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L D A R A S G H S T F Y A D
A Y D U T S Z S W T O Y D E
Y L O E U G E O M E T R Y N
G O V E R N M E N T A O M T
R O T N E R M E V O G T E S
O H C H A L K C B L I S D Y
U C I D K M S K O O B I A R
N S V Q V Q C U J B F H C W
D V I E G A U G N A L E A G
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Malley and Cooper Wedding

Meghan Malley and Sam Cooper were united in everlasting marriage on August 22, 2009. The small wedding was held at the Fruitport home of Sam's brother, Bill Cooper and his wife, Wendi. The outdoor wedding was hampered by uncertain weather, and what started as a drizzle when the wedding began, turned into a downpour with wedding party and guests running to the house for cover.

At that point it was agreed to have the wedding in the downstairs of the house. The wedding party lined up in front of the fireplace and the guests stood wherever they found room. It was very cozy and comfortable.

The groom is the son of Ron and Mariann Cooper of Fruitport, and the bride is the daughter of Mary Currey and Mike Metty of Fair Oaks, California. The couple were married by Pastor Paul Currey, the bride's uncle from Oklahoma.



The Best Man was Josh Schultz, a friend of the groom, and the Maid of Honor was Caitlin Malley, sister of the bride. The bridesmaids were Allison Haynes, Jessie Wiebeck, Lindsay Bennink, friends of the bride, Rebekah Bock, friend and sister of the groom, and Adam Budday, friend of the bride and groom. The groomsmen were Nicolas Cole, Kenny VanKlombenberg, Dan Mays, James Valanty, friends of the groom, and Aaron Bock, brother-in-law and friend of the groom.

The flower girl was Grace Cooper, niece of the groom. The ushers were Chris Cooper, friend and cousin of the groom, and Michael Rader, friend of the groom. The couple met as students at Western Michigan University.

The reception and celebration was held at Mick's Banquet Hall in Fruitport Township.

The couple resides in Grand Rapid, MI.

Governor appoints local man to fire safety board

(Submitted by Sanctuary at the Oaks)

David J. Henry, Jr., of Fruitport, executive director of Sanctuary at the Oaks and Sanctuary at the Park, has been reappointed to the State Fire Safety Board (SFSB), as announced by Governor Jennifer Granholm. As a member of this 17-person board, he will represent the owners of adult foster care facilities in the state.

The SFSB has the mission of protecting life and property from fire, smoke, hazardous materials, and fire-related panic in specific types of public facilities in the state of Michigan. Through this board, Henry's role will be to assist in the creation of administrative rules necessary to enforce the laws of the Bureau of Fire Services.



Muskegon market report

(Submitted by the Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce)

The span of Business 31 throughout Muskegon County provides convenient access to major transportation routes in West Michigan. Muskegon's position as the "landing pad" from I-96 plays an integral part in our community's economic development strategy. The Business 31 corridor weaves across municipal lines encompassing all of Seaway Drive and provides direct access to commercial, industrial, tourism, and residential developments. This corridor of commerce connects Muskegon's three primary commercial districts.

The Sternberg corridor, downtown Muskegon, and the area near Michigan's Adventure are the three distinct "hubs" of commercial development. Growing rapidly during the last five years, each of these "hubs" serves a distinct purpose and is interdependent on the success of the others. In Fruitport Township, the commercial and industrial tax base has increased 39 percent between 2004 and 2009. This increase is due to a combination of new business investment and development, and rising property values. Using the same equation for the city center and north side; the City of Muskegon has increased 14 percent, and Dalton, Laketon and Fruitland Township's tax values combined increased 18 percent in the last five years. Some of this development can be attributed to the ease of moving goods, services, and people along Business 31, US 31, and I-96.

The next time you travel around the county, imagine you are a tourist or developer entering Muskegon for the first time, take a look around and you can't help but be in awe of our economic development progress. Be it commercial, industrial, tourism or residential, the economic potential of Muskegon County is endless, making our transportation corridors essential arteries in pumping Muskegon's growth.

For more information, visit www.muskegon.org.

Old Fashioned Christmas in Fruitport

by Mary Weimer

Once again, an Old Fashioned Christmas is in the planning stages at Englewood Farms. Businesses, families, organizations and groups are invited to decorate a tree for free. Your family or organization can begin now to plan a theme for your tree! Call 865-6370 now to register for a tree so you have time to design your special decorations!

Individuals involved will decorate the trees on December 14 and 15, 2009 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The trees will be lit on Wednesday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m. and judging follows at 7 p.m. Visitors to see the decorated trees are welcome Wednesday, December 16 and Thursday, December 17 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Free chili and hot chocolate are offered by the VFW Post 3734. The event includes free hayrides, roasting marshmallows by the fire, and music by the Fruitport High School Choir.

Decorations must be removed from the trees by January 31.

Girdwood appointed to Muskegon Inventors Network board

(Submitted by Price, Heneveld, Cooper, DeWitt and Litton, LLP)

Daniel L. Girdwood has been appointed to the Muskegon Inventors Network (MIN) board of directors. The MIN is a regional nonprofit support group where inventors, marketers, and creative people can find a platform to learn and network. MIN is a member of the United Inventors Association, a parent not-for-profit group formed in 1990 solely for educational purposes whose mission is to support independent inventors and marketers.

Dan Girdwood is a patent attorney whose focus is in the procurement, licensing and enforcement of patents primarily for mechanical inventions and registration and enforcement of trademarks. He earned a J.D. degree from Thomas Cooley Law School, a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from General Motors Institute (now Kettering University), and an M.S. degree in business from Michigan State University.

Former area resident authors second book

by Mary Weimer

Ghost Orchid is the second novel written by D.K. Christi, pen name for Diane Christianson of Western Michigan.

The book is a mystical account of the blooming of a rare, exotic ghost orchid in the Everglades that steals into the lives of a family filled with problems. The reader can expect emotional responses and a mystery for solving. The family's love, lies and redemption are revealed as Neev, the beautiful Irish girl, seeks her past.

Ghost Orchid is available at www.ildreamspell.com and will soon be available online and in most book stores.

Her debut novel, *Airrang: The Bamboo Connection* was a best seller.

Contact her by visiting her website, www.dkchristi.com.



Grand Rapids Ballet Company performance schedule

(Submitted by the Grand Rapids Ballet Company)

The 2009-2010 performance schedule of the Grand Rapids Ballet Company promises the opportunity for you to "stretch your imagination... awaken your soul...lift your spirit...and be moved...beyond ballet." The Grand Rapids Ballet Company is the only professional ballet company in Michigan.

The September opening performance of the *Prodigal Son* has been described as the "most emotionally stirring performance in recent GRBC history." The ballet will be performed at the Peter Martin Wege Theatre on September 25, 26, 17 and October 2, 3 and 4.

On October 30, the ballet company offers *London Masquerade*, a special benefit event including dinner, drinks and a costumed affair. Call the ballet company for more information.

Jack the Ripper, Gordon Peirce Schmidt's brand new world premiere, takes the stage on October 30, 31 and November 1 at the DeVos Performance Hall.

Another special benefit event, Clara's Nutcracker Benefit will be held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel on December 13. Lunch and story time with the Nutcracker characters will entertain the whole family and is sure to become another holiday tradition.

As has become an annual tradition, *The Nutcracker* will be at the DeVos Performance Hall December 11, 12, 13 and 17, 18, 19 and 20.

Another exciting opportunity takes place on November 20, 2009, with the Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, a company whose performances embody the rich traditions of African-American dance, theater and music. This one-night event takes place at the Peter Martin Wege Theatre.

Season tickets are available now at grballet.com or by calling the Grand Rapids Ballet Box Office at (616) 454-4771, extension 10.