Try spinning wool and sample Thomas Jefferson's favorite cake on Pioneer Day

BY SHERI TRUSTY

MARBLEHEAD - Step back in time to when survival along the lake shore necessitated creativity, skill, and independence as the Ottawa County Historical Society hosts Pioneer Day at the Wolcott Keeper's House on Saturday, June 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will feature tours of the home and spinning and hearth cooking demonstrations.

Leigh Ann Meinecke and Nancy Kovacs of the Black Swamp Spinners Guild of Northwest Ohio will present spinning demonstrations. Nancy's husband, John Kovacs, will demonstrate how to card wool.

"We'll use a spinning wheel and a drop spindle, which was a precursor to the wheel. A lot of the world still uses that," Meinecke said. "People can try spinning, too."

Meinecke became interested in the art of spinning several years ago when she saw someone spinning angora fur into "the most beautiful mittens." She purchased a wheel, but it sat idle for years.

"I bought a wheel and had kids. Now, 30 years later, I'm learning," she said.

Meineke said it is natural for people to be curious about early American life.

"I feel like people want to be in touch with how things were made," she said. "People like to use their hands , so they want to go back and see how things were put together – and, of course, sheep are very cute."

The Black Swamp Spinners Guild of Northwest Ohio is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Its members come from all across Northwest Ohio for guild meetings, which are held at Bernina Stitchin Post in Walbridge.

"Some members drive two hours to come to meetings," Meineke said.

The guild was formed 50 years ago, when America was celebrating its 200th anniversary. Meineke said it is fitting that the guild participate in Pioneer Day in celebration of America's 250th anniversary.

"One of those things that's not in the history books is the roll that spinning played in the American Revolution," she said. "We talk about the Boston Tea Party, but many things were taxed. Up until that point, colonists had to buy cloth from England to make clothes, and it was heavily taxed."

But colonists began to spin and weave their own cloth.

"They didn't have to import cloth from England. It was a protest against England," Meineke said.

The Keeper's House often hosts hearth cooking demonstrations at the home's fireplace, but a new hearth chef will be tending the fire on Pioneer Day. Kathleen Addlesparger from Mansfield will demonstrate how to cook two period recipes: Chess Pie and Lemon Sponge Cake.

"Lemon Sponge Cake was Thomas Jefferson's favorite cake," she said.

Visitors can watch Addlesparger cook and try samples of the recipes.

Addlesparger is a trustee for the Richland County Museum and has been doing hearth cooking demos for over 30 years at various venues, including Malabar Farm. She enjoys the hands-on approach to history.

"It's my way of studying history," she said. "I grew up with parents who loved history. Dressing up and trying to live as close to how people lived gives you some insight into their lives."

The Wolcott Keeper's House is located at 9999 E. Bayshore Rd. in Marblehead. For more information, visit www.ottawacountyhistory.org.

Dr. Marsha Bordner, left, is shown with her late husband, Lt. Col. Harold Brown, in this 2020 photo. The couple authored a book on Brown's experiences as a Tuskegee Airman. Bordner will be among the authors at TAG's June 25 book signing. (Photo by D'Arcy Egan)

The Arts Garage to host Local Author Book Signing and Birthday Party

PORT CLINTON - The Greater Port Clinton Area Arts Council will once again host an author book signing on Thursday, June 25, from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Arts Garage (TAG), located at 317 W. Perry St. in Port Clinton.

Authors include Marsha Bordner, co-author with husband, Harold H. Brown, of "Keep Your Airspeed Up, The Story of a Tuskegee Airman" and R.J. Norgard who will be introducing "Winter Kill," his third book in the Sidney Reed series. Other authors participating are Brenda Haas, "Finding Sutton's Choice"; P.J. Grondin, "Under the Blood Tree," et al; Victoria King Heinsen, "Murder at the Port Clinton Boat Club," et al; Richard Morgan, "Tales from the Hump" and "Lawnmowing for a Living"; Patrick O'Keeffe, "Cold Air Return and My Mother's Voice,"; and Emilia Rosa, the "Finding Christina" series.

New this year, TAG welcomes children's book authors Elizabeth Davenport, "Freddie and the Bear"; Donna Lueke, "Chita, the Tin Goose"; and Jane Taylor, "Looking for Lefty: A Tale of Two Mittens."

Authors will be on hand to meet and greet guests, read from their books, and autograph purchased copies. This event is open to the public.

TAG will be celebrating five years of embracing art and artists on Saturday, Aug. 8, from 6 to 9 p.m. at A Birthday in Brushstrokes. Tickets to the event are $55 per person and can be purchased at gpcaac.org or at TAG during regular hours Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event includes a juried art show, a paint-out by area artists, dinner, entertainment, live and silent auctions, and plenty of fun. Artists who would like to participate in the juried show or paint-out should visit gpcaac.org.

Seajamz 7 will bring a lot of good noise to downtown Port Clinton

BY SHERI TRUSTY

PORT CLINTON - They are loud, they are fun, they are "brassy," and they are returning to RiverFront Live. Seajamz 7, a seven-piece horn band, will perform in The District in downtown Port Clinton on Friday, June 19, at 6 p.m.

Seajamz 7 features Jeremy Sneath from Port Clinton on tenor sax, John Calhoun from Fremont on alto sax, Tim Ellenberger from Fremont on trumpet, Duane Waite from Port Clinton on trombone, Tracy Behrman from Wauseon on keyboard and vocals, Lonnie Shuey from Fremont on drums, and Kris Bert from Norwalk on bass.

"We try to vary it up and do a mix of different genres, from jazz and R&B to blues and some rock and roll," Waite said.

Seajamz 7 is not a cover band, and the musicians don't create original music. They do, however, create original arrangements of popular songs.

"We try to do stuff that nobody else does because of the versatility of what we can do with horns," Waite said.

The band is comprised of accomplished musicians. Most of them first connected because they played in a jazz Big Band at Terra State Community College.

"We're lucky because Tracy Behrman is a retired band director from Wauseon, John Calhoun is a current band director at Fremont Ross, and Kris Bert is a band director," Waite said.

RiverFront Live, hosted by Judi Halstead, offers free outdoor concerts in The District every Friday at 6 p.m. during the summer. For more information or to watch the concerts live, visit the RiverFront Live Group Facebook page.

"We like to play in downtown Port Clinton. It's just a great venue to get together and jam," Waite said. "We mostly play outside. We make a lot of noise."

Seajamz 7 will perform in downtown Port Clinton on Friday, June 19, as part of the RiverFront Live concert series. (Submitted photo)

America's true Independence Day: Aug. 2

BY DAVID ZIVAGNO AND SARA SIEGLER

Every Fourth of July, Americans gather around grills and fireworks to celebrate the birthday of the United States. And rightly so. July 4, 1776, was the day the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence – the day the idea of America was proclaimed to the world.

But another date deserves to stand alongside July 4 – perhaps even just ahead of it in our national memory: Aug. 2, 1776. It, too, deserves the patriotic pageantry, fun, and remembrance we enjoy each Fourth of July.

And for its 250th anniversary, we're inviting all comers to join in the historic Lake Erie harbor town of Put-in-Bay for the two-day Heritage 250 Celebration on Aug. 1 and 2. The weekend event's Independence Day trappings will ring familiar: a parade, marching bands, family fun, and a grand fireworks show. Only the date in focus will be different.

After all, it was on Aug. 2, 1776, that 56 delegates of the Continental Congress picked up quill pens and signed their names to the Declaration. In affixing their names to the now-familiar parchment, they ratified the most consequential document in the history of self-governance – and provided the Crown self-incriminating evidence of their high treason.

Their vote for independence a month earlier was, of course, monumental. Yet it was a collective action, with little documented accountability for the individuals present.

Physically signing the defiant document was a different thing altogether. The patriots understood the price. Delegate Benjamin Rush would later describe the signing as affixing their names to "our own death warrants." Each signature was more than a historic record. It was a face, a name, an address, a family. It was a man standing before the world and saying, "I did this. Come find me."

In England, conviction for high treason was the ultimate capital offense, with the ultimate punishment. A disloyal man was turned into a terrifying example for other would-be seditionists – by being hanged, then drawn and quartered, in public fashion.

And the British did come for the signers. A dozen had their homes ransacked or burned. Francis Lewis of New York watched his Long Island estate destroyed; his wife was captured and later died from the ordeal. John Hart of New Jersey fled through forests and caves as soldiers swept his farm and shattered his household. Richard Stockton of New Jersey was captured and imprisoned; his health never fully recovered. These were concrete costs.

The incendiary document they signed was itself a work of craft. Timothy Matlack, a

Philadelphia brewer and patriotic firebrand, hand-copied onto parchment the printed Declaration. His elegant copperplate script turned revolutionary philosophy and an itemized list of royal offenses into an enduring national artifact.

The Declaration's closing words are not often quoted in full, but they should be. "[W]ith a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence," the ratifiers pledged to each other "our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor." Their bold signatures formalized a new covenant among citizens, across time, with the idea of America itself.

July 4 is the birthday of that idea. Aug. 2 is the day those men bled the idea into history with their own names and when defied and dared the full weight of the British empire.

Neither date can be forgotten. Both deserve celebration. Together they tell us who we were meant to be – and what it still costs, in every generation, to live up to that.

Savagno and Siegler are principals with The Lake Erie Heritage Foundation, a nonprofit presenting the Heritage 250 Celebration Aug. 1-2.

Community Calendar

This section sponsored by Otterbein Senior Life

Have your events listed in our Calendar through Paid Advertising or https://info.thebeacon.net/eandesubmission

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

Reproductive Health/Health "Chek," 8 to 11:30 a.m.
Ottawa County Health Department
1856 E Perry St., Port Clinton

Aquamotion, 9 a.m.
Put-in-Bay Senior Center
195 Concord Ave., Put-in-Bay

Sit to Be Fit, 10:30 a.m.
Danbury Senior Center
8470 East Harbor Rd., Marblehead

Open Hearts Band, Noon
With Dave Obregon
Ed Griswold Senior Center
514 Main St., Genoa

Afternoon at the Movies, 2 p.m.
"Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade"
Ida Rupp Public Library
310 Madison St., Port Clinton

TB Clinic, 3 to 4 p.m.
Ottawa County Health Department
1856 E Perry St., Port Clinton

Marquis 66 concert, 6 p.m.
Clyde Museum
124 W. Buckeye St., Clyde

Lakeside Art Show
Opening Reception, 6:30 p.m.
Included with Chautauqua pass
Hoover Auditorium Lobby, Lakeside

Old Skool concert, 7 to 10 p.m.
The District
Downtown Port Clinton

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Fishing 101, 8 a.m.
Lakeside Dock
Lakeside

Barefoot Beach Walk, 10 a.m.
With Dawn Cordero
Included with Chautauqua pass
Waterfront, Lakeside

Sea Jamz 7 concert, 6 p.m.
RiverFront Live concert series
Downtown Port Clinton

Apollo's Fire concert, 7:30 p.m.
Included with Chautauqua pass
Hoover Auditorium, Lakeside

Whiskey Gypsy concert, 8 p.m.
The District
Downtown Port Clinton

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Military Appreciation Day, all day
Free admission and parking at
Lakeside Chautauqua

Fishing 101, 8 a.m.
Lakeside Dock
Lakeside

Celebrate Summer Sound Bath, 10 a.m.
Hosted by Aimee Slater, LMT
Registration required
At www.aimeeslater.com
Myofascial Wellness
122 W. 2nd St., Suite 200, Port Clinton

Chair Yoga, 10 a.m.
With Donna Lueke
Included with Chautauqua pass
Wellness Center Drackett Hall, Lakeside

Pioneer Day, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
America 250 event
Spinning & Hearth Cooking Demos
Wolcott Keeper's House,
9999 E. Bayshore Rd., Lakeside-Marblehead

20th Annual Lakeside Collector Car Show, 1 to 7 p.m.
Included with Chautauqua pass
Hotel Lakeside lawn, Lakeside

The Labra Brothers concert, 7:30 p.m.
Included with Chautauqua pass
Hoover Auditorium, Lakeside

Creedance: CCR Tribute concert, 8 to 11 p.m.
The District
Downtown Port Clinton

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Lakefront Worship, 8:30 a.m.
Steele Memorial Bandstand
Lakeside

The Friends Band, 6 p.m,
Featuring Condrea Mason
Included with Chautauqua pass
Steele Memorial Bandstand, Lakeside

Sunset Praise, 8:30 p.m.
Request complimentary Sunset Praise Pass
Pavilion West Deck, Lakeside

MONDAY, JUNE 22

WIC (Women, Infants, Children) Clinic, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Ottawa County Health Department
1856 E Perry St., Port Clinton

Strength Training, 9 a.m.
Put-in-Bay Senior Center
195 Concord Ave., Put-in-Bay

Coffee Social, 10 a.m.
Put-in-Bay Senior Center
195 Concord Ave., Put-in-Bay

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

WIC (Women, Infants, Children) Clinic, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Ottawa County Health Department
1856 E Perry St., Port Clinton

Aquamotion, 9 a.m.
Put-in-Bay Senior Center
195 Concord Ave., Put-in-Bay

All-levels Yoga, 8 a.m.
With Donna Lueke
Included with Chautauqua pass
Chautauqua Park Memorial Garden, Lakeside

Tai Chi, 10 a.m.
Oak Harbor Public Library
147 W Main St., Oak Harbor

Barefoot Beach Walk, 10 a.m.
With Dawn Cordero
Included with Chautauqua pass
Waterfront, Lakeside

Edward Jones Investments
Scam presentation, Noon
With Courtney Hammer
Ed Griswold Senior Center
514 Main St., Genoa

TB Clinic, 3 to 4 p.m.
Ottawa County Health Department
1856 E Perry St., Port Clinton

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

Family Planning Clinic, 8 to 9:30 a.m.
Ottawa County Health Department
1856 E Perry St., Port Clinton

Immunization Clinic, noon to 4 p.m.
Ottawa County Health Department
1856 E Perry St., Port Clinton

Strength Training, 9 a.m.
Put-in-Bay Senior Center
195 Concord Ave., Put-in-Bay

Coffee Social, 10 a.m.
Put-in-Bay Senior Center
195 Concord Ave., Put-in-Bay

Watercolor Painting, 12:30 p.m.
Oak Harbor Public Library
147 W Main St., Oak Harbor

Geology Talk, 5 p.m.
By Dr. Ed Herdendorf, OSU
Hosted by Erie Islands Library
Hosted at Put-in-Bay Aquatic Center
310 OH-Rt. 357, Put-in-Bay

UPCOMING EVENTS

Local Author Booksigning
June 25, 6 to 8 p.m.
The Arts Garage
317 W. Perry St., Port Clinton

Simply Susie concert
Featuring Susie McLaughlin
June 26, 6 to 8 p.m.
Ala Carte Café
225 Madison St., Port Clinton

Steve and Lisa Ball outdoor concert
Hosted by Musical Arts Series
Hosted at Firelands Presbyterian Church
2626 E. Harbor Rd., Port Clinton

Lakeside Heritage Hall Museum Grand Opening
June 28, 6:30 p.m.
238 Maple Ave., Lakeside

Walleye Drop informational meeting
For potential volunteers
July 7 at 5:30 p.m.
RSVP at allureoh@aol.com or wyliewalleyefoundation@gmail.com.
Knights of Columbus
109 E. Perry St. in Port Clinton

Summer Fish Fry
St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church
506 E. Main St. Marblehead, OH
Fridays: July 10, August 14
Serving from 4-7 p.m.
Lake Erie Perch, Shrimp, Cod Dinners, Chicken Tenders.
French Fries/Pierogi, Slaw, Roll/Butter.
Desserts Available!

A Birthday in Brushstrokes
Greater Port Clinton Area Arts Council fundraiser
$55 per ticket
Aug. 8, 6 to 9 p.m.
The Arts Garage
317 W. Perry St., Port Clinton