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**FHS graduate Flaska serving in  
the United States Marine Corps**

PFC Eric I. Flaska of Fruitport graduated from Marine Corps basic training on February 10, 2012 at Camp Pendleton, California. After 10 days' leave, Eric went on to further training, graduating on July 24, 2012 from School of Infantry West, Camp Pendleton.

Eric is an 0351 Assaultman/Demolition Specialist. He is a 2010 graduate of Fruitport High School. Eric's mother, Nancy Flaska, sister April Hamm and grandparents, Ivan and Betty Flaska, are proud of his achievements.

**Veteran pinning ceremony held**

Story and photos by Harry Wojahn

On Friday, September 14, 2012, I had the honor to witness a "We Honor Vets" pinning ceremony for veterans at the Chestnut Fields Senior Living Center on Sternberg Road.

Hospice of Michigan and Chestnut Fields hosted the event, which is a partnership between the Veterans Administration and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. The program was developed to enhance care for veterans at the end of life and includes both educational and ceremonial elements.

Local and state elected officials present included Senator Geoff Hansen, Representative Holly Hughes, Commissioner Bob Skolnik from the Muskegon County Board, township supervisor Brian Werschem, and Dave Eling, executive director of the Muskegon County Department of Veteran Affairs.

During the ceremony, ten veterans from different branches of the United States military who served in three separate wars, were given American flag pins and a certificate reflecting their branch of military service. Those receiving the pins were:

Steven E. Howe, who served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War

Robert Judd, who served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War

Louis R. Langlois, Jr., who served in the Navy during the Vietnam War

William W. Lodes, U.S. Army, during the Vietnam War

Harold E. Paulson, U.S. Army during World War II

Vernon Edward Reyburn, Merchant Marine, World War II

Irving W. Smith, Air Force, during World War II

John VanRandyk, U.S. Navy during World War II

Eugene Wernstrom, U.S. Army during the Korean War

William Wrase, U.S. Navy, during World War II

Following the ceremony, there was a 21-gun salute in the parking lot. Each veteran was presented with a shell casing from the salute. Refreshments were served, and the veterans, whose service was recognized, had more than just a token of appreciation from a grateful state.



**Speaker Tricia Harney** from Hospice of Michigan addresses the veterans and guests at the pinning ceremony at Chestnut Fields

**Wanted! A few good men**

By George Doyle

Attention all you guys out there, especially the newly retired, still active, already bored, lousy at golf, wife-says-get-out-of-the-house, men who love to sing! The Muskegon Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society wants you. If you need a great pastime, a hobby, a belonging, how about joining the biggest singing organization in the world!

The Muskegon Chapter has been around for over 70 years and always needs new singers. We don't audition. Our guys are not trained professionals. They use instructional CDs to learn their parts. If you can carry a tune, love to sing in the shower or along with the radio in the car, you could be singing in the Shoreline Chorus, or smaller ensembles or quartets. Our guys are lawyers, engineers, pastors, military, students, businessmen, retirees, farmers, all joined together by a love of singing. It's fun, exciting, healthy and rewarding.

Our rehearsal meetings are held every Thursday evening at 7 p.m. at the Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 1860 E. Hile Road, across from Whitlow's Restaurant. Check out our Facebook page or www.barbershop.org if you're online, or call (231) 798-7903 to talk to a real barbershop singer.



**Kids' playground fence and bench ruined by speeding car**

By Mary Weimer

Late Tuesday evening, September 11, 2012, a car careened out of control on Park Street, damaging the fence and a bench inside the playground adjacent to the library. According to an eyewitness, three young men, all of whom had been in the car, attempted to move the car prior to the Fruitport Township police arrival. The driver was cited for reckless driving. (Photo by Mel Raleigh)

**Youth football site disrupted by exchange of gunfire**

As related to FAN staff

While the Fruitport Youth Club football players were playing at Muskegon Heights on Saturday, September 15, what started in the parking lot lead to the middle of the road. One individual, brandishing a gun, ran into the road while shooting at a white SUV. Several witnesses from Fruitport were in the parking lot near their cars at the time.

Witnesses saw the suspect entering a nearby house. The white SUV was seen later at The Chicken Coop, a restaurant about two blocks from the Muskegon Heights High School football field.

There were several off duty officers on the scene, and two more unmarked police vehicles arrived after the shooting. According to the witnesses, the police did not go to the house or check out the SUV, even though they were given the information.

Many Fruitport Youth Club parents were justifiably upset, and would prefer not to play in Muskegon Heights any longer. Thankfully, the games are not scheduled in Muskegon Heights every year.

Maybe Fruitport police officers could accompany the Youth Club team in the future when they play against Muskegon Heights.

**Consumers Energy warns of utility bill payment scam**

(Submitted by Consumers Energy)

Consumers Energy is warning its customers to be aware of a nationwide utility bill payment scam.

Under the scam, a customer may be contacted in person, through fliers, social media or text messages. The scammers claim that President Obama will pay a person's utility bills through a new federal program.

Customers are then asked to provide their social security numbers or other personal identifying information in exchange for a bank routing number that will allegedly pay their utility bills. In reality, there is no money, and customers believe they have paid their bills when, in fact, they have not.

"For your protection, never disclose personal information, including financial account numbers or social security numbers over the phone or internet to someone you do not know," said Doug Detterman, customer care manager for Consumers Energy.

More information on this scam, including tips to avoid becoming a victim, is available online at: www.bbb.org/us/article/president-obama-is-not-offering-to-pay-your-utility-bills-34928.

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