shared with, however, the user's profile will not show up in public spaces such as people you may know, ads or birthday reminders.

To memorialize your wife's profile simply go to Facebook.com/help/contact/234739086860192.

Or, if you'd rather have her account removed, go to Facebook.com/help/contact/228813257197480.

To memorialize her account requires proof of death (via death certificate, obituary or memorial card), but if you wish to delete the account, you'll also need to verify that you're an immediate family

member, legal representative or executor, unless you're the legacy contact on her account.

- Instagram: The policy on a deceased user's Instagram account is the similar to Facebook's, which owns Instagram. You can either memorialize or remove the account at Help.Instagram.com/264154560391256. But just like with Facebook, you'll need to provide proof of death and relationship to the deceased.

- X (formerly Twitter): To deactivate an X account, go to Help.Twitter.com and type in "How to contact X about a deceased family member's account" in the search bar and follow the prompts.

After you submit your request, X will email you with instructions for providing more details, including information about the deceased, a copy of your ID, and a copy of the deceased's death certificate.

- YouTube and/or Google:

To close these accounts, simply go to Support.Google.com/accounts/troubleshooter/6357590 and fill out their form and upload scans of the death certificate and your ID.

- Pinterest: To remove a Pinterest account, email Care@pinterest.com with the deceased user's account username, proof of death and proof of relationship to the deceased.

- LinkedIn: To remove a deceased person's LinkedIn profile, submit a request at LinkedIn.com/help/linkedin/ask/ts-rdmlp. You'll need to provide the name and URL to the profile; the relationship you have to the deceased; the email address; date of passing; and link to an obituary.

- Snapchat: To delete this account, simply login to the account and click "Delete My Account" and follow the prompts.

- Tumblr: Send an email to



Support@tumblr.com requesting to remove the account of the deceased person with their Tumblr username, proof of their death, and proof of your relationship to the deceased.

- If your wife had social media through a company not listed here, go to that company's website for information on how to delete the account.

Dear Savvy Senior,
Where can I turn to for caregiving help? I help take care of my 80-year-old father

and work too, and it's wearing me out.

Worn Out Wendy

Dear Wendy,
Taking care of an aging parent over a period of time – especially when juggling work and other family obligations – can be exhausting. But help and resources are available. Here's what you should know.

Identify Your Needs

To help you determine and prioritize the kinds of help you need, a good first step is

Continued on page 9

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St. Anne, Harrisville Sunday 11 a.m.
St. Gabriel, Black River, Saturday 6 p.m.
St. Catherine, Ossineke Sunday 9 a.m.
Sacred Heart, Oscoda Saturday 4 p.m. & Sunday 9 a.m.
Pastor Fr. Gerald C. Okoli • (989)471-5121 • (989) 724-6713

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• Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.

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Pastor Claire Duncan • haynescommunitychurch.org

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Rev. Al Kersten, Pastor 989-471-5428

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MOST EXPENSIVE HOUSES IN THE WORLD IN 2023

- 1 The Holme, London \$321 Million
- 2 Central Park Tower Penthouse, NY \$250 Million
- 3 Hacienda Canalete, Cartagena, Colombia \$225 Million
- 4 Tarpon Isle, Palm Beach, FL \$218 Million
- 5 Eisner Estate, Malibu, CA \$195 Million
- 6 The Manor, Los Angeles \$155 Million
- 7 Milestone at Meadow Lane, Southampton, NY \$135 Million
- 8 Le Palais Venitien, Cannes, France \$134.83 Million
- 9 Green Gables Estate, Woodside, CA \$125 Million
- 10 Royal Style Mansion, Caesarea, Israel \$109 Million

Source: GOBankingRates.com

Grosbeaks, birdwatchers and other things




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By John Pepin
Michigan DNR

For many people, the days of youth have spurred an interest in all kinds of activities associated with the outdoors.

John James Audubon, famous painter of birds, discoverer of more than 20 bird species and namesake of the ornithological and conservation society, spoke of an affinity with birds from his earliest days.

He has been quoted saying, "I felt an intimacy with them ... bordering on frenzy (that) must accompany my steps through life."

Roger Tory Peterson, father of the nature field guide series that began with "A Field Guide to the Birds" published first in 1934, had a seminal experience with birds in 1919 when he was 11 years old.

Peterson discovered what he thought was a clump of feathers stuck to the side of a tree. Touching the clump, it burst into the living form of a common flicker – an ant-eating woodpecker native to the eastern United States with yellow-colored underwing linings.

The incident critically influenced Peterson's life as, like Audubon, he became a noted bird artist. He was also a writer and a conservationist.

I remember standing in line at Vroman's Bookstore in Pasadena, Calif., waiting to meet Peterson. He was fading by this point, with shocks of white hair cast out of sorts. Seated behind a table in the middle of the bookstore, Peterson graciously autographed my hardcover copy of his 1934 bird field guide.

It was one of those moments that seemed hard to reconcile for me – kind of surreal. Here, in this aged form, was the man who was the creator of this incredible line of famous nature guides I had loved and enjoyed since I was a kid.

Like I would later do during my adolescence and later with album covers, I had spent a great deal of time in my young days through middle school just sitting, studying and staring at the pages of Peterson's bird field guide and other volumes by him on birds, mammals, insects, fishes, wildflowers and so much more.

Holding the man in a place of reverence, I didn't have much to say to him as I recall beyond "thank you."



A northern cardinal and a male evening grosbeak make a fine pair on a cold winter's day in the Upper Peninsula. Photo courtesy of Michigan DNR.

Like Peterson and Audubon, my interest in birds began when I was a young kid. This was before I knew that what I was doing was called birdwatching, but that's exactly what it was and still is for me.

My earliest inspirational moment with birds occurred when I was still in elementary school. In my case, the species that got my attention first was evening grosbeaks; yellow-shafted flickers, as they were called then, weren't far behind.

My mom called me to the picture window in our kitchen to see a flock of about 40 plump birds making curious whistle-like sounds while perched in the big maple tree that overhung our backyard.

The birds were split in their number, with males bright and strikingly marked with yellowish-gold bodies and brownish heads with a dramatic yellow, V-shaped forehead marking.

There were also big patches of white and dynamic black feathers following the shape

of the bird as its form trailed back toward its tail.

As is the case with a lot of bird species – with exceptions for cases like belted kingfishers and phalaropes – the male grosbeaks are colored boldly to help attract mates, while the females are drab in appearance.

Males and females both have thick, white, finch-styled bills made for seed cracking.

The birds landed in the backyard to look for seeds. Startled by something, they flew back up into the tree almost in one coordinated motion. Another moment or two later, they flew off as a group.

That was all it took for me. I had never seen these birds and didn't know what to call them. It wasn't long before I was able to find out they were evening grosbeaks using a hardcover version of Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds from our Carnegie Public Library just down the street.

Though there may have

Continued on page 7



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Evening grosbeaks are social birds that are usually found in flocks. In this image, a group of males are dining together at one of the author's bird feeders. Photo courtesy of Michigan DNR.

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Grosbeaks Continued from page 6

been earlier experiences that I can't recall, this was the moment, seeing and hearing these birds, that I got hooked on learning about the diversity and wonderment of American birdlife.

I would later discover and see black-headed, blue and pine grosbeaks. Later, when I lived at the end of a dirt road in Alger County, local township officials naming the roads to aid 911 emergency dispatchers wanted to know if there were grosbeaks found in the woods where I lived.

Knowing I lived there and my interest in birds, they planned to name the road "Grosbeak Trail," but wanted to be accurate in their naming effort. Though I have since moved away, the road still bears the name.

Evening grosbeaks are found year-round throughout the Upper Peninsula and the northern third of the Lower Peninsula. They are very social birds, attracted to sunflower seeds at bird feeders, especially in wintertime.

During winters of low food resources, evening grosbeaks move from boreal forests farther south than normal into the U.S.

Over the past few weeks, I have become disconcerted to learn that evening grosbeaks were being listed as a declining and threatened bird species in Michigan.

Recently, several Upper Peninsula birdwatchers have reported their first sightings of evening grosbeaks ever this winter at their bird feeders. Apparently, this was one of those "irruptive" winters, when the birds were shifting their location.

According to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, evening grosbeaks are numerous and widespread, but North American Breeding Bird Survey results showed "populations dropped by an estimated 74 percent between 1966 and 2019."

"Because of their irruptive nature, it can be difficult for large-scale surveys to make precise estimates, but a 2008 study of Project FeederWatch data found that the grosbeak's winter range had contracted, and numbers had declined," the Cornell Lab's website stated. "Evening grosbeaks were reported at only half the number of sites, and flock sizes were down by 27 percent, in the early 2000s compared with the late 1980s."

The name adjective "evening" is used in describing these birds with large or "gross" beaks referring to either the bird's general western distribution or in reference to its song sung in the evening.

Until the mid-19th century, evening grosbeaks were rare in eastern North America, according to the Cornell Lab. "...They began expanding eastward, possibly aided by the spread of box elders (which were increasingly being planted in cities), or possibly due to outbreaks of forest insects such as spruce budworm," the lab's website said. "By the 1920s, they were regular winter visitors in New England, and their range expansion peaked in the 1970s



A female, left, and male evening grosbeak are enjoying black-oil sunflower seeds from a bird feeder at the author's home. *Photo courtesy of Michigan DNR.*

and 1980s."

The lab said recent declines are attributed potentially to logging and developments in boreal forests, diseases like West Nile virus or reduced numbers of spruce budworm and other forest insects, in part because of aerial spraying in the U.S. and Canada.

Climate change predictions indicate balsam firs will recede from New England, leading to a disappearance of evening grosbeaks from that region.

Over any lifetime, a series of changes – big and small – are likely to occur.

However, over my lifetime, even in the face of dramatic comebacks of birds like Kirtland's warblers, peregrine falcons and trumpeter swans, the direction of bird populations overall has been decidedly downward.

It seems unbelievable to me that birds like evening grosbeaks – that I have known since the earliest days of my budding bird interests – could one day be gone, but it is undeniably true.

This is something to keep in mind always, that the world is constantly changing all around us, even though on a day-to-day basis it might not seem like much is really moving anywhere, especially when it comes to things like the relative abundance of birds and animals.

That is why there are certain species I intentionally take the time to seek out and find each spring and summer before they leave on their migration routes for the wintertime.

Some of these birds include favorites of mine like black-throated blue warblers, common nighthawks and purple martins.

It's not just birds that are in decline. Little brown bats, once almost a certainty on summer nights, have been deeply affected by white-nose syndrome. Their numbers have recently declined enough to add them to the list of Michigan's threatened species as well.

I have fond recollections of these bats tapping my fishing lines as they flew up and down the creeks and streams after mosquitoes, while I'd fish for trout with the sun inching toward the witching hour.

In my backyard over the past few summers, I now only count bat sightings in the single digits. It's a sad circumstance, a heartache for me that doesn't go away.

It's another reminder to live in the now, appreciate what is here to enjoy today, as tomorrow these things I love and cherish may have flown over the distant horizon never to return – just like Audubon and Peterson.

Birds of a feather gone forever.

(John Pepin is the deputy public information officer for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.)

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Captain is 6 years old, neutered, microchipped, has his Distemper and Parvo vaccines, and has been dewormed. He is good with other dogs and children; no cats! He has an extreme amount of energy and needs an active home that can exercise him properly! He is so handsome and has been tossed around his whole life- he longs for stability and a final home!

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Savvy Continued from page 5

to make a detailed list of everything you do as your dad's caregiver and the amount of time each task takes. Identify the times when you need help the most and which tasks others might be able to do for you.

Then list the types of care needed, such as simple companionship or doing active chores, like shopping or running errands. Once you determine this, here are some tips and places you can reach out to for help.

Care Helpers

If you have siblings or other loved ones close by, start by asking them if they could come and help with specific tasks. And see if friends, neighbors or faith group members could help too.

You also need to check into local resources that may be available. Many communities offer a range of free or subsidized services that help seniors and caregivers with basic needs such as home delivered meals, transportation, senior companion services and respite services, which offers short-term care so you can take an occasional break. Call your nearby Area Aging Agency (800-677-1116) for referrals to services.

There are also a bevy of online services you can use to help you save time on certain chores. For example, online grocery shopping and home deliveries, and online pharmacy medication refills and deliveries. You can also order meal-kits or pre-made meals online through numerous meal service delivery companies and arrange needed transportation with ride sharing services like Lyft or Uber.

Or, if you can afford it, you may want to consider hiring someone a few hours a week to help with things like cooking, housekeeping or even personal care. Costs can run anywhere from \$12 up to \$25 per hour. Care.com or CareLinx.com are two good websites to help you find someone, or you can work with a local home care agency.

Financial Aids

If you're handling your dad's financial chores, make things easier by arranging for direct deposit for his income

sources, and set up automatic payments for his utilities and other routine bills. You may also want to set up your dad's online banking service, so you can pay bills and monitor his account anytime. Or, if you need help, consider hiring a bill paying service like Silver Bills (SilverBills.com), which charges a flat fee of \$150 per month.

BenefitsCheckup.org is another excellent tool to look for financial assistance programs that may help your dad, particularly if he's lower income.

Technology Solutions

To help you keep tabs on your dad when you are away at work or if he lives alone, there are affordable technology devices that can help. For example, there are medical alert systems and smart speakers that help with communication and allow him to call for help if needed. Home video cameras with two-way speakers that allow you to monitor and talk to him when

you're away. Electronic pill boxes that can notify you if he has taken his medications. And to help you coordinate his care with other members of his care team there are websites like LotsAHelpingHands.com.

Other Resources

There are also a number of other organizations you can draw on for additional information like the Family Care Alliance (Caregiver.org), which provides a state-by-state listing of caregiving programs and services; the Alzheimer's Association (ALZ.org/help-support/caregiving) that provides information unique to the challenges of dementia caregivers; and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (Caregiver.va.gov), which offers caregiver support services to veterans and spouses.

(Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, Okla. 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org.)

NOTICE

Alcona Township adopted Ordinance 2023-01 Vegetation and Weeds Control at its December 12, 2023 meeting. The Ordinance is posted at alconatownship.com

Americanisms



"Freedom is never really won. You earn it and win it in every generation."
— Coretta Scott King

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Buggy Rides



Mikado banker has disappeared Was Last Seen In Alpena On Christmas Day

January 3, 1924 ~ Considerable excitement has existed in Mikado and vicinity during the past week over the disappearance of Ralph M. (Pat) Heasty, cashier of the Mikado Bank. Mr. Heasty has been missing since the day before Christmas when he went to Alpena. The following is taken from the Alpena News published Monday:

"Ralph M. Heasty, cashier of the Mikado bank of Sleeper, Merrick & Co., disappeared in Alpena on Christmas night and relatives are now searching the city and county with the aid of the police and sheriff's forces.

The theory of foul play is the only one finding support among the two brothers. Glen and Vere Heasty, who have been in Alpena the past two days seeking clues that might lead to the finding of the missing young man.

Thus far, they have been, wholly unsuccessful, for not a working clue has been uncovered that gives the slightest hint as to what happened to him."

Registered At Globe

He was last seen at the Globe hotel, where he registered Christmas night, but he never slept there that night, nor was he seen about the hotel after he registered.

The brothers believe that he had at least \$100 on his person when he came to Alpena, and probably more. The only theory that has weight with them is that he was way-

laid and robbed.

26 Years Old

The following description of the young man is being circulated throughout the state and nation: Age, 26; weight, 220 pounds; height, five feet, eight inches, wore blue suit with stripes, no vest, khaki shirt, oxford shoes, overcoat and hat.

Came Here In Auto

He was driven to Alpena by a young lad who lives at Mikado, whom he arranged to meet at Harrisville the morning after Christmas. Heasty to go from here to Harrisville by train.

According to the lad, Heasty never put in his appearance, and after waiting for a considerable length of time, he went on to Mikado.

Schmidt cow looks like world beater

Has Nation's Fourth Highest Record Of Its Class

January 3, 1924 ~ The second highest record for seven days butter ever made in Michigan by any cow of any age or breed, has just been completed at Serradella Farm by the junior four year old cow, Eco-Sylv Belle Pietje, who made in seven consecutive days, beginning December 16, 41.204 lbs. butter from 686.2 lbs. milk.

This is the fourth highest ever made by any junior four year old in the entire United States, and since this is but the second calf for the heifer it is believed to be a world's record for a four year old that

has freshened but twice. Some idea of the comparative standing of this cow will be realized when it is taken into consideration that a total of more than one hundred thousand cows that have been tested but twenty-one in that number have produced more butter in seven days than she.

On Christmas day this cow produced 107.7 lbs. milk and is gaining in milk daily. She will be run along for a thirty day and possibly a yearly record. Her progress will be watched with great interest.

Use honey to make anti-freeze mixture

Experiments Prove Value of Novel Method of Fixing Flivver Radiator For Winter.

January 3, 1924 ~ East Lansing, Jan. 1 — Add honey to the list of satisfactory anti-freeze solutions.

Experiments have proved that a dilution of honey with water, half and half, makes an economical and safe cold weather solution for automobile radiators. In fact, this novel "antifreeze" has been used successfully in the Northwest, where temperatures are more severe than they are in Michigan.

"Dark honey, unfit for table use, can usually be bought

for from six to nine cents a pound," says R. H. Celty, bee specialist at the Michigan Agricultural College. "Sufficient honey for a whole winter's anti-freeze solution for a radiator can be made up for about a dollar and a half.

"The honey solution becomes more efficient with evaporation from steaming, whereas an alcohol solution loses strength. One needs merely to add more water as some boils away. It also holds heat longer than other radiator solutions. The same solu-

tion can be used year after year.

"Equal parts of honey and water should be thoroughly mixed and boiled for a few minutes, and the scum which rises skimmed off before the solution is placed in the radiator. Also, the engine head gasket and hose connections must be inspected and tightened before the solution is used, since when hot the honey-water will pass through apparently tight connections, causing an objectionable stickiness.

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3. Tostitos
4. Lay's
5. Cape Cod
6. Ruffles
7. Pringles
8. Fritos
9. Takis
10. Sun Chips

Source: CanaryRetailer.com

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Trivia Test

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** When is Three King's Day celebrated typically?
2. **TELEVISION:** In the drama series "Mad Men," what product is presumed to be Don Draper's last advertisement?
3. **GEOGRAPHY:** What is a chain or collection of islands called?
4. **MOVIES:** To which city is the McCallister family traveling in the holiday classic "Home Alone"?
5. **LEGAL:** What is a moot court?
6. **LITERATURE:** What is the name of the heroine in "The Scarlet Letter"?
7. **FOOD & DRINK:** What kind of nut is used in marzipan?
8. **MUSIC:** What is the gift on the 11th day in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas"?
9. **SCIENCE:** How much of the Earth's surface is covered with water?
10. **HISTORY:** What are the two Japanese cities that the United States hit with atomic bombs in WWII?

Answers: 1. Jan. 6, the 12th day of Christmas.; 2. Coca-Cola.; 3. An archipelago.; 4. Paris, France.; 5. A simulated court to give law students a chance to practice what they have learned.; 6. Hester Prynne.; 7. Almond.; 8. 11 pipers piping.; 9. Almost 71%.; 10. Hiroshima and Nagasaki. (c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Super Crossword

CALCULATING CHARACTERS

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| ACROSS
1 Pet doc
4 "Come again?"
8 Treats maliciously
14 Tennis player Borg
19 Narcissist's problem
21 Actress Address
22 Ate, as prey
23 Football Hall of Famer Bronko
24 Arrive on wheels
25 Frankie or Cleo of song
26 Start of a riddle
29 Noise in a comic book gunfight
30 Exotica singer Sumac
31 "The Human Stain" novelist Philip
32 Cure-all
37 Race of people in an H.G. Wells novella
39 Some sorority letters
40 Donations to the destitute
44 Riddle, part 2
48 Like much greasy food | 49 See 83-Across
50 Corp. leader
51 Skip over, as a vowel
52 World War II film, when tripled
53 Charged bit
55 Place — (be active on eBay, say)
57 Cheap cigar
58 Riddle, part 3
63 Simile middle
66 Chaney of film
67 Song-belted Merman
68 On a pension, maybe: Abbr.
69 Military draft gp.
70 Riddle, part 4
75 ZZ Top album whose name is Spanish for "The Crazy One"
76 Hamm and Farrow
77 Neither's partner
78 Tingly feeling
82 Totally tired
83 With 49-Across, touter of green eggs and ham | 84 "Yes" vote
86 Early arcade giant
87 End of the riddle
93 — Flush (bathroom brand)
94 Architect I.M. —
95 Made angry
96 Florida fruits
97 R&B great Marvin
99 Not at all new
100 Golf club
102 Riddle's answer
111 Stalin-era labor camp
112 Polecat's kin
113 Urge against
114 Muscat native
115 Do over
116 Office squawker
117 Fender dings
118 Mimics a mad mutt
119 Helper of Frankenstein
120 Inventor Whitney | 5 Drunk
6 Writer Gogol
7 Third-largest city in Israel
8 Ride a wave
9 Eighth-brightest star in the sky
10 Like a hajji's religion
11 Second-largest city in Oklahoma
12 Charles Lamb's alias
13 Bay Area California city
14 Equivalent of A sharp
15 Lee Tracy's "Bombshell" co-star
16 Like praiseful poetry
17 Gossipy Barrett
18 Bakersfield-to-Boise dir.
20 Letters before 39-Across
27 Swiss watch brand
28 Clueless
32 Fizzle sound
33 Sleek, informally
34 Hair removal brand
35 Top squad
36 Mooer's mouthful
38 On the — (fleeing) | 39 "— say more?"
41 Actresses Vivien and Janet
42 In — res (mid-plot)
43 Clay pigeons to be shot, informally
45 Three x three
46 Frozen spear
47 Eats away at
53 "Were — it all over again ..."
54 "It can't be!"
55 One of the Three Musketeers
56 Nickname for singer Justin, with "the"
57 Derisive smile
59 One of the three Furies
60 R&R alone
61 "— boy!"
62 Pisa's river
63 Nuclear trials, for short
64 Class of antimicrobial drugs, in the British spelling
65 Actress Sorkin who once hosted "America's Funniest People" | 71 Like animals that don't roam
72 So-called "fifth taste"
73 Apartment near the super's, perhaps
74 Mesh well
79 Piquancy
80 Ontario tribe
81 Cat's warning
83 Pittsburgh footballers
84 "Chances —"
85 "Catch my drift, bro?"
86 Pie-mode link
88 1974 CIA parody film
89 More lacteal
90 Not cardinal, as a number
91 Plundering
92 Writer Sabato
98 Patronage
99 "— Loompa"
101 Half-diameters
102 Journalist Brit
103 Zing
104 Lucy Liu's "Kill Bill" role
105 Insect traps
106 Exploiter
107 Mongrel mutt
108 Frilly material
109 Shrine figure
110 Moore of "G.I. Jane"
111 Shrine figure |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|

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Moments In Time

By The History Channel

- On Jan. 15, 1759, French philosopher Voltaire's satire "Candide" was published anonymously in five editions and five countries. It was immediately and widely banned for its religious blasphemy, political sedition and (for the time) obscenity, but went on to become a bestseller and remains one of the most frequently taught works of French literature.
 - On Jan. 16, 1962, filming began on the first James Bond film, "Dr. No," starring Sean Connery as the suave titular spy, in Kingston, Jamaica. While critical reception was mixed, the movie was financially successful and came to be considered one of the series' best installments.
 - On Jan. 17, 2000, all 50 states of America celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The federal holiday was signed into law in 1983 and took effect three years later, with New Hampshire becoming the last state to name a holiday after the slain civil rights leader in 1999.
 - On Jan. 18, 1986, the song "That's What Friends Are For" by Dionne & Friends, featuring Elton John, Gladys Knight and Stevie Wonder, hit No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100. Released to help support victims of AIDS and increase awareness about the disease, it helped earn \$3 million for the cause.
 - On Jan. 19, 1977, President Gerald Ford pardoned Tokyo Rose, a Japanese-American woman whose real name was Iva Toguri, shortly before leaving office. Acting on orders from the Japanese government, Toguri (along with other women) broadcast phony announcements regarding U.S. troop losses in an attempt to undermine the morale of Allied soldiers.
 - On Jan. 20, 1863, the four-day Mud March, initiated by Civil War Major General Ambrose Burnside, began. Burnside's aim was to attack Robert E. Lee's army, but winter rains had made the roads nearly impassable and the mission failed.
 - On Jan. 21, 1997, Newt Gingrich became the first speaker in the history of the U.S. House of Representatives to be given a formal reprimand for ethics violations after the House voted 395--28 in favor of the measure.
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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

- The first 72 hours in jail pose the highest risk of death for
- The cat in "The Godfather" was a stray that director Francis Ford Coppola found in the studio and handed to Marlon Brando before the shot. The animal took a shine to Brando and settled in his lap, purring so loudly that the crew was afraid the noise would drown out the dialogue!
- And speaking of cats ... cheetahs communicate with house cat-like meows rather than roars like most big cats.
- Benjamin Franklin sold chocolate in his print shop in Philadelphia.
- Forget about whether pineapple belongs on a pizza -- how about snake? For a limited time snake will be on Pizza Hut's menu in Hong Kong, as the restaurant partners with another eatery known for its snake stew.
- A tool bag lost during a spacewalk orbits Earth and is visible to people on the ground.
- Researchers at George Washington University found that the skin behind our ears and between our toes has a different set of microbes than those found on more frequently washed areas, so heed Mama's advice and don't forget to scrub them.
- In 1873, billiards became the first sport to have a world championship.
- Prior to the 17th century, common folk seated themselves on stools and benches, while chairs were designed for royalty and the rich.
- Pogonophobia is the fear or dislike of beards.
- For Scrabble's 50th anniversary in 1988, a giant game utilizing six-foot tiles that required two large men to lift was played in Britain's Wembley Stadium.

Thought for the Day: "If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl. But whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward." -- Martin Luther King Jr.

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: L equals N

XTLFU MCWX OBU LMFSPBLOW

OLR GBMVOVWI ZM QPLSTLZ OS

LTZQS, T CMPWR FOWW SQU

VURSTDU GBUIUBX.

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Kovels: Antiques and Collecting

By Terry and Kim Kovel

Smoking paraphernalia

Some collectibles aren't what they seem at first glance. This green enameled piece that sold for \$252 at Morphy Auctions looks like a covered jar. A closer look at the finial, shaped like a seated cherub or putto playing a stringed instrument, suggests its true purpose. It's really a music box that plays two tunes.

That's not all it is: Wind it up and the panels open, revealing a silver toned pocket behind each panel. The pockets were originally meant to hold cigarettes. It's a music box and a cigarette dispenser!

It's well-known that smoking was more common in the first half of the 20th century before its links to lung cancer had been determined.

Smoking is less popular today, but smoking paraphernalia and tobacciana are collectible. Ashtrays, especially with advertising, are popular and often inexpensive. Collectors of advertising and packaging look for antique tobacco tins. Lighters have their own category in Kovels' price guide. Smoking stands appear in antique furniture collections.

Some collectors may repurpose their smoking collectibles by using ashtrays as ring dishes, cigarette cases as credit card holders or smoking stands as plant stands. This cigarette dispenser's decorations and multiple functions could make it part of a collection of tobacciana, enamels or music boxes.

* * *

Q: My father was an official of a Merchant Marine union. The seamen would often bring back gifts, such as rugs, from overseas. I have several rugs in different colors and sizes. I have no idea of their country of origin or value. How can I find out something about them and their value?

A: An expert on rugs would have to see the rugs to determine their value. It may not be possible to determine the country or origin unless there is something unique in the design or technique that identifies them. Contact stores in your area that sell authentic Oriental rugs to see if they can help. If you have a friend who has old Oriental rugs, they may be



This musical cigarette dispenser dates to the 1950s. Photo courtesy of Kovels.com

able to tell you who to contact.

* * *

TIP: To loosen a rusted metal part on a toy, try soaking it in cola.

* * *

CURRENT PRICES

Cut glass cruet, Ramona pattern, hobstar, vesica, strawberry diamond, prism and fans, oval, double notched handle, rayed base, bulbous

stopper, American Brilliant, Pairpoint, 6 1/4 x 3 3/4 inches, \$200.

Political button, Martin Luther King, celluloid, sepia photograph, pinback, integral stand and hanger, 1968, 9 inches, \$465.

Toy, Busy Cart Robot, construction robot, pushes wheeled cart, yellow and

black, battery operated, Horikawa, Japan, original box, 12 inches, \$800.

Magazine, TIME, Feb. 18, 1957 issue, Rev. Martin Luther King picture on cover, signed and inscribed, sold with letter of authenticity, \$3,120.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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Ads may be brought in to our office at 111 Lake St., Harrisville Cost per ad is \$5 for the first 10 words and 20¢ for each word thereafter. Boxed ads are \$5 per column inch. Ads and payment must be received by 4 p.m. Monday.

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Alcona County Central Dispatch is seeking bids for a NG 911 Call Handling System for a 2-3 position emergency communications center. Proposed system must be able to integrate current admin SIP lines from a Mitel business phone system, support a singular headset relay system to be utilized with radio and telephone functionality, have an internal IRR playback system, support touchscreen and Genovation keypad functionality, seamlessly integrate with all other utilized systems (Interact Caliber CAD, Textty and RapidSOS), have at minimum a 5-year life span and offer remote and onsite support. No bids for cloud-based NG 911 systems are able to be entertained at this time.

Bids must include all hardware, software, training, installation, maintenance and yearly contract details and all other necessary components required to operate and maintain a 24/7/365 911 call handling system. Questions concerning IT and facility set-up can be directed to 911 Director Kathleen Bell at 989-724-0911. Sealed bids may be sent to Alcona County Central Dispatch, Attn: Director Kathleen Bell, 212 W Main St, Harrisville, MI 48740. All bids must be received by January 15th, 2024. Alcona County Central Dispatch reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any irregularities in any proposal, and to make the award as appears to be in the best interest of Alcona County Central Dispatch. Alcona County Central Dispatch Kathleen Bell, 911 Director

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Alcona Township is accepting sealed bids until 4:00 p.m., Tuesday January 9, 2024, for purchase and removal of a commercial-grade cook range. For information, contact Supervisor Marlena MacNeill at 989 727 3788.

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Protection Continued from page 1

before being shipped to places like New York and Chicago, which was rebuilding after the Great Fire of 1871.

Glass said lumbermen used dynamite to excavate and straighten the AuSable River channel for floating timber to the mill, creating the oxbow wetland which still rings Hull Island. Oscoda suffered its own fire in 1911, destroying the former mill and much of the town's historical records.

The acquisition of the Hull Island property is supported by Huron Pines' Community-Driven Conservation Campaign and donors to its Land Protection Program. The ongoing campaign aims to raise \$1 million in unrestricted funds to finance grassroots conservation efforts in northern Michigan with an emphasis on projects which benefit Lake Huron. More information about the campaign and ways to donate can be found at huronpines.org at the top of the page.

Huron Pines is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1973 to conserve and enhance northern Michigan's natural resources to ensure healthy water, protected places and vibrant communities. To learn more, visit huronpines.org.



Two people walk a trail in the upland forest of Hull Island in November. The 42-acre tract has great potential for public recreation. Cut off from the main river channel during the lumber era of the late 19th century, oxbow wetlands now ring a portion of Hull Island, serving as important habitat for native plants and wildlife and protecting the water quality of the AuSable River. *Photo courtesy of Huron Pines.*

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