

FRUITPORT Area News

The Hometown Paper Reaching All Homes in Fruitport and Sullivan Townships

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The purpose of this paper is to be beneficial to the community it serves in every way possible.



'Going for the Gold' is Nunica businessman's new motto

By Mary Weimer

Dale Stapel, owner of Dale's RV, is probably going to have to plan an addition to his home. At the rate he's going, he will

need a trophy room very soon.

Dale participated in the North Ottawa County Council on Aging Games held August 12 to 16, 2010, winning five gold medals.

The NOCCOA Games are for players ages 50 and over. The events include bowling, field day activities, swimming, basketball, golf, euchre, track and field events, cycling (5K and 10K), pickleball, kayaking, a 5K run/1 mile walk, and duplicate bridge.

The purposes of the games, in addition to encouraging fun and friendly adult competition, are to promote healthy lifestyles and provide positive personal perceptions and examples of living well.

Just two weeks prior to the events, one of Dale's customers, Dave Lewis, encouraged him to participate, giving him little time to prepare. Dale already owned a kayak, although he had not used it often, and he is a swimmer, hitting the Spring Lake High School pool every other day.

Dale chose the kayaking competition and swam in the men's 50 yard breast stroke, 100 yard breast stroke, the men's 50 yard freestyle and the 100 yard freestyle. He won a gold medal in each of his events in the 64 to 69-age class.

He is already looking forward to next year's competition, practicing his swimming in particular. He hopes to swim a total of 100 miles by February, 2011, as he swims one mile (66 laps) every other day.

9th annual Fruitport area CROP Walk

(Submitted by Fruitport Congregational UCC)

Sunday, October 3, 2010 is the date for the annual CROP Walk. This year's goal is \$8,500 and 100 pledged walkers. The walk begins at the Fruitport Congregational UCC on the corner of Park Street and 8th Avenue with registration at 2 p.m. The actual walk begins at 2:30 p.m. There is ample parking in the church parking lot.

Walkers can choose to walk a 1K, 3K, 5K or 10K route, or you may walk at convenient intervals rather than tackling a distance walk.

Please bring a donation of paper products, personal care items or laundry products for the local food pantry.

What does CROP mean? Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty.

Who benefits from the CROP Walk? Twenty-five percent of the monies raised will go to the local food pantry for meat and fresh fruits and vegetables. It is distributed through Love, Inc. as needed by the pantry located at the Fruitport Congregational UCC. Last year, we received \$1,224.50 for our efforts and served 47 families during the year. This year, we have served 14 families as of mid-July. We have contributed to the mobile

food pantry for Fruitport residents during the past year. We need to continue to help families in the area.

Regionally and nationally, disaster relief brings food, water, health kits, blankets and clean-up supplies to victims of U.S. floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes. Since 2005, Church World Services has helped repair or rebuild some 700 Katrina-ravaged homes.

Church World Services (CWS) also helps internationally. In Guatemala, indigenous families in at least 31 communities are learning to manage soil and water resources. CWS is working in partnership to assist some 250,000 people in the Sudan by providing assistance with clean water and sanitation, health and nutrition, education and other things. In Cambodia, CWS installed a well and pump so people no longer have to carry water from the river. On the West Bank, CWS helped construct 31 water cisterns. In Mozambique, children are learning how to grow vegetables for their families.

Church World Services (CWS) is a cooperative ministry of 35 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations working to eradicate hunger and poverty — providing sustainable self-help and development, disaster relief and refugee assistance around the world. •

Today's Hero

Ripcurrent rescuer

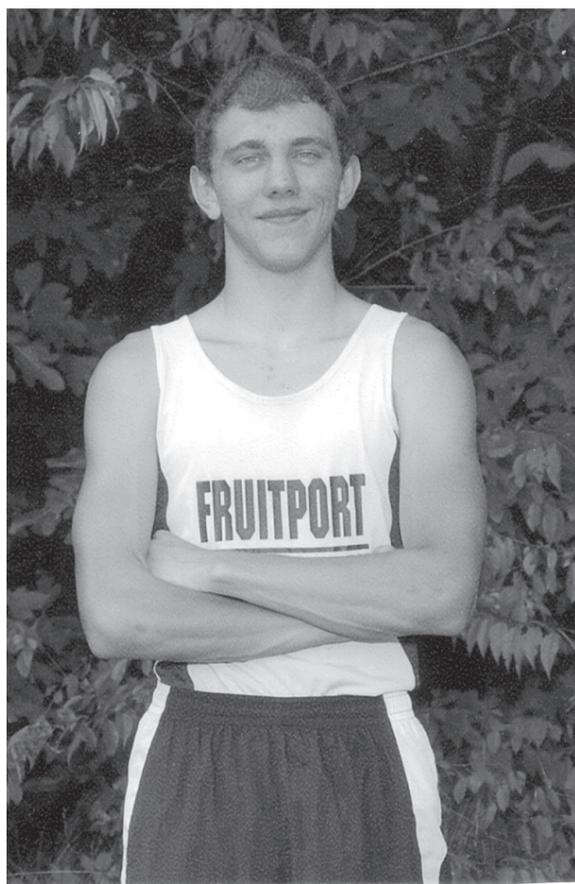
By Mary Weimer

July 6 was a typical 2010 summer day, perfect for heading to the beach, so Fruitport High School senior Derek Barrett met some friends at Norman Kruse Park, ready to relax and enjoy the rest of his day.

But soon, Derek and his friends noticed another potential victim of Lake Michigan's infamous 2010 rip currents. A woman in the water had been caught up by the waves and was in distress. Derek immediately jumped into the water and swam out to help her. The woman (a mother of two) was totally exhausted and would have been lost if not for the 17 year old's quick thinking and action. He could see how she was struggling, so he grabbed her by the arm and swam to shore. Although she was extremely weak, she was able to rest and regain her strength.

Derek is the son of Brad and Michelle Barrett and Angela Redding, and currently lives with his grandmother, Elisabeth Redding. He is a top scholar, in third place in his class. He is enrolled in advanced placement classes and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is a blood donor, is active in his church, and volunteers in a number of events. Currently on the FHS cross-country team, Derek also plays football and will be starting wrestling soon.

Derek is an inspiration to each of us to do our part for our community and for each other. Once again, Lake Michigan failed to claim a victim. This time, because of Derek's courageous act. •



"Crossing the finish line is fun," he said. They even have a cheering section with pompons and megaphones. Everyone encourages all the participants, even if you are coming in last. He is encouraging others to plan on next year's games. And he has, in fact, issued a challenge to anyone who graduated with him from Fruitport Junior High School to participate in the games.

And if you are interested, volunteers are always welcome to help out without competing in the games.

Check out the NOCCOA website, www.noccoa.org for more information. •



The fleet at Baxter's towing just seems to keep growing. The vehicles and equipment were all washed and waxed before being displayed for the public at the August open house.

Baxter's celebrates 55 years in business

Story and photos by Marilee Beck

"The Lord has been good to us. By His grace, we have been at the same location for 55 years and are still growing," Fred Baxter commented.

Founder Leonard Baxter started the business on the corner of Airline Road and Sternberg in 1955.

In honor of the occasion, Baxter's towing, LP gas and storage held an open house on Monday, August 23, 2010, giving the public an inside look at the equipment and facilities at 5333 Airline Road. Everyone was welcome to a free lunch, cake and ice cream, and door prizes as a way to thank the community for Baxter's success.



Josh Shoemaker is welcomed to the Baxter Towing and Storage by the founder's great-grandson, Joseph Baxter.

Tentative Newspaper Delivery Schedule

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Holiday Issue

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