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The former Clothes Encounters building.



All that remained of Clothes Encounters following the August 6 fire.

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 Everything we sell, we grow in our greenhouses
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 Salad Greens, Herbs, Tomatoes, Peppers, Cucumbers, Snow Peas, Green Beans, Squash, Carrots, Potatoes, Turnips

 Free Range Farm Fresh Eggs Available Year Around
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Bowling Parties up to 50 people

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Happy Hour
 Tue. - Thurs. till 5:30
 Mon. & Fri. till 8:00
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Keno
 Open Bowling Every day
 11 am to 5 pm
 Fri. & Sat. 11 am - close
 Sun. 1 - 9 pm
 Still signing up for leagues (men, women and mixed) **865-3215**
 - 6571 Airline Road (at Pontaluna) • Fruitport -

In need of special
Christmas Gifts?
 Call Fran Cooley at **231-865-3678**
 At 87 years old, Fran is still selling Watkins, Stanley and Fuller Brush products, as well as Rada Knives.

 She also hand makes pot holders, potluck carriers and other items for sale.
Call for Christmas gifts today!

WATKINS Pure Vanilla...\$15.99 thru October (an old cooking favorite in time for Christmas baking)
 and... remember the **Stanley Degreaser** (\$9.99)
 and... **Watkins' Salve** (Mom used it for everything - and it worked!)
 **Call Fran Cooley for details... (231) 865-3678**

Pig Roast to benefit Word of Hope Community Center

By Reverend John Koedyker

Last month, on August 6, a devastating fire destroyed the Word of Hope Community Center on Third Avenue in Fruitport. Besides housing a fellowship hall and meeting area, the Community Center was the home of a second-hand thrift store, "Clothes Encounters of a Used Kind." The building was completely destroyed as fire fighters from Fruitport, Norton Shores and Ferrysburg finally brought the blaze under control in the wee hours of the morning.

Obviously, the loss of the building was a blow to Word of Hope Church, which owned and operated the Community Center. The center, built 23 years ago, had from its beginning the goal of being a ministry to the community. It was a place where people could go and not have to pay a lot for gently used clothing and other items.

"After the initial shock, I think the members of the church are looking at the whole thing in a very positive way."

The congregation has voted to rebuild the Community Center and redesign it so that it better meets the ministry's present needs.

"We are thankful that the building was insured, but in order to enhance our ministry, some changes and additional space will be necessary."

This will involve some additional funds beyond what the insurance company is allowing for the replacement of the original building. Thus, the pig roast

idea was born.

Since the fire, the congregation has been impressed by the way the whole Fruitport community has been affected by the loss. Many residents have stopped by and expressed their sympathies.

"Many have expressed to me that they will miss the store because it has played an important role in the community."

Donations of any amount will be gladly accepted. "We just want people to come together and celebrate the fact that this community supports and cares for each other."

The congregation thanks the community in advance for joining together and is also grateful for the many thoughts and prayers which have already been offered for the ministry to continue.

The pig roast, complete with side dishes and desserts prepared by the church members, is scheduled for Saturday, October 1 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Pomona Park to give the community the opportunity to rally behind the members of Word of Hope Church and raise the extra funds needed to rebuild the Community Center with a larger fellowship meeting hall and a new second-hand store as well.

In addition to the pig roast, Burger Crest is hosting a Word of Hope Community Center Night on Tuesday, September 27 from 4 to 7 p.m. During that time, Burger Crest will be donating 20 percent of their profits to the rebuilding effort. Everyone is welcome!•

You can WIN a 2002 Monte Carlo SS coupe!

By Mary Weimer

The Fruitport Lions Club is holding a raffle for the new Dale Erhardt Signature Edition 2002 Monte Carlo. Dale Erhardt raced only one way — to win! And now you can be like "The Intimidator" and win the chance to experience the passion and power of steering a black and silver Monte Carlo SS!

The car will be on display throughout the area at various locations until the winner is announced at the drawing at 8 p.m. on October 12 at the Fruitport VFW 3734 post home, 5201 Airline Road. Second prize is the 2011 car hauler.

Your ticket to win this car will cost just \$25. You can increase your chances to win by purchasing five tickets for \$100. Tickets are available now at Copies and More, Pincrest Lanes, and Ye Old Tavern in Fruitport.

The Lions Club needs to sell 3,000 tickets for this project to succeed. In the event that 3,000 tickets are not sold, the Lions Club will divide the proceeds 50/50 with the holder of the winning ticket. (A minimum prize of \$5,000 will be awarded.)•

Radon Awareness Week, October 17-24

(Submitted by the Cancer Prevention Center)

October 17 through 24 is Federal Radon Action Week, according to the Surgeon General. Health agencies throughout the United States have joined forces to promote awareness of the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers. Radon is a national health problem and radon testing is encouraged during the October awareness drive.

Radon is a naturally-occurring, invisible and odorless radioactive gas. One in 15 American homes contains high levels of radon. Millions of Americans are unknowingly exposed to this dangerous gas. In fact, a recent study by Harvard University ranks radon as America's #1 in-home hazard. By taking simple steps to test your home for radon and fix it if necessary, this health hazard can be avoided.

Radon gas is not isolated to certain geographical areas or home types. Radon problems have been detected in homes in every county of the U.S. It caused more American fatalities last year than carbon monoxide, fires and handguns combined. If a home hasn't been tested for radon in the past two years, EPA and the Surgeon General urge you to take action. Contact your state radon office for information on locating qualified test kits or qualified radon testers.

Learn more about the Federal Radon Action Plan at www.RadonPlan.org.•

New website promotes buying local

(Submitted by the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce)

The Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce has recently unveiled a new website, www.muskegon.org that highlights local businesses and the community in which we all live, work and play. Along with community information, chamber member happenings, and business news and events, the site includes an entirely new business directory that makes searching and shopping local much easier.

It is important that we support area businesses that provide local employment, tax revenue and the goods and services we need. The difference between supporting businesses in our community versus shopping out of town is the amount of money reinvested into the area.

This means more people in our community:

- get a paycheck
- pay their bills
- purchase goods and services from their friends and neighbors

In fact, if everyone in Muskegon spent \$100 at a locally-owned business or businesses, it will pump \$10.5 million back into the local economy!•

Local author's latest book available on Kindle

By Mary Weimer

Fruitport Township resident Eric Wiggan has written another book, a novel, only available through Amazon.com. This is his first venture into the technological age, as the book is downloadable for Kindle via Amazon.com for \$2.99.

The main emphasis of the book is the need for people to focus on marriage — what it is and what it is not.

The wide variety of characters allows the author to delve into subjects relating to sex and relationships within and outside of marriage from the sexual revolution beginning with Woodstock to "traditional" marriage.

The reason behind the book is the author's view that quite often, Christians are wrongfully blamed for just about everything regarding sex.

The title of the book, *Skinnydipping at Megunticook Lake*, is intentionally alluring, and the author himself calls his book provocative and outrageous.

Eric has written 14 novels, two self-help books and numerous articles. He has been a contributing writer for *Fruitport Area News* for many years.•

