

Sweet Tooth Cakery now open in Fruitport

Story and photos by Harry Wojahn

If you are in the mood for a special treat, be sure to stop in at the Sweet Tooth Cakery and see Abby Welch. She will be sure to find something to excite your taste buds. Abby has loved to bake since she was a child. She has been working in the business for eight years. She says that her daughter Candace inspires her to be the best baker she can be so that she can give her a great life.

Abby has that natural, self-taught baking skill that helps her make some of the sweetest treats you have ever tasted. I asked her what would be the one special dessert she would choose and why. Her answer was that she is unable to choose any one item after putting all of her heart and soul into everything she makes to make sure everyone is satisfied.

She said the most positive effect that chocolate can have on someone is that it can take a person back to the time of waiting in Grandma's kitchen for those sweet chocolate chip cookies to come fresh out of the oven. She hopes to have the same effect on her customers to make everyone as happy as possible.

Abby says business has been great since she opened, and that all of her customers leave with a happy smile on their faces. She even said that she has one faithful customer who comes in daily.

Abby attended Nuvo College of Cosmetology to become a hair stylist, but soon discovered that her true calling was to become a professional baker. Although she was born in Grand Rapids, her family moved to Fruitport where she grew up.

Sweet Tooth Cakery offers cinnamon rolls, sticky buns, 12 flavors of brownies, and two varieties of muffins and cupcakes. She likes to add a new treat to the selection every day to keep her patrons guessing.

The bakery is located at 6574 Airline Road next to McDonalds. It is open Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to noon. Phone (231) 366-7170.

P.J. Hoffmaster State Park

By Harry Wojahn

Since our state added the new state park permit to our license plate, a lot more people have been able to enjoy what places like P.J. Hoffmaster State Park have to offer. It is cheaper now by about \$10 to \$15. My wife and I went out to our local state park the other day. I was in the mood to take some photos. The visitor center has a lot of information to offer. For example, they have a theater where you and your family can learn about different facts about the park.

They also have a walk-through interactive room on the top level where you can learn about all the different sorts of creatures you will possibly see while out in the park. On the lower level, there is a reptilian room where you can view different sorts of reptiles. There is also a viewing window for taking photos of many different types of animals. It is equipped with a speaker system so you can hear the sounds from outside, without interfering with the animals' natural habitat.

If you get the chance and want to have a great time learning more about your local state park, be sure to check out the visitor center. There are also some amazing hiking trails that you can walk through and have fun seeing the interior of the park while getting some fresh air. There is a public beach access when you first come into the park after you pass the check-in booth. The public beach is the first drive on the right. There are also other drives for picnicking and family events.

The visitor center is open until mid-November, Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. or until funds run out.

For more information, visit the website at www.GilletteNature.org or call (231) 798-3573.

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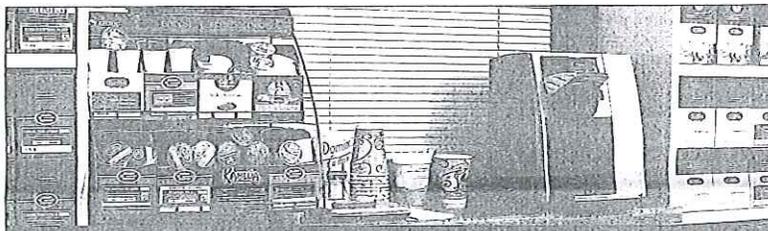


daily.

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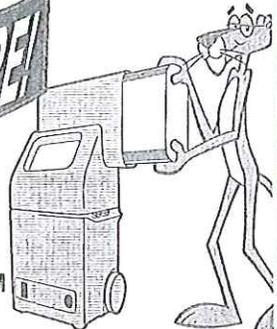
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Zach Flynn



Cars for cancer car and bike show

By Grant Berry

The 8th annual Labor Day Cars for Cancer Car and Bike Show held at Mercy Health Partners Lakes Campus was a huge success this year. The September 3 event featured more than 600 late model, classic, hot rod, custom, and muscle cars from all over the West Michigan area. The show also included motorcycles and a few anomalies such as a double-decker bus, a Crosley wagon, and a vintage Isotta.

The weather was sunny and clear, perfect for the participants and the hundreds of spectators who ventured out for this fun-packed event. Along with the spectacular cars on display, there were also food vendors, door prizes, a grocery giveaway, an auction, engine blow, poker walk, and valve cover races. The event was sponsored by the partnership between the Different Strokes Car Club, the Knights of Columbus #13035, and Mercy Health Partners.

"I thought it went smoothly compared to past events," said Greg Ferrier, spokesman for Different Strokes Car Club. "Attendance was good. We had a lot more spectators come through this year. I wasn't disappointed. The over-all event went well."

The Different Strokes Car Club was responsible

for organizing and collecting trophy sponsors for the 37 classes with three trophies per class, including Best of Show and People's Choice awards. The Knights of Columbus awarded the trophies and prepared a pancake breakfast and a hot dog and hamburger lunch. The Mercy Health Partners handled the promotions on radio, newspapers and flyers.

All proceeds from the Cars for Cancer Car Show went to patient care at Mercy Health Johnson Family Cancer Center. "The car show raised almost \$14,000 again this year," said Jan Jacobs from Mercy Health Partners. "These groups are so ingrained in the community and work really hard to keep the money in the community. It's so meaningful to us, because the funds go for local patients every day. This is a great family event that benefits local families."

The year's Cars for Cancer Car and Bike Show would not be possible if it weren't for all of the generous trophy sponsors, donors and contributors, car enthusiasts, and automobile collectors. The Different Strokes Car Club, Knights of Columbus and Mercy Health Partners would like to thank each one of you for once again making this event a huge success. •

In Bimbo's woods

By Mike Simcik

1956 was a particularly interesting year for me, and to say I was 12 years old just did not cover it. Coming of age meant so many things in a little country town in Northern Illinois. Like mowing lawns and shoveling snow for money, my first official job at the lumber yard, playing baseball, and everyone knew everyone by name.

Everything in life was getting more interesting for me, like playing "hooky" from school, on occasion, with my friend Jim to go fishing at the south channel end of our lake to catch crappies and stripers with willow limbs, kite string, safety pins and crickets. Unfortunately, my mother was a bus driver for the school.

One Friday night in late September, Jim and I rode our bikes to the house of a friend of mine. It was about a mile past the outskirts of town. The only name I ever knew him to be called was "Bimbo," and I always thought he had a connection with the circus life in the past. Bimbo was 74 years old and his wife was 62. The reason I knew this is because she was pregnant and everyone within 20 miles was talking about it.

Bimbo had a 1200-acre woods complete with a 400-acre pond loaded with bass and bluegills. A slough was at the south end, and all the rest was oak, hickory, walnut, maple and ash trees galore.

The weather was perfect. Trees were turning colors and squirrel season was upon us. So I asked Bimbo if we could hunt squirrels Saturday morning. Of course, he said yes. I knew he really hated those little buggers.

Yes, life was perfect, but there was no way anyone could possibly know what critical drama was ready to unfold. I was about to grow up fast, learning how a man takes on responsibility, failure not being an option.

Both Jim and I had .410 single action shotguns. Strapping them to our handlebars, we rode our bikes to Bimbo's house. We knew exactly when and where we wanted to be that Saturday morning: Where all the hickory trees were in a small clearing about 150 yards into the woods. We picked our trees so we could see each other, then settled in.

Only a few minutes had passed when the silence was broken with the crack of a rifle that sounded like it came

from the road. I looked backwards to see, but no one was in sight. Then I looked back at Jim, only to see his gun lying on the ground, his eyes glazed, mouth open, and hands outstretched. Jim had been shot!

I dropped my gun and ran over to him, wanting to help but not sure what to do. He had been shot through both hands. The bullet had glanced off his gunstock and lodged into his left shoulder. My friend was bleeding badly, but he never cried, just looked at me with painful eyes expecting me to do something fast.

I took off my jacket and shirt, then took my t-shirt and tore it up for bandages and used other pieces to tie into loops with a stick to slow the bleeding of his hands and arm. It was a long way back to town. My mind was racing, but my father always said, "Never panic and never give up."

I covered both guns with leaves, lifted Jim up, and headed for the bikes. However, it was obvious that neither of us could ride bikes, so I put his right arm around my neck and started a fast walk. I was hoping we could make it to Dr. Goshgarian's office in time because I knew he normally went home at noon.

After only a few more yards, Jim finally fainted from loss of blood. Even a kid like me knew that was a very bad thing.

But now I could see the doctor's office. His Buick was parked in front. Nearly exhausted, I looked up at the clear blue sky, took a deep breath and said in a loud, clear voice, "It is not for me, but we could sure use a little help here." So I squatted down and threw my best friend over my right shoulder and carried him the rest of the way.

As I walked up to the office, the nurse saw me through the window and came running out the door. After about an hour, Dr. Goshgarian finished cleaning and suturing. He let me watch everything he did to save Jim's life. Then he asked how and where this happened. I just said, "In Bimbo's woods."

Jim and I enjoyed each other's company until high school was finished. He joined the Army and I joined the Navy. I never saw him again. Still today I wonder where my strength came from that day, how Jim made out in life, and I think back about the lessons I learned in my youth.

"You can ask for help, but never give up trying! •

Remember: Utility land is off limits to hunters

(Submitted by Consumers Energy)

As the hunting seasons get underway in Michigan, Consumers Energy is reminding the public that hunting is not allowed on the utility's property.

The ban protects the safety of neighbors, utility workers and others. It also addresses concerns of neighboring landowners that irresponsible hunters will use Consumers Energy property to trespass.

"We are asking Michigan sportsmen and sports-women to remember that Consumers Energy property

is private land, not public property," said Mike Williams, Consumers Energy's director of corporate security.

Anyone observing hunting or gunshot vandalism on utility land is asked to contact their local law enforcement agency or Consumers Energy's corporate security office at 1-800-760-3295.

Consumers Energy offers cash rewards of varying amounts for information leading to the arrest and arraignment of those who damage company equipment or property. •

Free Broadway show: 'Fiddler On the Roof'

(Submitted by the Frauenthal Center for the Performing Arts)

"Fiddler on the Roof," based on the stories of Sholom Aleichem, has captured the hearts of people all over the world with its humor, warmth and honesty. The universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy and sadness.

On Wednesday, November 14, "Fiddler" will be presented at the Frauenthal Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Muskegon at 7:30 p.m. The performance is free and is sponsored by the Lawrence and Violet Collins Fund.

Complimentary ticket giveaway begins October 15 at the Frauenthal Box Office, open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Quantities are limited to four tickets per person. First come, first served. Tickets are required for admission.



Sherrie Jawor and Ana Ponce represented Jawor Brothers Country Store at the Coopersville Farm Museum's Fresh Berry Pie Contest during Coopersville Summerfest. The store chose to enter their baked blueberry pie and also a blueberry cream cheese pie for people to sample and vote. Both pies received positive reviews and the country store placed third by the voting public. The blueberry pies also received the Director's Choice Award. Both of these pies are available for purchase on a regular basis at the store located on Heights Ravenna Road between Barnes and Maple Island roads, along with a variety of other freshly baked items. The store is open seasonally until September 29 and is currently taking orders for holiday pies, which can be picked up the week of Thanksgiving. (Photo by Jenny Ertfmeier)

Southern Gospel concert at Northside Bible Church

(Submitted by Northside Bible Church)

The Brown Family, from LeMars, Iowa, will be at Northside Bible Church in a return visit for a fall southern Gospel concert. On Friday evening, October 12 at 7 p.m., both worshipful and lively music will fill the church!

The Browns have traveled throughout the United States sharing the gospel. They have received the prestigious honor of Top 10 Mixed Group of the Year by the *Singing News Magazine* fans. They have several CDs, which will be available for purchase the night of the concert.

This award-winning family will inspire you with their close-knit family harmony and talent. The Browns love what they do, love each other, and the audiences to whom they sing. Most of all, they love sharing the gospel through their music.

Northside Bible Church has been hosting southern gospel concerts for over 20 years, and continues to fill the church with each concert. The church is located at 1937 North Whitehall Road (just north of Tractor Supply Company) in North Muskegon. No tickets are needed for this concert; however, a free will offering will be taken. Following the offering and a brief refreshment time, winners of the evening's drawings will be announced. The fellowship is always a bonus.

For directions or more information, please call (231) 777-1588 or (231) 329-1477.

Fruitport Eagles hosting a holiday vendor event

(Submitted by the Fruitport Eagles)

The Fraternal Order of Aerie 366, 3354 S. Dangel, is hosting a holiday vendors open house on Saturday, November 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Everyone is invited to the event featuring many area vendors, food and baked goods.

For more information, call (231) 777-3014.

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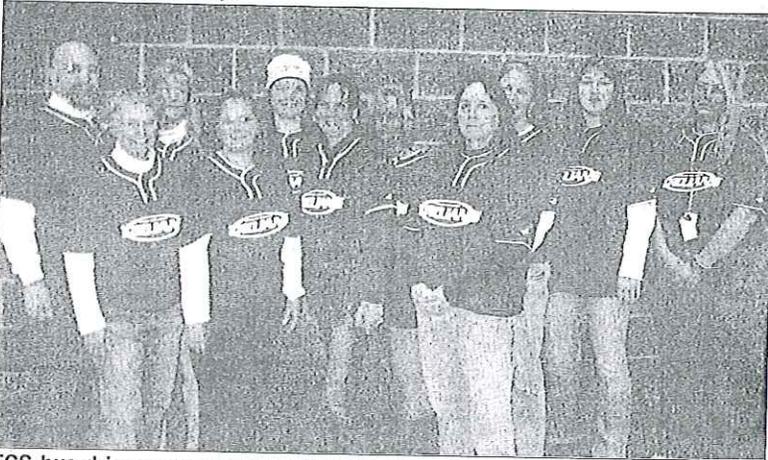
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FCS bus drivers participate in regional bus rodeo

(Submitted by Darlene Field)

In May of this year, Fruitport Community Schools' bus drivers participated in the Region 20 bus rodeo. The team came in second place overall with Darlene Field taking first place for Fruitport. Darlene went on to compete at the state level in West Branch, Michigan in June.

The team would like to thank those businesses that donated to the Region 20 luncheon and door prizes. They include: Fruitport Automotive, Dog N Suds Drive In, Russ' Restaurants, Baxter's LP Gas, American Legion Post 9, Trend Benders (Laurel LeMaire), Herbie's Café, Fruitport Orchard Market, Whitlow's Forerunner, 5/3 Bank, Grover Pharmacy and Prestige Landscape.



FCS bus drivers: (back row, left to right): Rob Strong, Nancy Walker, Carey Whipple, Lori Hall, Bonnie Christopher, Angle Lucy, and Barb Boyer. (front row): Darlene Field; Becki Shackles, supervisor; Dorie Dodson and Cheryl Buter.

Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church to hold Bazaar

(Submitted by Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church)

On Saturday, October 27, 2012, the Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 1860 E. Hile Road (across from Whitlow's Restaurant) will host its annual fall bazaar from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be served starting at 11 a.m.

The bazaar features Slovak and Swedish baked goods, crafts, a white elephant sale, raffles and drawings. There is also a chance to support the BIBLE Club - ELCA anti-malaria project.

Friends group seeking members

By Mary Weimer

The Friends of the Fruitport Library group is seeking more members. The friends support the library programs and materials in many ways, holding book sale fundraisers, volunteering for children's programs, and supporting special needs as they arise.

Membership in the Friends group is free. Meetings are held monthly except during the winter months. The next scheduled meeting of the Friends group is Monday, November 5 at 4 p.m. in the library. Discussion will be the schedule for the next book sale to be held on November 10.

Fruitport schools' retirees

(Submitted by Fruitport Community Schools)

Now that students and staff are back at school, some familiar faces are being missed as 26 faculty and staff members have recently retired. They include: Linda Beimers, Carla Clark, Carla Dykema, Sue Fierke, Rob Finn, Pam Giroux, Robin Hahn, Virginia Hebert, Norm Heerema, Gray Jackson, Shirley Kinnucan, Mary Leonard, Pat McGee, Mary Millard, Kim Rosasco, Dave Schaub, Kim Slezak, Ken Smith, Kathy Smith, Mike Smith, Barb Veach, Judy Vitto, Char Wier, Steve Wilson, Ann Wright and Bill Young.

Best wishes to all on your retirement!

Two more new Michigan license plates available

(Submitted by the Michigan Secretary of State)

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson revealed two new license plates for Michigan drivers recently.

Michigan will move to a new standard plate that features a rolling blue wave and the Pure Michigan brand. Like the current blue and white standard plate, it will have a configuration of up to seven characters and will be available at no additional cost. Incorporating Pure Michigan on the state's license plate is a way to reinforce the Pure Michigan brand message both in state and around the country.

The Mackinac Bridge plate, which will gradually replace the state's Spectacular Peninsulas plate, features the bridge against a sunrise background. It will also have the state's Pure Michigan branding. The new Mackinac Bridge plate will cost \$5 in addition to the regular registration fees.

Both new plates display the Pure Michigan logo at the top, replacing the block letter MICHIGAN on current plates.

Internet educational programs on the constitution available

By FAN staff

A free 10 session course on the U.S. Constitution is being offered online and at no charge as part of a major national educational campaign Hillsdale College has launched. Already, more than 250,000 citizens have registered for the course.

The American Revolution against the British king led to the establishment of the first nation in the history of the world firmly rooted in the idea that men are created by God with the "unalienable rights" of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Because government was strictly limited by the Constitution, the United States rapidly grew into the freest, most prosperous nation in human history.

If you would like to register for Constitution 101, which is archived on the college website so anyone can access it at any time, please go to hillsdaleoffer.com/constitution101.



Muskegon County treasurers working together.

Turkey Trail Run at Hoffmaster

By Danielle Routh

The first annual Gillette Nature Association Turkey Trail Run will be held at Hoffmaster State Park on November 3, 2012. The challenging 5K run begins at 9 a.m. with a Little Turkey 1 Mile Run at 10:30 a.m.

Prior to November 1 registration is \$25; from November 1 through race day, registration is \$30. Prizes for the first three finishers in 14 different age groups will be awarded, including one prize for the best-dressed turkey.

The Little Turkey Trot 1 Mile Run is free. A prize will be given to children who complete the trot. No t-shirts will be given. Registration for the Little Turkey Trot begins at 10 a.m.

Turkey Day stations will be available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. including games, a chance to make your own turkey, and information about wild turkeys. There will be five different stations with a special prize for completing all five stations.

As part of Turkey Day, there is a food drive for the Salvation Army food bank, a cranberry sauce contest, and best-dressed turkey awards.

All proceeds go to the Gillette Nature Association at Hoffmaster State Park. The Association is a non-profit organization that promotes and sponsors interpretive activities and educational opportunities for the Muskegon and Ottawa county community surrounding the Gillette Nature Visitor Center at P.J. Hoffmaster State Park.

You will need a recreation passport for park entry. Register online at www.goracego.com or for more information, visit www.gillettenature.org.

Some costly driver responsibility fees end

(Submitted by the Michigan Secretary of State)

Some driver responsibility fees for lesser driving offenses have been eliminated. Secretary of State Ruth Johnson praised the elimination commenting, "Citizens already have to pay court fines and usually see higher insurance rates for violations. These extra fees have made things tougher for many families."

For the following violations, drivers will no longer have to pay the \$150 driver responsibility fee, previously charged for two consecutive years following the offense:

- Operating a motor vehicle with an expired operator's or chauffeur's license
- Operating without a valid license
- Having more than one license
- Failing to surrender licenses from other states

The new law also eliminated the \$200 driver responsibility fee (charged for two years following the offense) for:

- Failing to have mandatory motor vehicle insurance coverage
- Failure to produce proof of insurance
- Knowingly providing false evidence of insurance

Drivers who owe these fees for offenses committed before October 1, 2012, will still be responsible for paying them.

Other driver responsibility fees of \$500 and \$1,000 for two consecutive years for a variety of more serious motor vehicle offenses, including alcohol-related, controlled substance and reckless driving violations, remain in place.

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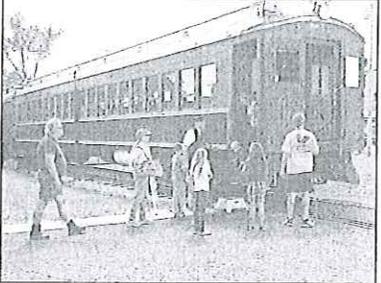
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Coopersville Summerfest
Story by FAN staff; photos by Marilee Beck

The annual Coopersville Summerfest celebration took place in Coopersville August 6 to 11. The variety of events expands each year and includes a number of activities in honor of Coopersville's favorite son, the late Del Shannon.

The weeklong celebration demonstrates the level of cooperation within the community of the clubs, organizations, businesses and residents that it takes to put forth an event that now draws 100,000 people.

This year's Summerfest was seven fun-filled days packed with activities like a scholarship pageant, food



Always a favorite time, riding the Coopersville & Marna Railway during Summerfest.



This 1994 Jeep Wrangler with a 427 big block, owned by Scott Klein of Sparta, was a "winter project" that drew crowds with questions during Summerfest.

Your invitation to attend traditional evening worship
By Pastor Bob Pohler, Fruitport Christian Reformed Church

Are you looking for a traditional evening worship service? The Fruitport Christian Reformed Church extends an invitation to all those in surrounding communities who would like to share an evening Christian worship service. Although more and more congregations are discontinuing their evening service, we recognize that evening worship is still important in some people's walk with the Lord. Also, we are aware that there are people in the community who must work on Sunday mornings and are not able to attend their home congregation's service, but they still desire to worship on Sunday. Because this need exists in the broader community, we are eager to invite everyone to join us on Sunday evenings.

We already have friends from three or four neighboring congregations from throughout the Muskegon-Grand Haven community who join us each Sunday evening. Guests are encouraged to stay loyal to their home church. This is not an attempt to draw members away from other congregations, but an effort to meet a spiritual need.

Evening worship services are typically traditional in style and include several hymns, an opportunity to share prayer requests, and a Bible based sermon. Occasional children's/youth services are announced in advance. Evening worship is scheduled for each Sunday at 6 p.m. except for holiday weekends (Mothers' Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day and Thanksgiving). For additional information, please call the church office (865-6548) to speak either with Julie, our church secretary, or Pastor Pohler. Fruitport Christian Reformed Church is located at 3520 Pontaluna Road, just west of Airline Road.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakeshore awarded grant

(Submitted by Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Lakeshore)

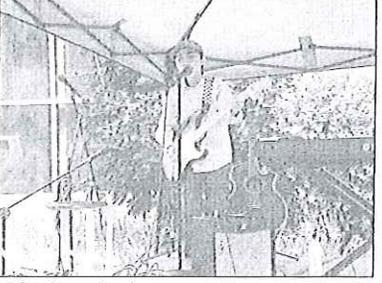
The Community Foundation of the Holland/Zee-land area has agreed to grant Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakeshore the sum of \$5,000 to support their proven mentoring programs. The third quarter award will provide a necessary financial boost funding program expenses and salaries to recruit, interview, pair and support adult volunteers with an additional 12 children in need of mentoring. It is estimated that each match costs \$904 annually to support, although the programs are free to participants.

The National Big Brothers Big Sisters model, established in 1904, is arguably the most successful mentoring program. Locally, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakeshore has operated since 1959 and serves about 175 children annually through its community-based programs in Ottawa, Muskegon, Oceana and Mason counties. The grant will provide critical revenue to run and expand

competitions, 5K race, several fund raising events, a tractor show, silent auction, quilt show, kids' events and the fan-favorite Del Shannon Car Show and Cruise.



Shirley Westover (the mother of Del Shannon's children) and longtime friend Lee Marshall of Coopersville, take a moment to pose for the camera. They, too, have a tradition of being together during Summerfest in Coopersville and the celebration of Del Shannon's fame. They enjoy catching up, looking at all the vehicles, and chatting with the people who come from all around the world to celebrate.



Luke Cunningham, a 10-year old from Sparta, attends Coopersville School and was featured on FOX 17 news for performing for the crowds at Summerfest. He entertained the crowds by playing the piano and guitar while singing selections including Del Shannon's "Runaway," which was released 51 years ago. Luke is a very talented young man and has been performing for the past four years.



Peppie's Pizza rejuvenated

Story and photos by Harry Wojahn

As many of you may know, Peppie's Pizza in Fruitport across from Pomona Park has been undergoing some updates. Local resident and professional painter John Lein has been part of the rejuvenation of the pizza/sub shop to brighten the colors and help attract more clientele for Peppie's. Fruitport has been undergoing a lot of upgrades with roads and buildings. Our town is looking great.

programs, which will, in turn, increase awareness and build community partnerships in the Holland and Zeeland areas.

Since 1969, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakeshore is dedicated to assisting youth reach their full potential through professionally supported mentoring relationships. This is accomplished through carefully matching adult volunteers, "Bigs," with children ages five to 12 known as "Littles" and giving them independent opportunities to let a friendship flourish. Many Big-Little relationships last for years as the Big becomes a caring life-long friend, mentor and positive role model for the Little. On a national level, Big Brothers Big Sisters was founded in 1904 and now serves over 250,000 children annually, operating under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life.

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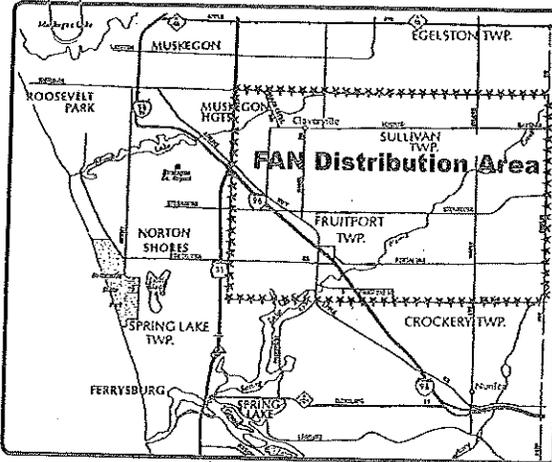
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Ron Cooper for Fruitport Township Supervisor

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Pull out, save and compare!

Hire (Vote for) Ron Cooper for Fruitport Township Supervisor

Resumé

Fruitport Township Supervisor 1996-2000 & 2004-2008

West Michigan Spay and Neuter Clinic 501c3 to Present
Co-founder and president. Non-paid. Purpose is to provide low-cost spay and neutering to help prevent over-population of pets and reduce the thousands that are killed each year because there are not enough people who want them. We will soon do our 5000th spay/neuter.

Fruitport Area News Inc 1983-present
Founder, publisher, editor, in our 30th year as a community service newspaper, non-paid

Copies & More Inc. 1993-present
Founder and President. My wife, Mariann, is the manager.

Farmer 1957-present
At one time, raised about 1,000 acres of field corn, 50 acres of produce, and grew the original super sweet corn raised commercially in this area, the biggest custom grain harvester in this area with three combines operating and harvested most of the wastewater system's corn for their first 12 years along with our other customers. At present, doing very little farming.

Thanks a Million! Food Truck 2009-2010
Drove the semi *Thanks a Million!* food truck. Picked up food at the Feeding America warehouse in Grand Rapids and delivered and worked about 60 loads throughout West Michigan delivering about 600,000 pounds of food to needy families in an area from Hudsonville to Holland to Frankfort to Cadillac. Also arranged and managed other food trucks directly with Feeding America using their trucks.

Fruitport Lions Club Member 1957-2012
55th year, former president, board member, Old Fashioned Days board, Lion of the Year, Melvin Jones Fellow twice, Distinguished Service Award, Co-Chair of Lions Bandshell construction project and raised all the funds

Cooper Lawns Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 1959-1994
Founder, CEO. Sold in 1994 to a national company. We manufactured lawn fertilizer and provided a weeding and feeding service to the greater Milwaukee area. For years we were the largest business of that type in greater Milwaukee.

Project Pride Award
Honored by Muskegon Chamber of Commerce

Professional Farmers of America
Represented Michigan farmers in Washington, D.C. during the Carter administration.

Elected to represent Muskegon County farmers at various times to our regional agricultural district.

First Congregational Church of Fruitport 1984-present
Member, Elder, and Sunday School Superintendent for many years and at the present time

Married to Mariann. We have six kids, foster kids, 17+ grandkids, 8 great-grandkids. Both of us were born and raised in the Fruitport area.

Thank you for your support.

If you are willing to put a sign in your yard, please pick it up at Copies & More, 420 N. 3rd Avenue, Fruitport Village, M-F 11:00am - 3:00pm, or call 865-6370 and a sign will be delivered to your address. If you would like to find locations for some yard signs, please call or stop by. Thank you in advance for your help and consideration. Please vote in the November 6th election. Together we can make a difference.

Vote for Proven Leadership & Results



There were many accomplishments during his last term:

- **Converted 5 roads from gravel to asphalt**
- **Added 11 extensions to our water trunk lines**
- **Started a soccer park on Sheringer Rd.**
- **Extended bike paths**
- **Added to the cemetery building**
- **Renovating the bathrooms at Farr Field**
- **Added two practice fields at east side of Farr Field**
- **Built police headquarters (\$300,000) onto fire station on Airline**
- **Focused Lights on Water Tower**
- **Inherited a \$500,000 budget deficit and balanced it.**

Added 11 needed extensions to our water trunk lines

Under Ron's administration several important loops were completed that are part of our master plan for water distribution. There are several more that should be completed, but we succeeded in connecting some very important ones that had been ignored for 30 years. A huge contribution to the cost of these improvements and extensions was from grants and contributions from businesses on those lines (over \$600,000). This has added to the circulation and freshness needed for large areas in our township's water system.



• Eastbound ON & OFF ramps at I-96 and Sternberg Rd.

This was a high priority project from my first week in office. We went through close to a dozen hearings and received a recommendation from MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation). The project was sent to the Federal DOT (Department of Transportation) for final approval. Over 2 million dollars [\$2,000,000] in grant money was set aside for this project at the Federal level and more was pledged locally.

• Recycling site – The Spring Clean-Up was established during my first term in office. When I left office, we were also providing a fall cleanup as well.

• Land for Soccer Park – With more than 600 Fruitport Township youth in soccer (more than all the other sports combined), I feel that there is a need for a park dedicated to youth soccer. When I ran for office in 2004, I set as a personal goal to add more soccer fields to our parks system. After taking office, we had meetings with the soccer parents' group and encouraged them to participate and help identify the best location of land the township owned. Forty (40) acres of township property on Porter Road was chosen. Opposition developed against using the land for that purpose, and with the help of some very key people, a 3-way land swap was made with the township, the conservation district, and the school system. The township now has ownership of 20 acres on Sheringer Road for our soccer park.



• Bike Paths
We built miles of bike paths and lanes during both terms, all within our budget. I believe bike paths are important to the health and welfare of our community and much more can be done. When I left office we had about 1/2 of the money needed pledged to connect the Muskatawa bike path on the north to the Spring Lake bike path on the south. It looks like the current administration has aborted the project. Some of the money pledged has now been used for an Ottawa County bike path.

BRIAN WERSCHEM

for Township
Their records

Promises made by Brian during his 2008 campaign for supervisor

What did he get done?

- He said he would improve our roads

- 0
- Changed no roads from gravel to asphalt

Within a month of being elected, Brian informed the residents on roads built in the late 1940s and 1950s that had never been accepted by the county that they would have to maintain their own roads. The roads were maintained during both of Ron's terms in office and also during other supervisors' terms. These citizens pay property taxes and gas taxes, but because their homes were built at a time that our government failed to take care of the details of construction and ownership, Brian decided it would be a nice way to save some money.

He may have participated with the county road commission with some chip and seal resurfacing.

- Improve bike lanes and bike paths

- 0
- Added no bike paths or lanes

- He said our core services of water need to be supported

- 0
- Added no water extension to trunk lines

New DPW Building

The DPW has wanted a new building for years. It has been a little tight but they have been getting by. Brian evidently decided that it was time to build them a new building. Its a half million-dollar building - the most expensive building the township has built for itself. And where did Brian decide to build it? On ten acres of property on the corner of Brooks Road and Broadway that was supposedly bought for a location for a water tower which was in our 50-year-old water distribution design. Whether it is still relevant is open for discussion. That location is about as far from the township hall as you can get. There is no water line in either direction about 1/2 mile on Brooks and over a mile on Broadway. Both of those pipes would need to be put in before building a water tower. A well has been put in so that there is water for the building. I always thought that Fruitport Township

government worked really well with the water department and government offices together. They could help each other with phones and customer service, and it was healthy having them within sight. I expect that another person will need to be hired to accommodate the separate offices. Also, the building is about as far from our water and sewer customers as you can get which means extra driving time during the day, every day, just to get to the customers who need services, especially emergency shut-offs in case of accidents or line breakage. It seems to me that that money could have been better spent getting water lines to people who have to deal with bad water and expensive purifying systems. Since the building was built next to the old dump, they may not be able to drink water from their own well.

- Stop wasting money on frivolous lawsuits

- Started a lawsuit with Muskegon Heights over a water rate issue that clearly contradicted the water services agreement and lost.

- Agreed to a settlement of \$10,000 by the race track for not paying close to a million dollars in fees owed to the township. Brian settled it with very little knowledge of the success the township had in court. I rather doubt that he read even 1/4 of the court documents. The settlement was a huge loss to the township.

OR RON COOPER

Supervisor
are revealing

What did Ron do during the previous term in office?

5

- **Converted 5 roads from gravel to asphalt**
 - Maintained the dozen or so old roads which the county wouldn't accept.

1. Harvey between Judson & Ottawa County line
2. Mt. Garfield between Kendra & Quarterline
3. Quarterline between Pontaluna & Sternberg
4. Sheridan between Mt. Garfield & Sternberg
5. 14th Street north of Vig Drive

Participated with the county road commission to do chip and seal to resurface many miles of roads.

6 & 2

- **During his two terms he established 6 Bike Paths and 2 Bike Lanes**
 - He also purchased the equipment to maintain the bike paths during the winter, including the sidewalk near Beach School.

1. The bike path on two sides of the Mall frontage.
 2. The bike path on Henry in front of Meijers
 3. The bike path on Sheridan between Mt. Garfield & Sternberg
 3. The bike path along Mt. Garfield both sides of Sheridan
 4. Worked with others to establish the bike path from the Fruitport Village to the Spring Lake bike path
 5. The bike lanes, both sides of Pontaluna between the middle school & Harvey
 6. Bike path on Independence Drive, Harvey to Meijers
-

11

- **Added 11 extensions to our water trunk lines**
 - Most of these extensions were important looping in the master plan that had been left unfinished for 30+ years.

1. Heights Ravenna Road east to Brooks Road
 2. Brooks Road from Trail Side to Hazekamps
 3. Broadway Avenue east to bike path (Muskatawa Trail)
 4. Dangle Road between Airline and Sternberg
 5. Sternberg Road from Dangle to Brooks Road
 6. Stringer Road from Mt. Garfield to Sternberg
 7. Brooks Road from Sternberg to Ellis Road
 8. Ellis Road east to Brooks Road
 9. Harvey Street, Wilson to Judson
 10. Brooks Road – connected water mains north and south of Norris Creek
 11. Wilson Road – connection line, Harvey Street to Norton Shores
-

- With Norton Shores negotiated through the courts an agreement to have Muskegon Heights return over \$200,000 that they had intermingled with their general fund from the water fund.

- Since the water service agreement was negotiated during Ron's first term, with his direct involvement, Fruitport and Norton Shores have had lower cost water than either Muskegon or Grand Haven customers pay.

- After a thorough examination and studying the agreement with the race track, I knew they were sending the Fruitport Township share of the betting formula away from Fruitport. They didn't expect us to know what they were doing. It was in their best interest to work behind the scenes to make sure I wasn't reelected. The new board would not familiarize themselves with the case. There was a lot at stake for track ownership. Ron initiated the suit against the race track for not paying about a million dollars in betting fees to the township using funds from the track designed for that purpose, not from the general fund. One of the track attorneys, Nelson Westin, had acknowledged that the track would probably settle for between \$700,000 and \$800,000 when they could no longer stall the case through the courts and if the township board stayed committed. The national ownership agreed in court to pay for the state ownership's obligation when

that time came. Ron agreed to be responsible for the township's attorney bill personally from that time on because he could not bear to see the township lose that much money because of petty politics by the township board, and with the understanding he would be reimbursed for his expenses when the settlement took place. He is still making monthly payments on that bill. The track owners were having difficulty stalling it any longer and were at a point where they would be getting the judge's decision if they didn't settle it. The settlement took place without Ron's knowledge and for a ridiculously small amount. Since the township settled for such a small amount, Brian recommended to just put the settlement into the general fund.

Is this what Brian calls "Positive Leadership"?

Bending the law and even making up laws to do people in (and to show them who is boss)! Following are some examples:

Critter Café Airline Rd., Fruitport

Christine's Critter Café, located across the road from the fire station on Airline Road. Christine puts her heart and soul into rescuing abandoned pets and finding new homes for them. She averages about 200 per year. Hers is the only rescue in our area that takes all pets including rabbits, rats, birds, etc. Before moving into her location, she requested a letter of permission from the township which she received May of 2008. Police departments, including the Fruitport police department, 911, and other rescuers that take only dogs and cats send her abandoned pets.

After over four years operating her rescue, Brian initiated a letter sent by Michigan Township Services that told her that all her "animals must be removed from the property until all necessary approvals are given by the Planning Commission or Zoning Board of Appeals." Brian's actions could be because Christine complained to authorities that an animal the police asked her to pick up had been abused. There was a connection between Brian and the possible abuser.

After receiving the letter and emailing it to some of her fellow rescuers for their opinion on what she should do, she called Township Services and they told her she needed to go to Brian's office and talk to him, which she did.

According to Christine and others who were nearby, Brian hollered that 5,000 people had responded to him on the internet and proceeded to verbally and aggressively (in an intentionally overbearing manner) abuse her to the point where she broke down in tears, and he still continued.

On Channel 8 news he said he had no knowledge of the Critter Café existing. Brian put an ad in the December 2008 FAN. Right next to it (about 1/2"), is an article about the Critter Café Rescue with a picture of her sign, and Brian seems to be looking right at it. Usually, when someone puts an ad in the paper with their picture in it, they check it out at least once. Additionally, the fire and police department driveway faces her sign and Brian probably uses that drive about once a week.

Christine seems to be a pleasant and open person who might not be able to defend herself. Fortunately, the public came forward and offered to do what they could to help her. Christine spends her limited retirement on her rescue and has no funds left over. One person who stepped forward was an attorney, Ginny Mikita, from Rockford who started a conversation with the township attorney, and Christine has been in limbo ever since, not knowing from day to day what is going to happen to her and her rescue.

She knows that the Department of Agriculture, the DNR, Animal Control, and Pound Buddies had been contacted by the township because they had contacted her.

Recently, she was in the hospital for a few days because she was injured by a cat that was dropped off at her rescue by an unknown person. Even though volunteers looked after the rescue while she was in the hospital, it was a worry to her of what the township might do to her rescue while she was gone.

Mark Diederich 2636 E. Pontaluna Rd., Fruitport

Mark and his dad before him, have been taking in yard compostables since the 1940s. When I was in office a couple neighbors complained that his place was not neat enough to suit them. Mark also lives there in a 100-year-old house that his grandfather built. I checked out the legalities with what Mark was doing and came to the conclusion that

he was agriculture and pre-existed any of our zoning ordinances, and under the law he should be able to continue.

In 1995, Fred Constantini from Michigan Township Services, wrote Mark that the township has no problem with the composting behind his house and acknowledged that an unlicensed van was a farm vehicle.

One of the neighbors told me at that time to get 'rid of Mark'. When I told him that he was within the law I was told to get rid of him anyway, because government can do it! At that point I realized that our township government should be protecting Mark, not doing him in. With that background, I'm assuming that the same neighbor told Brian the same thing because in early 2011, Fruitport Township got an order to enter Mark's home and started the process to condemn and demolish it. It's my opinion that the judge who issued the order to enter Mark's home and all other buildings on his property was not fully informed of Mark's situation. Yellow tape was put across his driveway thus putting him out of business and it has never been taken down by the township.

Brian again had to deal with angry protestors supporting Mark and gave him more time to do some of the improvements inside of his house that the township demanded of him. The township hired a building inspector from Norton Shores and called him a "Hearing Officer" to make numerous requirements to basically bring his 100-year-old house up to modern code. I believe this was an abuse of power by Brian who had to get someone from outside our township to do the dirty deed because our local inspectors fully understood and were probably not anxious to participate.

Mark is a pleasant man whom one would assume would be unable to defend himself. Thankfully, the public became involved to help him.

Using the Assessor to Spy

I have been made aware that the township, under Brian's direction, is using the township assessor to spy on our citizens' property because the township zoning and building department can't trespass without a warrant.

On Wilson Road, the township assessor entered private property and took pictures of what was a legal operation that could not be seen from any other property and gave the pictures to township services.

At the same time, the assessor took pictures of some cars on neighboring property that no one could see except from the property she was standing on, and turned them in to township services also. I have first-hand knowledge of this. I was told by a very reliable source that the assessor also went into a fenced-in area behind a garage that had an unlicensed car that no one could see from outside the fence! The unlicensed car may have been that of a son away at college or in the service. Whether or not the car was there legally is not the question. I believe it is against the law to use the township assessor in this way.

The New Water Agreement

I don't believe it's a good decision to stop buying water from the Muskegon Heights water plant.

1. Fruitport and Norton Shores have paid less for water than Muskegon water plant customers for nearly all of 40 years.
2. It's been healthy for Muskegon water plant customers because Muskegon was limited on how much more they could charge their

Paid for by Ron Cooper for Supervisor

customers over what the Heights charged.

3. With Fruitport and Norton Shores contracted to Muskegon for water, it will make it difficult for the Heights plant to survive.

4. The Heights marked up their water to Fruitport and Norton Shores by 25% and they desperately need that income.

5. It's in everyone's interest to help the Heights succeed. Their problems spill over to the neighboring communities whether it is crime, school sports, or this areas visitors' safety going through the Heights and numerous other ways.

6. It's utterly irresponsible to purposely damage the Heights like that, and the end result will be that the Muskegon plant will have a monopoly. When our contract runs out, our price will increase to the level their other customers are paying, and we will get what we deserve for failing to consider what is best for the Heights in our decision.

Misleading Advertising

Brian states in his advertising that he "Eliminated over three million dollars in debt at no additional cost to the taxpayers." More simply, he paid the water and sewer bond payments with money that was in those funds and actually he didn't do it, but the treasurer did.

He says he eliminated "over \$500,000 in interest payments on behalf of the taxpayers." Interest costs have gone down without Brian's help and the township treasurer/board has simply taken advantage of the lower rates.

"Reduced operational costs by \$587,000 (25.1%) while improving services." At the moment I don't have the means to check his figures. Which services have improved:

Not funding the private/public roads that have been maintained by the township for years?

Doing one unadvertised cleanup in the spring and eliminating the fall clean up?

Having such poor police investigation that people are starting to not call the police after a robbery because it isn't worth the bother?

"Saved the Fruitport Sewer System from bankruptcy." First I've heard of it and don't believe it.

"Improved the financial position of the township so we are no longer borrowing to pay bills." I would like him to show where the township borrowed to pay the bills unless it was to keep from cashing in high paying CDs for a short term need.

Cline Road Property Sale

The township owned 100+ acres on Cline Road. Why did we sell that property at the bottom of the market? Why did we lower our price by \$100,000 to do it? It was the largest parcel the township owned and also had some of the highest ground.

Government's job is to protect its citizens. That includes those less able to defend themselves. If we allow our government to do them in, who is next and where does it stop? We all have a responsibility to respond and that's one of the main reasons I am running for township supervisor.
- Ron

This pull-out was put together just before this paper went to press without much proofing. Some of what is printed here is from memory and I believe it is accurate, but there is the possibility that I may be off a little on something. If anyone has a question regarding the accuracy, please give me a call at 865-3135 and I will do my best to respond.

Lakeshore 504 interest rates at all-time low

(Submitted by the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce)

Lakeshore 504 interest rates for small businesses hit an all-time low in September with a 4.28 percent fixed rate for 20 years. If your business is in the market to buy an existing building, or buy new or used machinery or equipment, you must look into the Small Business Administration's 504 loan program.

The 504 loan program is administered by Lakeshore 504 and offers advantages such as a low down payment (typically 10 %) and 20 or 10 year fixed interest rates.

For more information, contact David Miller, Business Development Manager, in the Grand Haven office at (616) 846-3153.

NEW HOURS

for Copies & More and FAN effective

Monday, October 8

11:00am - 3:00pm

Sorry for any inconvenience.

Any questions, call 865-6370

October 20th 2012

AUTUMN BAZAAR & CRAFT SALE

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Party Lite, Watkins, Crochet Items, Trivets & Collectibles, Blankets, Doll Clothes, Handmade Crafts, & Jewelry, Prayer Shawls, Clothes, Baby Items, Cutlery, Coffees/Teas, Variety of Sweets & Goodies, Cutting Boards, Lazy Susans, Wood Crafts &

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Seniors 62 & over
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All day Monday



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Sarah Williams R. Ph.

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Littering by the deck

By Harry Wojahn

I was on the deck at Pomona Park and noticed that there was quite a bit of litter in the lake below. We all need to remember that our precious lake is just that: Ours. More than that, it also belongs to all of the wildlife that resides in it. And unlike us, they cannot pick up and walk away from it. It's their home, and we need to take care of it.

We cannot let the acts of a few inconsiderate people destroy our beautiful lake, just because they do not feel the need to take the time to throw their trash in the appropriate trash receptacles. Would you want someone to come into your home and throw trash all over your floors? So before you throw your garbage in the lake, remember that it is not only a crime, but also just plain rude to ruin such a beautiful environment as our lake. We should learn to enjoy the lake, not destroy it.

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9:00 a.m. Children & Adult S.S.
 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

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Communion every Sunday
 Barrier Free

First Congregational Church of Fruitport
 3212 E. Pontaluna Rd. (across from Edgewood Elementary)
 Pastor Mike Scott 616-780-9763

Communion first Sunday each month
 Coffee & Fellowship at 10:00
 Sunday School & Church at 10:30

Drop kids off at 10:15-10:30
 & Pick up angels at 12:00

eagle eggs unborn baby

Destroying one is punishable by a \$250,000 fine or 2 years in prison.

Not only is it legal to kill her but Obamacare is forcing taxpayers to pay for her execution.

Confusing isn't it...
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 3212 E. Pontaluna Road
 Church & Sunday School at 10:30 AM



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368 N. 3rd Ave. Fruitport Village
 Next to Word of Hope Church

Everyone loves a mystery except...

By Pastor John Koedyker (Word of Hope Church)

There is an expression, "Everyone loves a mystery." I must admit that I enjoy reading a good mystery now and then. In fact, when we took our vacation for a week up north, I packed a real "page-turner" along.

It supposed to be because of the attraction of mysteries that back in 1994, Northwest Airlines offered so-called "Mystery Fares" for \$59. The ticket provided a one-day trip to an unknown city somewhere in the United States. Buyers didn't find out where they were headed till they arrived at the airport the day of the flight.

The offer went over amazingly well. In Indianapolis, for example, 1,500 people crowded the airline counter to buy the Mystery Fare tickets that were sold on a first come, first served basis.

Not surprisingly, when customers learned their destinations, not all were thrilled. One man, who was hoping to go to New Orleans, walked through the airport trying to unload his ticket to Detroit. I just can't imagine why he wouldn't want to visit the "Motor City!"

Mystery Fares might be a fun surprise for a weekend vacation, but usually most of us like to know where we're going. And one time you never want a mystery ticket is on the day of your death. Well, it doesn't have to be a mystery. "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16. Make sure today that you have reserved your ticket!

New Spring Lake arrival

Phillip and Courtney Palnau of Spring Lake are pleased to announce the arrival of Emmy Palnau. She was born at North Ottawa Community Hospital on September 9 and weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces. •

A time to reflect

By Al Schneider

I was deeply moved. During a recent PBS television program featuring oldies, there was Kate Smith singing *God Bless America*. It's been a long time since I saw her do that. It was breathtaking and it made me think. Many years ago, we kids sang that song in the country school where I attended. That was before God was booted out of classrooms. Kids can't sing that in schools anymore.

In that same schoolhouse we staged a Christmas program each year and called it that. We sang Christian songs, performed skits, and even wished the audience a Merry Christmas. Christmas is a wonderful time of year, and we, in our own way, tried to express that. That was then.

God, who loves children, is no longer permitted to mingle with them inside the schoolroom. He's an outcast. Exit God; enter Darwin, Dewey, druids and demons.

God has become somewhat of a stranger in our society as well. In one of the recent political conventions, His name was scrubbed from the party platform, only to be reinstated by an unconvincing voice vote. Yet, strangely, speeches delivered at both conventions would typically end with a rousing "God Bless America." First, we're uncertain about having Him hanging around, then we want Him to bless. Do we take Him for a nincompoop? It seems so.

I had intended to make this piece about Christopher Columbus, whose special day comes up in October. Columbus, too, has found himself left standing on the school doorstep a time or two. True, Columbus brought some of the quandary upon himself. He exercised pitiful management skills in establishing colonies. He was an avid gold seeker, and he lacked tact in dealing with the native population. His specialty lay in navigation at which he was peerless.

But Columbus had other traits, which have given school administrators pause. Columbus was one of those annoying "God and Country" types, for which schools have so much distaste. According to historian Martha Kneib, when Columbus came ashore at San Salvador (Holy Savior), "He kissed the sand, thanked God for success, and cried." Then he unfurled the Spanish flag, taking possession of the land for his queen. On his return trip, he took six natives with the purpose of converting them to Christianity. None of these actions find favor with present day curricula writers.

Seldom mentioned (never during my school days), is the fact that on his second voyage, Columbus brought 17 ships carrying 1200 passengers, horses, sheep, cows and pigs. Biographer Samuel Morison stated, "No European nation had ever undertaken an overseas colonizing expedition on anything approaching this scale." On a personal note, let me say that I spent my boyhood days on a dairy farm and later, considerable time at sea. I must say that no amount of coercion would have gotten me aboard one of those ships.

He never touched U.S. soil. Yet, two state capitals and some 40 other U.S. cities, towns and counties are named after him. There is also the District of Columbia, the Columbia River and Columbia University. I think he deserves a chair in the classroom on his special day — right up there next to the teacher.

God bless America! •

Prayer and the coming election
 (Condensed from the Gospel Tract Society)

"There is plenty of evidence in the Bible that God responds to the earnest prayers of His people with regard to national interests. He has His own sovereign ways of raising up and setting aside rulers.

"God was quite ready to hear Abraham's prayers for wicked Sodom and Gomorrah. He is no less ready to hear our prayers for America.

"Consider the impact of Daniel's prayer life on the godless rulers of the great Babylonian Empire. God's man of prayer was the instrument through which Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar learned that God rules in the kingdom of men and 'giveth it to whomsoever He wills' (Daniel 4:25).

"Think of the effectiveness of Nehemiah's prayers in the restoring of a defeated, scattered and decadent nation. Basic to Nehemiah's courageous leadership and hard work was continual prayer.

"Take a second look at Mordecai and Queen Esther. The doom of Israel had been sealed by Haman's plot and signed by the king. But prayer reversed the whole situation (Esther 4:15-17). Surely God is ready to hear the desperate cries of His children for America today.

"And how do you pray for the coming election?

"Ask God to put in authority men who will allow us to live peaceable, godly and honest lives.

"Ask God for rulers who will in no way hinder the proclamation of the Gospel in this country or other countries.

"Ask for wisdom in voting that His will may be done on earth as it is done in heaven.

"Pray for America. Pray before you vote. Pray in the assurance that He will answer. 'If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land' (2 Chronicles 7:14)."

Faith is change

By Reverend R.A. Shackles

One of the reasons why church membership by and large really makes no serious impact on our personal lives or our society is that for large numbers of Christians their faith commitment makes no radical difference in daily life. It is not to suggest that church members don't take their belief in God seriously. Rather it is that so often that faith seems to do little to change us. Even regular attendance at worship often falls into a routine of conscientiously attending church on Sunday but then during the week — with all that goes on in daily life — dropping into a habit of letting Sunday take care of our religion.

Consider this, that in daily life it is often virtually impossible to tell a Christian from a non-Christian. Look at any weekday gathering and you just cannot discern which is which. It is not supposed to be that way! St. Paul writes, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2). Even more, Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

The point is that being a Christian, committing to Jesus, is meant to change our lives. That means, literally, that our lives in daily affairs should impress others as "different." Now, with due regard to current disclaimers, this does not mean you must confront every person you meet with an almost belligerent, "Have you been saved, brother?" We all agree that is usually counterproductive, surely annoying to others. But it should mean that you are so changed in your outlook on life, that whenever the life of a friend or relative is bedeviled by lack of serious spiritual support it becomes of primary concern to you. As a "changed" person, your commitment to Christ means you care actually about others. And when and where an opening comes to you, you are prepared in your faith, changed in Christ, to give help wherever possible.

But in a broader consideration, being a Christian means you have been changed in every respect of how you live your life, of how you treat others, of how ready you are to be open to share your love of Christ when someone [who] really needs that, signals by their actions and words they are hurting. If we have been changed, transformed in Christ, our lives should have a reassuring glow about them that does show to others, assures them you are a person who can be trusted, who will reach to give whatever help is possible in you. Seriously and devoutly lifted, a Christian's faith changes them into a person who is different, powered by the inner glow of the Holy Spirit.

Put another way, if when you worship at your parish church and don't have a sense of renewed excitement at being a Christian when you leave, you haven't put enough of yourself into the hands of the Lord! Of course, if you don't see why you should change this way, you're really not likely to change as Christ changes us, that is. In any case, don't be afraid to let Christ change you. It isn't all that painful. Ask any Spirit-changed Christian! •

A parable of two religions

By Clifford Lones

Two twelve-year-old neighbor boys were in the back yard together. One boy was religious; the other was not. The religious boy grabbed the arm of the other boy, twisted his arm behind his back and said, "you believe in my god or I'll break your arm, and if you say anything against my religion, I'll burn your parents' house down!"

Two other twelve-year-old neighbor boys were in the back yard together. One boy was religious; the other was not. Both boys one summer night were lying back on the grass looking up at the clear starry sky. The religious boy said to the other boy, "the starry sky is awesome! There are thousands of suns and planets in the vast universe. Our earth and sun is just a part of it all. Our earth moves around the sun once every year with a tilt that gives us summer, fall, winter, and spring. It all works like clockwork. Surely, there must be a loving and benevolent God who created and designed it all!"

This is but a parable but it illustrates that a forced religion is really no religion. A free-will faith religion is genuine. God has created us with a free will. He could make us say or do whatever He wants, but He doesn't do so because He is pleased when we voluntarily love and obey Him. As a person I am pleased when my wife, children or friends by their own free will say they love me and like to fellowship with me. What pleasure would I have if I forced them to do so?

A forced religion is but people using a religion to control other people without a free exercise of their will and love. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

New hours announced at the Fruitport library

By Mary Weimer

New branch hours were recently announced by the Muskegon Area District Library. The Fruitport branch will now be open 40 hours weekly. Library hours are:

Monday and Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Why memorize Scripture?

By Al Wezeman

Scripture is also known as the Holy Bible and the Word of God.

We know that Satan hates God's Word and can't stand to be around it. We know that from the Holy Bible itself. Matthew 4:1-11 tells of the time when Satan came to Jesus and tried to get Jesus to do certain things. Every time Jesus was tempted by Satan, He quoted verses from Scripture. Satan immediately left, but then returned to try again to make Jesus do what He shouldn't do. Satan gave up when Jesus kept quoting verses. How can we learn from Jesus' example?

First, we need to realize that Jesus knew the Scriptures. Jesus did not have an electronic device he could use to look up an appropriate verse. In other words, Jesus had the verses stored in His memory. Satan gave Jesus the clue to recall the right verse. You might argue that Jesus was the sinless Son of God and, of course, He knew the Scripture. Remember that Jesus grew up in a Jewish family and was taught the Scriptures from childhood. Jesus' humanity was like us, sin excepted. We are sinful creatures, prone to evil, so it is very important for us to be ready with the ammunition when Satan tempts us. God's Word is filled with ammunition. Each verse can be used to send Satan away.

Satan tries many schemes and devious ways to get us to sin or be discouraged. Sexual sins are ever present every day and verses can be selected and memorized to send Satan away. For example, Psalm 51:10 is a verse King David prayed to God. "Create in me a pure heart O God, renew a steadfast spirit within me." Memorize that verse and when tempted or when an impure thought comes to your mind, think or say the verse. Satan will leave or the impure thought will disappear. You can use 2 Chronicles 7:14 and 1 John 1:19 to be reassured of God's promise of forgiveness and purification. Satan can discourage you if you do not have the truth well in mind, because we do sin every day.

The Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6:10-20 and the Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 5:6-9 tell us what we must do. Both stress the importance of God's Word firmly in mind. That can only mean memorization and daily meditation on the Word. You can always meditate on something that is always foremost in your mind.

If you want a promise from God, memorize Proverbs 3:5-6. If you want hope, memorize Romans 15:13. If you want to keep in mind who you are, memorize Philippians 3:20 and 21. If you want to sense the Fatherly love of God, memorize Revelation 21:1-5.

You get the idea. Now get busy and memorize God's word, "Sword of the Spirit."

Central Michigan University awards degrees

(Submitted by Central Michigan University)

Fruitport residents awarded degrees during the May, 2012 graduation ceremony include Whitney Woolley (MA degree); Adam Boucher (BS degree); and Kellene Hilliard (BAA degree).

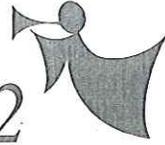
CMU-spring semester honors list

(Submitted by Central Michigan University)

Jeffrey Fisher, Lindsey Nickisch, Nicolas Brezina, Mark Davison, Brittany Houser and Allison Wisneski, all of Fruitport, were named to the spring semester honors list at CMU, along with Nunica resident Tiffany Holmes.



Fall bazaar 2012



Nov. 9 (Fri) – 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
& Nov. 10 (Sat) – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Lots of *delicious* food all day long.

Plan to eat supper with us Friday between 5:00 & 7:00 pm. Serving barbecues, soup, chili, hot dogs, beans, mac & cheese, chips, beverage and desserts
Also have Children's Menu.

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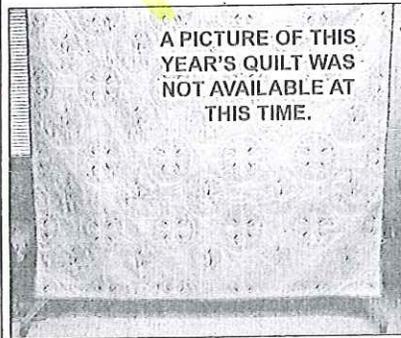
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Baked Goods

Baby Quilts

Rag Rugs

Christmas Items



QUILT RAFFLE

Drawing: 1:00 Saturday

\$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00



First Congregational Church

3212 Pontaluna Road

(Across from Edgewood Elementary)

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40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

Join the worldwide movement to protect mothers and babies
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2. PEACEFUL VIGIL - bring your prayers & love for Christ to the Sidewalk in front of the abortion clinic Women's Medical Services, near the corner of Getty St. and Apple Ave. *Every day 8am-8pm*
Sept. 26th-Nov. 4th, 2012

3. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

To become a part of this movement or for more information:
Life40mus@yahoo.com or visit www.40daysforlife.com/Muskegon