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FOR THE ANSWERS TO THIS ACTIVITY, PLEASE VISIT:
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Soup's on for everyone at VFW Post 3734

By Florence Smith, auxiliary president

Once again the VFW Auxiliary will be serving soup suppers. The menu includes an assortment of homemade soups, home baked bread, crackers, dessert, and coffee or juice. This is an all-you-can-eat meal for just \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages five to 10. Children under five eat for free. The dates are Friday, October 21; and Friday, November 18. The meal is served from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Fruitport Polar Bear VFW Post 3734 at 5201 Airline Road. •



Annie Mershon on "Zips Jack of Diamonds" and Haleigh Locke on "Trulee Everlasting" in bareback competition.

1913: Did we shoot ourselves in the foot?

By Richard Blackmer

I have the greatest respect for the founders of our country. In my humble opinion, these men were truly inspired. To create a document of government that has endured as has our Constitution, with as few amendments as there be, stands as one of the remarkable feats in the history of governments.

Making amendments to the Constitution, in effect, measures the wisdom of those in authority who propose the change against the wisdom of the framers who did not include the sought-after change in the original document. This requires considerable soul-searching before supporting amendments. Certain amendments to the Constitution have proved to be well thought-out and have provided demonstrable benefit to us as a people— amendments such as those which grant the right to vote to all citizens of our country.

Other changes have brought unintended consequences, such as the illicit alcohol trade, which resulted from the passing of the 18th Amendment.

It appears that unforeseen consequences resultant from the 17th Amendment, which was ratified in 1913, may now be appearing. The 17th Amendment authorizes the direct election of senators from each state. Prior to the adoption of the 17th Amendment, senators were appointed by the legislatures of each state.

The Founders, in their wisdom, decreed through the construction of the Constitution that elected representatives should remain close to their constituency. Therefore, the House of Representatives would serve a two-year term. This insured that the members of that body be closely tied to the will of the voters, and should they deter, they were held accountable to the voters every two years.

The senators serve a six-year term, which makes them a little more distant from the voters, yet still within in range of the will of the voters to insure a close relationship to the residents of their respective states.

However, with the passage of the 17th Amendment, it appears that the allegiance to the states, which apparently the Founders desired for the senators, has been compromised. Judging from the tenor of national politics, it appears that senators are now more closely aligned with their respective party affiliations than with the states. Hence the vitriol permeating Washington politics.

The entire situation resembles parents who are too busy to spend time with their children. They attempt to compensate by showering the children with gifts and toys.

Some of our elected officials appear to have adopted the same philosophy. They put earmarks into bills for their respective states. Some of those earmarks are expenditures for ridiculous projects that are nothing more than a waste of taxpayer dollars. And thus they seek to placate their sense of responsibility. And all the while, they become farther removed from their constituents.

Perhaps if senators were appointed, once again, by the state legislature, they would have a greater sense of responsibility to the residents of the state rather than to their political party.

The acrimony displayed during the debate on the debt ceiling evidences this change in the attitude of our elected representatives. They waste time and energy blaming one another rather than applying their talents and abilities to find a solution to the problem.

And, unfortunately, the House is as guilty as the Senate.

Statesmanship appears to be on the decline. A serious decline. •

New Fruitport Family Medicine office open

(Submitted by Mercy Health Partners)

In August, Mercy Health Partners opened the new Fruitport Family Medicine office at 3443 Farr Road. Mercy Health Partners' family medicine physicians and residents provide patient care at the Fruitport office.

Fruitport Family Medicine is a residency-based, family practice, primary care office. The resident physicians care for the entire family's health care needs, from newborns to senior citizens. A fully licensed, board-certified family practice physician is always on site to assist the residents in patient management.

Fruitport Family Medicine provides a number of services including ongoing disease concerns, pediatric and sports physicals, physical examinations, preventative health care, well-child visits and women's health services.

Through the clinic's meet and greet program, new patients can spend 15 minutes meeting a physician, without cost, prior to determining if Fruitport Family Medicine is right for him or her. Just call (231) 672-2900.

Fruitport Family Medicine is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Same-day and walk-in appointments are available, and most insurances are accepted. Financial assistance is available to qualified patients. •

Secretary of State recognizes Muskegon County Clerk

(Submitted by the Michigan Department of State)

Muskegon County Clerk Nancy A. Waters was honored in Muskegon on Tuesday, August 9 for her work promoting openness and transparency in elections.

Waters created a searchable, online database of campaign finance records dating back to 2007 that allows members of the public to see how much money elected officials in the county collected and spent while running for office and who donated to their campaigns. Ms. Waters stated, "I am honored to receive this acknowledgement. Secretary of State Johnson has been a leader in transparency in campaign finance."

"Ms. Waters' efforts help hold public officials accountable to the people they serve," said Johnson. "We applaud her efforts and the efforts of other clerks across the state to provide easy, convenient access to public records."

Prior to the new system which was implemented in March by Waters, anyone who wanted to search campaign finance records had to go, in person, to the Muskegon County Clerk's office to search records and pay for copies. Today, online users can access records and print copies for free.

Computer users can access the campaign finance records at <http://muskegon.mi.campaignfinance.us> or through a link on the Muskegon County clerk's website, www.co.muskegon.mi.us/clerk. Users can search by candidate or committee name, by office, or from a list of local jurisdictions. •

Muskegon Rescue Mission opens new facility

(Submitted by the Muskegon Rescue Mission)

With Michigan's economy slow to recover and continued high unemployment, the Muskegon Rescue Mission is seeing unprecedented demand for shelter, food and clothing.

"The number of individuals and families seeking assistance is at record highs for this time of year. We normally see the demand for assistance decrease as the weather warms up, but not this year. At a time when others are turning away those with the greatest need, we are opening our doors wider than ever. We are determined that no one will have to sleep on the streets or go hungry," said Executive Director Kevin Newton.

The mission is responding with its Community Ministry Program by offering assistance via its food pantry, held twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays and by providing household items, emergency food, diapers and personal care items. The mission also offers free gift certificates to thrift stores for clothing for those in need.

The Muskegon Rescue Mission is in its 104th year of continuous, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year of service. They are not funded through grants or government budgets. They offer food, shelter, clothing and other services at two separate locations, for men at 400 W. Laketon Avenue; and for women at 1691 Peck Street.

"We are in a unique position to help those in need, not just with the physical needs that make day-to-day life hard, but with their spiritual needs as well," Newton said. "We can point them to Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, who is the way to true peace in your life."

For more information or to see how you can help, contact the Muskegon Rescue Mission at (231) 727-6090. •