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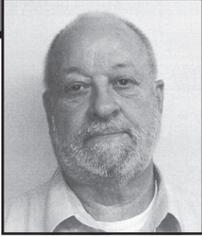
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This is what is left of the house on Hickory following the August 23 fire.

Crockery Township house fire

Story and photos by Harry and Heidi Wojahn

Twenty-two year old Amanda Stuthard and two of her children, Madison Westcomb, age 4; and one-and-a-half-year old Adam Stuthard, stand in front of where the garage to their home once stood.

On Monday, August 23, tragedy struck when the garage and home caught fire. The house was a total loss. Marlene Thompson, the owner of the house, has lived in the house at 14035 Hickory for 21 years. After such a long time in their home, which was full of all of their precious memoirs, they must move on to a new home with a new beginning and a chance to make new memories.

A neighbor's house across the yard also suffered smoke and heat damage, as evidenced in the melted siding.



Marlene commented, "I would like to thank the Red Cross, Danielle, as well as the other people from the north Grand Haven congregation, and everyone else who has helped us and for everyone's support. Thank you all."



The interior of Marlene Thompson's house following the fire.

Dogtoberfest to be held

(Submitted by Dog Star Ranch)

On Saturday, October 31, 2009, canines on leashes and their humans are invited to visit Dog Star Ranch, 4200 Whitehall Road in Muskegon. Admission is free with a donation to the Pet Pantry of Michigan.

The Pet Pantry of Michigan is an organization that provides low income residents with pet food and supplies. Even though the economy has been struggling, they are trying to make sure no pets are forgotten or abandoned.

Dogtoberfest gives you the opportunity to learn more about Dog Star Ranch and Pet Pantry, as well as local rescue organizations and vendors.

Contests include costumes (best, scariest, most original and most popular), "look a likes," best tricks, etc. Prizes include Dog Star Ranch monthly memberships, nail trims, teeth brushing, and ear cleaning for your dog.

Canine demonstrations are scheduled. Food and snacks are available, and you can finish your day with a color tour in the 24-acre Canine Frontier nature trails.

For more information, contact Dog Star Ranch at (231) 766-0444 or jenn@dogstarranch.com or the Pet Pantry of Michigan at (616) 607-8921 or petpantry2009@yahoo.com.

Dog Star Ranch and the Pet Pantry of Michigan would like to help give local dogs something to bark about this Halloween!

Dreese Fine Arts Gallery features watercolors by local artist

by Mary Weimer

Art and English teacher Suejean Kienke and her husband Jerome enjoy the vibrant wildlife in their marshland homes in Michigan and Florida. They love to travel and have gone by boat, plane, train and automobile. Jerome is constantly on the lookout for an antique Chris-Craft wooden boat to restore to its original glorious mahogany finish, and Suejean carries a camera.

Suejean earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Grand Valley University, and earned a Masters Degree from Michigan State University. She continues her studies at Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids and with private instructors in Stuart, Florida.

Working in watercolors from her numerous photographs and field sketches, Suejean composes the main elements in her paintings, usually combining several aspects of multiple photographs. The easy part is coming up with an idea. The most difficult part is capturing that image on watercolor paper.

Her most recent art exhibit, See the U.S.A.— from the tropics to the Golden Gate, is currently on display at Dreese Fine Art and Framing, 701 E. Savidge Street, in Spring Lake. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. •



A breath of fresh air!

(Submitted by the Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce)

The Muskegon County Board of Commissioners has unanimously approved the Clean Indoor Air Regulation that will take effect on November 9, 2009. Whether your business is already smoke-free or will be creating a new policy, here's what you need to know about this new regulation:

- All public and private worksites and all private residences used as a child care, health care, or adult day care facility, or as a business open to the public are included in this regulation.

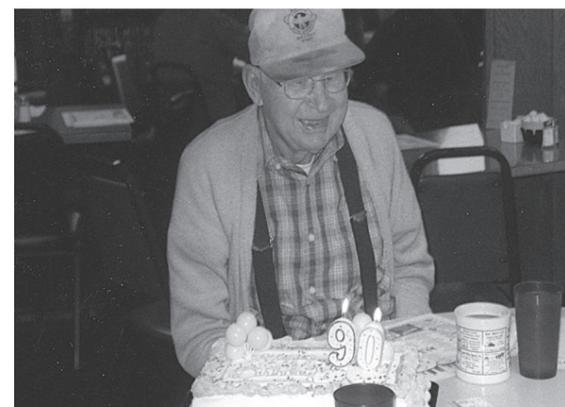
- All other private residences, bars, restaurants, and tobacco specialty stores are not included.

- All businesses included in this regulation need to develop and adopt a smoke-free workplace policy by November 9, 2009.

- This policy must include prohibiting smoking in all enclosed work areas and establishing that any smoking on campus shall be at a distance sufficient to ensure that persons entering or leaving the building or facility shall not be subjected to breathing tobacco smoke and to ensure that tobacco smoke does not enter the building or facility through entrances, windows, and ventilation systems.

- This policy must be communicated to employees by October 19, 2009 (three weeks prior to the November 9 start date).

Organizations already smoke free should ensure that your designated smoking areas meet the criteria listed above; update your policy, if needed; and distribute by October 19, 2009. For businesses just beginning the process, the Muskegon County Health Department has sample policies and implementation resources available online. •



John Meyers of Fruitport Township celebrated his 90th birthday on June 9th at the Cozy Corner Cafe.



Friends Mel LeNore, Fred Baxter and Larry Start were on hand to help John Meyers celebrate his special day.