

## Fruitport Polar Bear VFW Auxiliary 3734 news

By Florence Smith, Auxiliary president

The new officers for the 2012-2013 year are Florence Smith, president; Diana Meara, senior vice president; Cindy Mordue, junior vice president; Mary Sherwood, secretary/treasurer; Elizabeth Johnson, chaplain; Muriel Mills, conductress; Jeanette Khren, guard; Muriel Mills, one-year trustee; Diane Morton-Pletcher, two-year trustee; and Ellouise Hieftje, three-year trustee.

The Fruitport Polar Bear VFW Auxiliary 3734 is having a white elephant sale at the post home, 5201 Airline Road on Saturday, August 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The kitchen will also be open, serving barbecues and hot dogs. Come check our out bargains!•

## Scrapbook 101 donates art supplies

By Jeanie Medendorp

Scrapbook 101 has generously donated \$500 worth of scrapbooking and art supplies to Fruitport Community Schools. The donation will help support the growth and awareness of scrapbooking and paper arts in Muskegon.

Scrapbooking is about celebrating life and coming together as a community. Scrapbook 101 shares the common goal of sharing the joy of scrapbooking and supporting Fruitport schools through their donation.

For information about scrapbooking, please visit the Scrapbook 101 retail store at 4845 Airline Road or visit [www.scrapbook101.org](http://www.scrapbook101.org).•

## Parlez vous Francais?

By Al Schneider

I was reading about some little remembered accounts of the French and Indian War, which menaced the American colonies in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. It was a war that unsettled the states for about 10 years, having to do mostly with settling boundaries between French and British territories. It was also an extension of a European war between the two countries. It was embarrassing that I remembered so little of that war. The truth might be that I never did know much.

I do recall my primary school teacher telling us that had the French won that war, we'd all be speaking French, a frightening proposition then as now. I'd still be learning to say, "mama." I once approached an authority on the subject, a First Sergeant, no less, who had spent three years in France. "How's your French?" I asked him. He shook his head. "You have to be a Frenchman to speak that language." Fortunately, we have been spared all that.

Up until a few days ago, I could only recall one person involved in that war: George Washington. The major players were the Indians, who chose sides, some deciding to join the French, others the British. The Indians had a good knowledge of the frontier lands where most of the battles were fought, so their involvement was invaluable.

Why is it that I know so little of this portion of American History? Sadly, I often come to the same conclusion when I delve into other capsules of history. Part of my lack of knowledge may not be my fault. I remember schlepping the giant history volume back and forth to school. Our homework assignment was typically to read 40 or 50 pages of text. The next day, the pages would get a cursory treatment in the classroom, usually focusing on one or two selected incidents, of which the French and Indian War got short shrift. In my view, 500 years of American history needs to be taught over a longer period, perhaps three or four years, and with much more detail.

An unsung hero emerged as I read the account of the French and Indian War. Robert Rogers led his small party on a successful raid of a village south of the St. Lawrence River, killing as many as 300. Rogers' men endured unusual hardships as they retreated back to their New York base. His men were out of rations and suffered from starvation, rumors saying they resorted to cannibalism.

How many history buffs know of Rogers? As I delved into his character, I discovered a warrior of intense passion, reminiscent of John Brown's conducting his abolition skirmishes. Rogers was a ruthless combatant, sparing no one in his tracks. The French and Indian War was like that. While the Indians were scalping anyone who crossed their paths, Rogers was brutalizing all who crossed his. Rogers became known as "The White Devil."

Had quite enough history for now? Well, then, Au Revoir.•

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