

FOUR THINGS

WORD OF THE WEEK

Looby
What it is: noun
What it means: The word refers to someone who would be classified as an awkward or clumsy fellow.
Where it comes from: It is a Middle English word thought to have originated in the 14th century from the word "loby."

Similar word: klutz
How to use it: "I felt like such a looby when I fell at the chess tournament last night."
SOURCE: M-W.COM

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Contrary to popular opinion, the hustle is not a new dance step. It is an old business procedure."
 Fran Lebowitz (1950-present)

Fran Lebowitz is an American writer who made a name for herself through her social commentary. She has also a recurring role on the TV show "Law & Order."

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Michigan became the 26th state in 1837. The following year, Tennessee became the first state to prohibit alcohol.

DID YOU KNOW?

At just over 5 years old, John Ismael Ugelstad of Norway is the youngest person on record to have solved a standard Rubik's Cube, which he did in 2004.

The average reading speed is 230 words per minute, and very few people manage to ever surpass 800.
SOURCE: ROCKETREADER.COM

Although the Chihuahua is noted as being the smallest overall dog breed, the Guinness Book of World Records gives the smallest individual canine honor to a Yorkshire terrier, at only 8 inches long and weighing 1 pound.
SOURCE: DEXDOD.COM

The idea that there was a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow originated when it was said in Silesia that angels had placed gold meant only for a nude man at the end of the rainbow.
SOURCE: DELTA TECH.COM

In Lynden, Wash., there is a law stating that dancing and drinking are not allowed to take place in the same establishment.
SOURCE: DUMBLAWS.COM

Bobby Mason, owner and brewer of Michigan Brewing Company

"To keep everyone in business, we keep it local. We use local suppliers for packaging. We are hoping people notice and everyone reciprocates."

By Ursula Zerilli
 THE STATE NEWS

With a range of items produced right here in the mitten state, living in Michigan allows consumers to choose between a local product and an imported one. Purchasing products made throughout the state helps support local businesses, and vendors are rising to the challenge of a tough economic climate and banding together to keep customers' favorites coming.

Local spirits

When selecting a beer, wine or liquor for any sort of event, Michigan manufacturers are creating both new and classic flavors and brews. Michigan Brewing Company in Webberville produces a variety of beers and has expanded into distilling liquors. "We are coming out with new vodkas and gins. They will be some of the first ... made with Michigan grain," owner and brewer Bobby Mason said. MBC's new vodka, PA 218, soon will appear in local venues. A new gin also has been created

with plans to add a whiskey to the lineup. Mason founded MBC in 1995 and said he utilizes neighboring companies in the running of his business. "To keep everyone else in business, we keep it local. We use local suppliers for packaging," Mason said. "We are hoping people notice and everyone reciprocates."

MBC also is looking for ways to help the environment by going green. During beer production, generators are fueled with biodiesel made from canola seeds from Charlotte and grease from the fryers in MSU cafeterias.

For those more partial to the grape, Burgdorf's Winery, 5625 Shoeman Road, in Haslet, offers at least 24 different wines available to tasting visitors. Owners Deb and Dave Burgdorf said they have noticed less purchases this year. Dave Burgdorf said he attributes the change to the fact people simply are being more cautious about where they spend money.

Although they grow some grapes, they prefer to get their grapes from Michigan farmers when in season, typically from vineyards near Lansing.

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ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREA ZAGATA

LIFESTYLE

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Tuesday

MITTEN-made

Michigan companies offer variety of homegrown products to consumers



JANA-DEE ALLEN/THE STATE NEWS

Lansing resident Stuart Crittenden, left, and Fowlerville resident Jeff Brockmiller begin the process of fermenting and distilling potatoes to make vodka Friday afternoon at the Michigan Brewing Company in Webberville. About seven tons of Michigan-grown potatoes will be used in the process. The vodka is later bottled and sold as Michigan Spirits for \$32 a bottle plus tax.

To see a video on how to make your own wine at Burgdorf's Winery, visit statenews.com/multimedia.