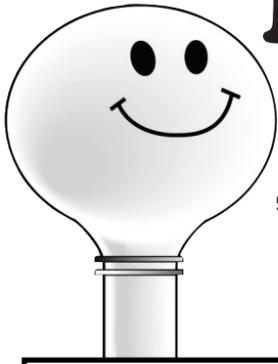


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July, 2013 • Volume 31 • Number 2

The purpose of this paper is to be beneficial to the community it serves in every way possible.



Calvary Christian Schools soon to fly 50 state flags

by Tom Kapanka

If you are like most Americans, you can identify only a few state flags other than your own. Calvary Christian Schools has received a gift that may help West Michigan become better vexillologists. Better what? Vexillologists. Vexillology is the study of flags (from the Latin *vexillum*, meaning flag or banner.)

The Calvary Christian Schools commencement exercises held on May 30, 2013, included an exciting announcement about the securing of the building and the school's long-term occupancy of its current Kendra campus. After nearly a year of working with the bank on the purchase of the school building that became part of the Fruitport landscape in 1999, this good news allows school leaders to begin making long-term plans for improvements to the fine campus and educational facility.

The audience's reaction to this dramatic announcement was a "show-stopper" (to borrow the Showcase term) and came just moments after the senior class presented their gift of a new U.S. flag and a Christian flag for use during ceremonies in the auditorium. The seniors gave this gift in memory of Mrs. Lynne Meyer, their former social studies teacher, who passed away unexpectedly just before the opening of this past school year.

What the graduates did not know was that Mrs. Meyer's father, Mr. Paul Brower, was in the audience and their gift of flags in memory of his daughter helped confirm an idea he had been considering for months.

Mr. Brower is a veteran with a great interest in

flags. Over the course of several years, he had compiled a collection of all 50 state flags, which he has flown at his home. He donated this entire set of flags to Calvary Christian Schools for permanent display in the great foyer outside the gymnasium.

Unless you have been to Mount Rushmore, it is not likely that you have ever seen all 50 state flags at the same place. There are only a few such collections displayed in the entire country. These colorful flags will be hung in time for the school year and will be an educational resource for guests and other schools in the area.

The two photographs show the flags being measured for spacing and the beams 20 feet above from which they will soon hang.

State flags tell interesting stories that bring American history to life and help demonstrate our unique form of government, but most students have never seen all fifty state flags — much less learned the stories they tell. CCS students will be creating educational games and materials that make use of the display. Middle School history students will be coordinating a letter-writing project to the governors of all fifty states, telling them of their state flag being displayed in Fruitport, Michigan, and compiling their responses in a guest book that will be kept in the CCS foyer.

We all know the regal Michigan state flag with its deep blue field and the eagle, elk, and moose framing three separate Latin mottos: E Pluribus Unim ("from many, one," which is also the national motto. Only one other state flag includes the national motto. (Do you know which one?); Toebor ("to defend"); and Si Quaeris Peninsulam Amoenam Circumspice ("If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you.") The other central sunset image and other details of Michigan's state flag make it one of the most interesting in the entire collection, but each flag is unique and shares a bit of history all its own. Please call the school at (231) 864-2141 to set up a self-guided viewing appointment, small group activity, or class field trip.

Calvary Christian Schools is proud to be in the Fruitport community. If you seek a family-friendly education combining an accredited educational program with a Christian worldview, please apply now. New families are enquiring each week, but at this time, openings remain in all grades from preschool through grade 12. •

2003 Fruitport graduate receives Ph.D.

Alyssa E. Johnson received her Ph.D. on June 7, 2013 after completing her graduate studies in Bio-medical Research and Molecular Biological Sciences at Vanderbilt University, located in Nashville, Tennessee.

Her dissertation defense was on "Braking" the Cycle: mechanism of cytokinesis inhibition by the E3 ligase, Dma 1, which was approved for publication for a medical magazine. While attending Vanderbilt, Alyssa received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award for 2013 from the Vanderbilt University Center Department of Cell and Developmental Biology. She plans to complete her post-graduate studies at the University of Southern California in San Francisco where she will complete her post graduate work in neuroscience.

Alyssa is also a graduate of Hope College where she received the Cancer Federation Award, which is in recognition of superior achievements and dedicated commitments to standards of excellence in the advancement of cancer research. Her hope and eventual goal is to obtain her own lab for continued research.

Alyssa is the daughter of Toni Johnson and the late Jim Johnson. •



Day of Caring draws hundreds to county fairgrounds

By Mary Weimer

The annual United Way Day of Caring was held this year at the Muskegon County Fairgrounds on Heights Ravenna Road on Friday, June 21. Close to 800 people, including 40 percent of participants who never helped before in a Day of Caring event, showed up to help paint, repair and fix up the fairgrounds in preparation

for the fair to be held beginning July 23. Organizers were pleased with the number of people who got involved. They noted more student involvement than usual, and a few helpers who had never been to the fairgrounds before.

One activity that generated a lot of attention is the completion of a mural designed by a teacher from the Muskegon Public Schools. The mural features farm animals. And much of the work at the fairgrounds had to be completed later during the week due to the threat of inclement weather.

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Positive notes about Fruitport Village

By Jerry Alger

I would like to thank Rosalie Covolo for again volunteering to oversee the peach tree. She keeps an eye on it and makes sure it is in good shape throughout the summer. This spring, she was able to get flowers donated by 2 West Greenhouses. I would like to thank 2 West for this generous donation. And once again, thank you, Rosalie.

Thanks to Home Depot for their generous donation of flowers for the Fruitport Village Veterans Park.

Thanks to Disability Connection/West Michigan and the Men Who Care of Muskegon for awarding the Village of Fruitport Veterans Park \$200 for reconditioning and sealing the WWI bronze plaque. I don't think that plaque had ever been reconditioned since it was



placed in the early 1900s. Al Rose of Spring Lake, who has reconditioned many bronze plaques, was chosen to complete the project. It turned out very nice. Thank you, Al.

Thanks to Dan Balaskovich for taking time to examine the peach tree. Dan checks the peach tree every spring for any signs of rust. He touched up a few spots in June. Dan is the man who built this "work of art" peach tree. Thanks again, Dan. •