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WANTED TO BUY: Two-row corn planter that works. Call (231) 206-5470.

ALGEBRA TUTOR NEEDED: Please call (231) 830-6618.

Keep kids' minds sharp over summer vacation

(Courtesy, StatePoint Media)
 There's nothing kids look forward to more than summer vacation. But summer can also be a prime time for the summer slide -- when grade school students forget some of the reading and math skills they learned during the school year, according to the National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL).

That learning gap forces teachers to play catch-up when school starts again in the fall.

"Parents can play critical roles in ensuring children maintain their academic skills in reading and other subjects over the summer," says Emily Kirkpatrick, vice president of NCFL. "The key is to associate learning with fun activities."

Here are some ideas to make learning fun this summer:

- **Encourage Bright Spots:** Parents and students often associate the summer with remedial classes. But encouraging your children's interests and strengths is a great way to associate fun with learning. Try enrolling them in classes or camps that focus on their strengths and let them develop lifelong hobbies that are fun and good for them.

- **Be Creative:** A quick search online should yield a lot of great suggestions for creative, fun learning activities both online and off. For example, the nonprofit website Wonderopolis.org encourages children and parents to explore the things they wonder about with daily content, like "Why Do You Get Ice Cream Headaches?" or "How Can You Be a Human Compass?"

You and your children can also nominate your own "Wonder of the Day" on Wonderopolis.org by submitting your own curious question. You can even create your own video and include the link to it on YouTube or Vimeo in your submission.

- **Let Them Run Wild -- In the Library:** Make a big deal out of getting your children their own library cards. Then make frequent trips where kids can pick out anything they want to read that is age-appropriate. Experts say reading four or five books over a summer will maintain reading skills, so long as the selections are challenging enough.

- **Make Travel Fun:** Educational games and workbooks can make long trips fun. But you can also brainstorm new and exciting things to do once you arrive at your destination. For example, a visit to grandparents can prompt a family genealogy project. Or learn how to send a message in a bottle at Wonderopolis.org and give your kids an experience they'll never forget.

- **Plan Learning Adventures:** Take excursions to museums, national parks, zoos or aquariums. Or try a hike that focuses on birds, plants or any special theme. Tie a book or educational program to the adventure (either before or after), so your child will connect real life to learning. Alternatively, you can expose a child to a new piece of music before a concert the whole family can enjoy.

For more ideas to keep your children learning this summer, visit www.Wonderopolis.org.

By making learning fun, you can keep your kids ahead of the curve come fall.

Volunteers needed for Academic Booster Club

(Submitted by Fruitport Community Schools)

Fruitport Middle School and High School are looking to establish Academic Booster Clubs. Parent and community members are needed to assist in this effort. Please consider becoming involved in promoting and celebrating academics and academic successes in our schools. If you are interested in serving on the Academic Booster Club, please contact Tina VanderWall in the superintendent's office at (231) 865-4001.

Local businessman becomes a hero

By Mary Weimer

Jon Sieplinga, owner of Sieplinga Automotive, 2820 Sternberg Road in Fruitport Township, saved three lives last fall.

He was at his cottage on Wolf Lake north of Baldwin when he saw three young men, ages 12 to 13, in a wooden boat. The boat was sinking, and the boys were not wearing life jackets.

Although most of the boats had been taken out of the water for the season, Jon's boat was still in the water. So while a neighbor called for fire/rescue, Jon took his boat out and managed to rescue the three boys.

One of the victims was in serious need of help while the second was in good shape. The third boy had a nylon jacket on, which filled with air to help keep him afloat.

A state policeman on the scene thanked Jon for saving the boys' lives.



Derek and Jennifer Baker

FHS graduate hired as Indiana state trooper

Derek Baker, a 1999 Fruitport High School graduate, has led a busy life since graduation.

He served in the United States Marine Infantry from January, 2000 to January, 2004, serving two tours in Iraq.

In October, 2001, he married Jennifer Kramer, a 1999 Orchard View graduate.

Derek attended college in California for two years and in Indiana for two years, majoring in mathematics and criminal justice.

He was a patrolman and SWAT team member for in the Plainfield, Indiana Metropolitan Police Department from January, 2008 to September, 2010.

Of 6,500 applicants, only 65 potential troopers were selected to attend the state police academy. Derek was one of the 43 who completed the training through to graduation. He was then hired as a trooper by the Indiana State Police in September, 2010.

Derek is the son of Pam and Jeff Baker. His grandparents are Fruitport residents Gus and Donna Gurzynski, Alan and Jan Baker and Bonnie Baker.



CurvesSmart™ personal coaching system motivates

(Submitted by Curves at the Pointes)

Susan Kesteloot, Norton Shores South Curves president, knows that for many women, finding the motivation to begin an exercise program is easy. The real challenge is to stay motivated and to continue to work toward fitness goals. Recognizing the problem, Curves at the Pointes has implemented the CurvesSmart™ Personal Coaching System.

"CurvesSmart™ is a personal training monitor that provides minute-by-minute feedback on the intensity and effectiveness of your workout to help keep you motivated and on-track," says Susan. "And right now, new members can join for just \$30, so it's the perfect time to experience the difference that Curves and the CurvesSmart™ system can make in your life."

Mounted on each piece of equipment in Curves' 30-minute circuit, the CurvesSmart™ monitor is programmed with each client's fitness information to provide personal feedback during each phase of the workout. The system automatically adjusts to each individual's endurance level to ensure that the client stays continually challenged and achieves the full potential on each machine, for every workout.

"Knowledge is power—and that drives motivation," explains Kesteloot. "That's why the CurvesSmart™ system provides feedback during and after each session."

In addition to the feedback that displays during their workout, Curves' clients receive a detailed progress report after their session based on the workout data collected by the CurvesSmart™ system. The report computes overall muscle strength, calories burned, and progress toward personal fitness goals.

"When women can see that their workout level is effective and can review their progress toward their goals regularly, it's easier for them to stay motivated and on track," says Kesteloot. "We are excited to offer this state-of-the-art personal training system to women in the Norton Shores south area, and hope that they will take advantage of our 'Join for \$30' promotion to begin to discover their inner strength today."

For more information about Curves and the CurvesSmart™ system, please contact Susan Kesteloot at (231) 798-9811, or stop by at the Pointes Mall, 1038 E. Sternberg.