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Local concert performer doesn't disappoint

By Mary Weimer

Bethel Baptist Church of Fruitport hosted a concert by Delbert Yoder on June 6, 2010. Not only was it an enjoyable, relaxing evening, but Yoder's musical talent is amazing!

For the first portion of the concert, he played selections of his own choosing, including a rousing number entitled 'Jammin' for Jesus. For the second portion, he took requests from the audience. And while most of the selections were Christian music, even Chariots of Fire (a family favorite), flooded the sanctuary at the musically inspired hands of Delbert Yoder.

Area churches and programs would do well to schedule concerts by Delbert Yoder. He can be reached at (231) 740-5144. No one will be disappointed after hearing him sing and play the piano!•



First Congregational Church of Fruitport members quenched parade viewers' thirst, handing out bottles of water. (Photo by Perry Burns.)

School clothing give away

(Submitted by the Muskegon Rescue Mission)

The Muskegon Rescue Mission is sponsoring a school clothes give away for boys and girls in grades K-12 on Tuesday, August 31 and Wednesday, September 1, 2010.

A parent or guardian must bring a photo ID plus verification of all children living in the household.

The event will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the men's mission, 400 W. Laketon Avenue.

For more information, contact the mission at (231) 727-6090.•

New vaccine requirements for sixth graders

(Submitted by Public Health — Muskegon County)

All parents of students entering sixth grade this fall should be aware of new vaccination requirements. Starting this fall (2010-2011 school year) all 11-year old students are required to have one dose of meningococcal (MCV4 orMPSV4) vaccine and one dose of tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine. This new vaccination requirement also applies to all 11- to 18-year old students who are changing school districts. These vaccines help to prevent potentially deadly outbreaks of meningitis and pertussis. Adolescents who do not have these vaccinations up to date may be excluded from school until vaccinated.

According to the Michigan Care Improvement Registry, which stores immunization records, this new requirement affects as many as 2,000 students. Because so many children are impacted by this new requirement, the public health department is encouraging parents to get their children up to date with these vaccines throughout the summer instead of waiting until the fall when the back-to-school rush annually occurs.

"Typically, most families don't worry about getting their kids' vaccinations up to date until a week or so before school starts," explains Ken Kraus, public health director. "Because so many students this fall will need these two newly-required shots, waiting until the last minute may cause problems like long waits, running out of vaccine, or having students miss school because they haven't been vaccinated. We need parents to get their kids vaccinated now and not wait until the end of August."

Thanks to funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Public Health — Muskegon County has over 500 doses of these vaccines available for free at the public health department. While supplies last, these shots are free to families whose children are uninsured or are insured but the insurance does not cover the cost of vaccines, or it has expensive deductibles or co-pays. Families are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity early-on, as the free supply may be exhausted before back to school time. Once the free supply is gone, the cost for these two vaccines is \$150.

The immunization program at the public health department (209 E. Apple Avenue) is a walk-in clinic open Monday through Friday from noon to 4:30 p.m. Families who have insurance that does cover the costs associated with vaccinations are encouraged to make an appointment for their child with their child's health care provider as soon as possible.

Also new this fall, all children entering kindergarten, all sixth grade students, and all children changing school districts are also required to have two doses of varicella (Var) vaccine or a history of having had chickenpox.•

Independence caucus endorses local candidate Cooper

(Submitted by Independence Caucus)

Independence Caucus in Michigan has had dozens of its volunteer members working on interview steering committees to interview candidates who qualified for an interview by affirmatively answering 70 percent or more of our 80 questions about Constitutional principles, legislative process and character. When two or more qualified for the same office, our Michigan members participated in on-line conferences and voted for the best candidate to be endorsed. The value of the iCaucus endorsement is this extensive citizen vetting process and our members' willingness to volunteer to help get constitutionalists elected.

In congressional district 3, Bill Cooper has won the endorsement of iCaucus. His website is www.billcooper4wmi.com.

A wealth of information is available on the website, icaucus.org, including candidate information, how to volunteer to work on their campaigns, or questions about iCaucus.

If you are going to be out of town on August 3, get an absentee ballot and, after we endorse candidates in your district, check them out and VOTE!•

Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen contests

By Florence Smith, chairman

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3734 and its ladies auxiliary are sponsoring the annual Voice of Democracy audio script-writing contest and the Patriot's Pen youth essay contest.

The Voice of Democracy audio/essay contest is open to all students in grades 9 through 12. The theme is "Does My Generation Have a Role in America's Future?"

The Patriot's Pen contest is open to all students in grades six through eight. The theme is "Does Patriotism Still Matter?"

Students in both contests are encouraged to express their patriotism while competing for awards. Prizes are awarded for winners at the post, district, state and national levels. Deadline for entry on the post level is November 1, 2010. For details for the 2010-2011 competition, you may contact Florence Smith at (231) 737-7281.•



Rick Hines and his grandson wait anxiously for the Old Fashioned Days parade from Rick's favorite annual viewing site. (Photo by Perry Burns.)

Baseball tryouts and hitting camp scheduled

(Submitted by Coast to Coast Baseball)

Coast to Coast Baseball would like to invite local players ages 10 to 18 to attend one of our upcoming tryout events. At the tryout, our staff will evaluate your skills in four areas: Hitting, fielding, arm strength, and speed. Players who are accepted to the program may choose to represent the USA in competition in Puerto Rico, or work with top college coaches and pro scouts at one of our Florida or Arizona camp and showcase events held at an MLB spring-training complex.

In addition to the tryout, an instructional hitting camp will be held the same day. The goal of the camp is to help players improve hitting fundamentals, as well as their mental approach at the plate. Events will be held in Grand Rapids, Grand Blanc, and Macomb, Michigan.

Tuesday, July 20, tryouts will be held at Elite Baseball, 110 Hynes Avenue, S.W. in Grand Rapids. Tryouts are at 10 a.m.; hitting camp is at 2 p.m.

Wednesday, July 21, tryouts at 10 a.m.; hitting camp at 2 p.m. at Genesee Fieldhouse, 7383 Grand Parkway, Grand Blanc.

Thursday, July 22, the events will be held at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Premier Training Center, 51379 Quadrate Drive, Macomb, Michigan.

Since the summer of 2001, nearly 2,000 athletes from 46 different states have participated in the Coast to Coast Baseball program. Our alumni now compete at every level of collegiate baseball...and even professionally.

For more information, players and parents can visit our website. Register for one or both events on our website, www.CoastToCoastAthletics.com or by calling our office at (740) 373-4455.•