



FRUITPORT Area News

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

Old fashioned values embodied by Old Fashioned Days Queen

By Mary Weimer

Marcie Pouch, this year's Old Fashioned Days queen, was born in Muskegon, the youngest of 7 children. Since 1950, Marcie has lived in Fruitport. Three years after that, she and her husband, Ron, moved into their house on Sixth Avenue. She has seen and been a part of much of the area's history while raising seven children.

Ron Pouch worked at Continental Motors, like many Muskegon residents. But frequent layoffs there left little to count on when raising a family, so he went to work for Holtrop Concrete in 1957, delivering Redi-Mix. Although the work was seasonal, the job offered an income they could count on. Ron retired from Holtrop. He passed away 11 years ago.

Over the years, Marcie has held a number of jobs, especially when you consider that she began working at the age of 14. She has washed dishes at Fruitport's Village Inn, and was a waitress at the Fruitport Pavilion. She worked at Eagle Ottawa and Gardner Denver in Grand Haven. While working full time, Marcie was the Village Treasurer for about ten years at a salary of \$200 per year!

In 1958, she began working for the Michigan Employment Security Commission as a claims clerk. She faced frequent layoffs in that position as well, but she advanced from temporary clerk to employment service interviewer to claims examiner — jobs that took her all over western Michigan. She retired from the MESC in 1990 after 18 1/2 years of service.

One of the most fascinating things I discovered about Marcie is her ability to use a divining rod to locate water. She did not believe in well witching at first, but area resident Henry Peterson introduced her to it. She did admit to being scared the first time she did it. Since then, she has located good water for people as far away as Petoskey.

Most of her children live in the area. A daughter, Ellen (Lee) Kirkpatrick lives in Canton, Michigan. Another daughter, Luanne, passed away from cancer in 1996. Gail (Brian) Goldberg, Louise (Fred) Schaallemma and Janna (Bill) Bordeaux and sons Ed (Sue) and Joe (Cindy) are all nearby and all graduated from Fruitport. Marcie now has 17 grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren.

As their children were growing, Marcie and Ron taught by example the idea of caring for others. When a neighbor, Ollie Cox, became disabled, the Pouch family provided meals for her for several (12-15) years. Often,



Marcie Pouch, this year's Old Fashioned Days queen.

the children would deliver the meals to her.

Eventually, Ollie was living at an area nursing home. Marcie visited her every Monday. Some of the children would visit, as well. At one point, Ollie wanted to visit Canada to see relatives as she had none in this area, so Marcie drove her to Canada.

Marcie is a member of the VFW Auxiliary. Whenever the local post hosted dinners for veterans from the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, Marcie would contribute to the group to help send each veteran "home" with a goodie bag full of snacks, fruit and candy.

As a member of St. Mary's Church in Spring Lake, Marcie helps with funeral luncheons.

When your house has seven children, it is bound to be "the place to be" for all the kids in the neighborhood. And in keeping with that tradition, Marcie has been instrumental in organizing neighborhood reunions for several years.

But of all that she has done, Marcie Pouch considers raising and providing for her family her greatest accomplishment. •

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Easter egg hunters check out Pomona Park

By Mary Weimer

A sunny day greeted lots of eager Easter egg hunters at Pomona Park on Saturday, March 30. Estimates of over 800 kids retrieved 8,000 pieces of candy from the park.

Bicycles were given as the top prizes in each of the age groups. The Easter rabbit gave each child a bag of M&Ms or a candy bar, as well. Also on hand, a big yellow chicken who must have been the one responsible for laying all those eggs!

This year's egg hunt was co-sponsored by the Fruitport Lions Club and The Journey Church. •



Fruitport heralds the birth of a rare set of twins

By Fan staff

The rare birth of twin Morgan horses occurred on April 14, 2013 at Westport Morgan Farm in Fruitport.

When it comes to raising horses, the birth of live twin foals is extremely rare. There is a one in 10,000 chance of twins being born to a horse. The two-week survival rate for twin foals is around one in 15,000. Most of the time, the twins are born prematurely, aborted early on in the pregnancy, or the mare or foals die due to complications right after the birth. Since it is so unusual, the odds of both foals and their mother surviving are astronomical.

One could say there is a miracle in Fruitport!

During the last few weeks of her pregnancy, the mare was acting very strangely, but now it all makes sense, because there were two inside her. Farm owner/breeder Dawn Jacobson and a group of her close friends had been on "foal watch" for several weeks.

On the 14th, around 8 a.m., the mare started acting restless. She was having a difficult time with the delivery. She was up and down, rubbing and slamming her sides against the stall walls. Friends Sarah Knight and Joanna Wessle encouraged Dawn to help by pulling the foal's legs. (This method is called "traction," and occurs when the mare has a contraction and pushes while a human assistant pulls on the foal's legs.)

The first foal that was delivered was a filly. She was getting dried off when the mare suddenly got up again and there was another foot popping out. Sarah finished cleaning foal number one while Joanna called the vet. Dawn knew that having a second foal could be dangerous and that it could even be stillborn. The second foal, a colt, gave a tiny little whinny following the removal of the birthing sack.

An ultrasound done of the mare at 90 days did not show the second twin. Following the birth of the first foal, it was a total shock to see another foot coming out.

The foals are a bit smaller than the average foal and needed around-the-clock care. The next 48 hours were very stressful, and the mare and foals had to be watched carefully. A vet exam the next day assured the health of both foals. They are now nursing well, filling out and

growing like weeds.

"Sizzle" is a first-time mom and has been an excellent mother. Dawn says, "It is just amazing to watch her run and nurse these two tiny foals and manage not to step on them."

"Ancan True Colors," the sire, is owned by Anne Wyland of Davison, Michigan. Dawn has two other Morgan horses sired by the same stallion.

What makes the story even more special is the color of the foals. The filly is a "whitish" Morgan called a "perlino," and the colt is a black or smoky black Morgan. In Morgan horses, these colors are not at all common. The genetic chance of getting such colors is also rare. Dawn laughs at the names people are sending her: Yin-Yang, Salt & Pepper, Ebony and Ivory. The foals have gotten so much attention, they even have their own Facebook page. And in one week, they have over 600 friends! •

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