

Electronically abused

By Brooke Cochran

(The names in this story have been changed to protect the identities of those involved)

What did the world do before Facebook? The site keeps us connected to high school friends, family that lives far away, and friends from all over the world. Every system has its flaws, though, and Facebook is no exception to the rule. There are numerous accounts of teenagers being bullied, adults' reputations destroyed, and of the inaction taken on the part of Facebook when use of their site goes awry.

When approached with the matter of privacy in terms of Facebook, the research is convincing that action will be taken to protect users via their "Safety Terms" and "Registration and Account Security Terms." Facebook claims that, "You will not use Facebook to do anything unlawful, misleading, malicious, or discriminatory." as well as, "You will not provide false personal information on Facebook, or create an account for anyone other than yourself without permission." (Facebook). Considering the millions of users on the Facebook site, it would be quite difficult to monitor every single user and account. However, if a complaint continues to come in, if a repeated issue occurs over and over, why isn't Facebook doing something about it? Within our community, these very questions are being posed by an individual who has tried everything she can do to deactivate the Facebook page she did not even create.

Jane's story is not one of malice, but a plea for help. She has sought out the help of detectives, local and state police, talk shows, television stations, and has run out of options because no one can help her. The general consensus is that without monetary damage, nothing can be done for her. But what about psychological damage, and the cost of obtaining the help necessary to cope with the harassment of an ex-boyfriend, doesn't that count for something? As well, the abuser has admitted in the past to Jane and other witnesses, that he had hacked into a dating account of Jane's and changed her information. The most drastic and emotionally harmful change was a statement saying that she is a prostitute. Jane did admit to being the originator of the account, but the ex-boyfriend had hacked into the account, changed the password, and re-routed the emails to a different account.

The current situation involves Facebook and their failure to deactivate the account that Jane's ex-boyfriend created, posting to be her. Several times, Facebook has been informed that the account was not created by Jane, but by her ex, to no avail. A detective Jane had contacted told her that since the information on the page seemed to be correct, there was no harm in it because, once again, there was no monetary damage. The accuracy of the site is flawed, as well, as the detective had stated the information seemed to be correct, but what about embarrassing photographs, inappropriate comments, and talking to friends as though he were Jane? Actions on the part of Jane's ex are that of harassment and spite, which is what Facebook had stated they wouldn't stand for in their safety terms.

The main problem is that the law is denying that there is sufficient evidence to confiscate this abuser's computer and phone, even when presented with evidence. The law needs to step in and make arrests in reference to deliberate misuse of websites and the internet. After all, isn't it a felony to open up someone else's mail? There shouldn't be a difference in the use of email and messaging. Justice needs to happen for Jane and for those who have suffered similar tortures and to prevent this from happening to anyone else.

If you have any advice or can help Jane in some way, please feel free to email fruitportareanews@frontier.com. •

Obama attends \$40,000 per plate fundraiser dinner, demonstrates his wealth of hypocrisy

(Submitted by the Michigan Republican Party)

President Obama visited Michigan on April 18, 2012 without lectures and photo ops. The Campaigner-in-Chief had only one intention: To pick up checks at a \$40,000 a plate fundraising dinner. This fundraiser came on the heels of Obama's week-long attacks on the wealthy and rich while he pushed his latest campaign gimmick, "The Buffett Rule."

It has now been reported that Obama's "Buffett Rule" will raise less than \$5 billion a year, and fails to make a dent on four consecutive trillion dollar budget deficits. Obama's proposed 2012 budget alone would run a \$1.3 trillion deficit.

"President Obama's visit demonstrates his thirst for wealth, as he dines at a fundraiser costing \$40,000 a plate, after a weeklong assault on wealthy Americans," said Matt Fredewey, director of communications for the Michigan Republican Party.

In response, Republicans hosted a middleclass "People's Pizza Party" on paper plates with plastic cups. •

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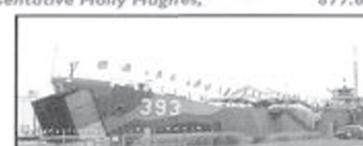
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ARMED FORCES DAY SALUTE
By "USS LST 393 Veterans Museum"
18 and 19 May 2012

Friday 18 May 2012
"USS LST 393 Veterans Museum," in conjunction with our state and local "Veteran Affairs Offices," will host our first veterans only "Job Fair" aboard LST 393. 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

To be an interviewing company, or a veteran seeking an interview, or for general information - please contact any of the following:

Dave Eling, Mkg. County VA Office, 231.724.7143
Jesse Mikaelson, State VA Office Rep, 231.739.9010
Representative Holly Hughes, 877.633.0331



Saturday 19 May
Formal Program 12:00PM

• Posting the Colors: American Legion Legion Post 9
• Keynote address: Dave Eling
• Purple Heart recipients and POW tribute
• Presentation of the "Missing Man" table Narrated by Susan Harrison Wolffis
• 21 Gun Salute, Taps, Military Fly Over

Saturday 19 May 2012
Special Class, 2:30 PM
Flying and Caring for the American Flag (No Charge)
US Navy retiree Rhett Sease, Instructor

Saturday Evening, 19 May
Special Concert Saturday Evening on the Top Deck of USS LST 393 – 6:00 PM
West Michigan Concert Winds
\$5.00 Per Person Admission Fee.

LST 393 is a designated collection point for food donated to the County Needy Veterans Food Pantry. Please bring a non-perishable food unit to LST 393 on the 19th and leave it with us. We will deliver it to the food pantry for needy veterans.

Military Memorabilia and Equipment Sale all day Saturday, 19 May 2012
Display/sell your military items. Rent a table for \$25 Call: 231.288.4012 to reserve.

Free Admission to LST 393 Veterans Museum on Saturday, 19 May
Donations Appreciated

Be sure to register Purple Heart Recipients and former POW's.

Also Look For On Saturday



John Workman and the War Birds Fly Over!
Restored & running WWII Buffalo (ATV) two Jima Veteran
Special appearance of "Bazooka Man." Portrayed by Grand Rapids WWII history buff, Dr. R. Tooker. His equipment is real! Single him out, question him! Learned how combat veterans operated