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Old Fashioned Days king and queen nominations due

By Mary Weimer

It may seem like a long ways off, but the Old Fashioned Days celebration is just around the corner. One of the first goals, besides scheduling, is the selection of the king and queen.

The selection committee welcomes your suggestions for the honor. Nomination forms are available at Copies and More, open weekdays from 1 to 5 p.m. Don't put it off! The parade will begin before you know it!

Gift supports Fruitport's Veteran's Park

(Submitted by the Community Foundation for Muskegon County)

The Village of Fruitport has received a gift from Metal Finishing Technology in Muskegon to be used for general operating support of the Fruitport Veteran's Park. The gift was given through the Community Foundation for Muskegon County in December.

The application for the grant was filed last fall.



Council member Jerry Alger presents the grant check to Village President Roger Vanderstelt.

Little Brown Jug reopens

By Yale Pope

The Pope family would like to invite all Fruitport community members and their friends to stop in and see the "New Little Brown Jug."

The LBJ re-opened on January 27 and is now open seven days a week.

In 1976, my father bought the Little Brown Jug. As a 13-year old, I began employment there primarily as a janitor. In the morning before school and on weekends, I cleaned the floors and bathrooms, and by the time I was 17 and a senior in high school, I was allowed to become a bartender and cook. A loophole in the state liquor laws at that time allowed individuals under the age of 18 to serve alcohol as long as the liquor license was in the family name.



I continued to work there until I got through college and out of the service. I enjoyed the work and the people, but had little thought of actually going into the business and following my father's footsteps. My career interests took me in another direction, which resulted in a 25-year career in law enforcement as a border patrol agent in South Texas and a probation officer in Ottawa County.

The business had been in my family for 24 years, and I had considered taking the business upon the passing of my dad in 2000, but I was in the middle of my career and I didn't like being around cigarette smoke. But now, 12 years later, and with the smoking ban in place, I felt it was the right time to get the business back in the family. I felt it was important to honor my dad's legacy by having it come back to the family.

The month of January proved to be a whirlwind, getting the LBJ back open. A complete facelift included a new floor, ceiling, furniture, televisions, and cleaning and painting the outside. The nostalgic brown color, which was the color of the LBJ in 1976 when my dad originally purchased the business, remains.

With the help of my mother, Donna, and my wife, Emelda, we have been transforming the LBJ into an establishment that everyone in the Fruitport community can be proud of and feel comfortable in. Our goal has been to go in the direction of a sports bar with a country atmosphere that will feature sporting events, live music, and eventually, a full menu that will serve and specialize in pizza. We want to have an atmosphere where families will feel comfortable to come in, eat and relax, watch a game, or just to meet friends and have a good time. Everything we are trying to do is to enhance the local business atmosphere, not in competition with any of the other establishments in town.

I have appreciated the support I've received from the community and the local business owners, and it has been good to see old customers coming back again, as well as new ones.

One of the things that we would like to do is have at least one day per month where I can give all the employees a day off and just have our family work. This would include my wife, Emelda, son Dalton (16 years old), and daughter Chantal and her husband, Terry VanDyke.

So welcome to the NEW LBJ! Hours are 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon to 12 p.m. Sunday. The current full lunch menu specializes in a half-pound hamburger known as "The Jug Burger," and offers daily drink specials and happy hour. Live music, featuring country music and classical rock, will be offered on most weekends; solo singers will be featured on Wednesday evenings; and Karaoke is held on Sunday nights.

Fruitport Township presidential primary voting results

(Submitted by Fruitport Township Clerk Carol Hulka)

Here are some local statistics from the February 28th presidential primary election in Fruitport Township. Of the 10,463 registered voters in Fruitport Township, only 17 percent (1,787 voters) voted in the election.

Rick Santorum received 689 votes; Mitt Romney, 496.

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