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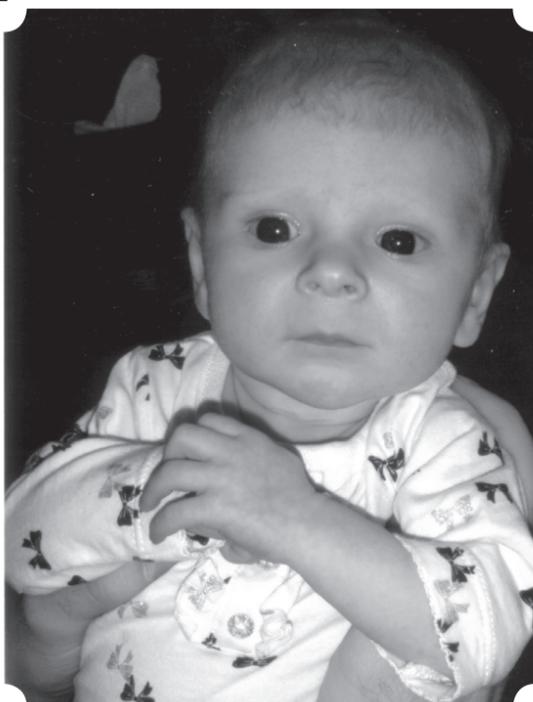
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Our 30th Year!

FRUITPORT OLD FASHIONED DAYS
\$20 wristband tickets for \$15
Available April 1st thru May 21st • Good any day!



Two new arrivals!

Sue and Roger Haag of Fruitport are proud to announce the births of their two grandchildren born six weeks apart.

Pearly Everlasting Gage Haag was born to Kevin and Hannah Gage Haag of Seattle, Washington on November 27, 2012. Kevin is a 2000 graduate of Fruitport High School.

Though the grandparents planned a trip to meet



Pearly, Sue and Roger had to leave a day earlier than planned due to the unexpected pre-term delivery of Connor James Rau, son of Sam and Steph (Haag) Rau of Fruitport. He was born on January 13, 2013.

Connor is now home and doing well after spending 13 days at DeVos Children's Hospital. His mother is a 2002 graduate of Fruitport High School.

A meeting of the cousins is being planned for this summer in Fruitport. •

The skaters' waltz

By Mike Simcik

It seems like all I do these days is think back to a better time when I was a child with no responsibilities or old age pains.

At eight years old I learned how to ice skate at a place called Round Lake, Illinois. It was harder than I thought. Everyone was doing it, so why not me? But winter passed quickly and I found myself at a roller rink about a mile from my house. Although I was with so many other kids and it was fun, just going around in a circle didn't seem like I was learning very much.

At nine years old, I learned how to go faster, was more stable, and could skate backwards as well. The magic was not to occur for several years yet, and like anything else, even I knew self-confidence came with age.

Some of us kids heard about another place called Wooster Lake about eight miles away, where in the wintertime there was live music to ice skate by. I had no way to get there. So I finally had to beg my mother to the point of embarrassing myself to take six of us kids skating in January and February on the weekends. If you ever watched the movie "The Bishop's Wife" with Cary Grant and Loretta Young in the skating scene, this was the picture of Wooster Lake: A gazebo with a genuine 12-piece Oom-pa-pa band playing 30s, 40s and 50s music with speakers in the trees, a wooden train trestle in the background and dozens of people holding on to each other cross-handed, swaying left and right with the tempo of "The Skaters' Waltz". This is where you would find me showing off, much like Cary Grant. It is also where I first skated with a girl who will come back to me later as a sweet memory!

Later on, I could catch a ride with older friends to the "Just For Fun Roller Rink" in McHenry, Illinois, where I joined a dance club, and we all met at Dustimer's Pizza Parlor after skating.

Now the magic of skating was in full swing with trips to other rinks to show kids they can do more on skates than go around in circles. Yes, we even went to Riverview Rink in Chicago to put on a few dancing exhibitions, but found it to be rowdy with too many fistfights from the locals.

In February of 1964, at the age of 20, I already had thoughts of joining the military, as did all male members of my family on both sides. I decided to join the Navy, but before setting a date, I felt the need to say goodbye to my old friends and visit some of my favorite places. Instead of roller skates, I picked up my ice skates and drove out to Wooster Lake to take one more turn around the Crystal Palace. Just one more axel into the air, one more girl to skate hand-in-hand with to the tempo of "The Skaters' Waltz" before the magic of my youth is gone forever.

I am nearly 70 years old now, and I assure you, one and all, the picture of a 12-year old kid and sounds of the band playing "The Skaters' Waltz" is as clear today as it was in 1956. •

County style breakfast being served

By Florence Smith, Fruitport Polar Bear VFW Auxiliary 3734 President

A country style breakfast will be served on Sunday, March 3, 2013 at the post home, 5201 Airline Road.

The menu includes pancakes, eggs (prepared to your order), potatoes, bacon, sausage, toast, and coffee, juice or milk. This is an all you can eat breakfast for just \$5 for adults, \$2 for children ages five through 10. Children under five eat free.

Serving is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This will be the last breakfast until fall.

We appreciate the community's loyal support. •



Covolo-Lewis engagement announced

Ken and Rosalie Covolo of Fruitport would like to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kory Lynn to Thomas Lewis of Effingham, Illinois.

Kory is a Fruitport High School graduate now living in Effingham. She is working as a cosmetologist. Her fiancé is a nuclear medical technician.

They met at a Rothbury Festival.

They are planning a June wedding here. •

Singing valentines compliments of Barbershop Quartets!

(Submitted by the Muskegon Chapter, Barbershop Harmony Society)

If you are looking for that perfect gift for your special valentine on Thursday, February 14, nothing will ever top a singing valentine by a handsome barbershop quartet! The Muskegon Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society will send a quartet to your loved one's office, home, hospital, senior home, factory, school, or romantic restaurant setting to profess your love with two songs, a rose, and a photograph.

This unforgettable gift is only \$35 if ordered prior to February 10; just \$40 for last-minute orders. Additional flowers or chocolates may also be purchased.

Contact Tom Porritt at (231) 955-6857 to reserve your valentine devotion. Gals, don't forget that men like valentines, too!

The Barbershop Harmony Society is a nonprofit international organization, and proceeds go to the local chapter's Youth in Harmony Fund. •