



Supporting our Fruitport families

By Amy Upham (Submitted by Marilee Beck)

The wearing of pink socks by the football players Friday night once again proved the level of support and care our district has for the students and their families. Please read below another opportunity.

Most of you are familiar with the Cerniglia family. Perhaps it's from Ted serving on the school board, having any one of the five children in your class, and of course there is the yummy food from Teddy's Spaghetti.

If you know the family you may also be aware of the health issues their eldest daughter Mary Martha (Emmy) has. She was diagnosed with a rare chromosomal disorder which impacts her motor function and overall health. Currently, she is being kept comfortable in the home and receiving support from Hospice.

Emmy will be having her 27th birthday on October 14, and family/friends would like to honor her with a prayer circle the Sunday before.

They have extended the invitation to any who are interested in attending. Come and join them as they hold hands and surround the Cerniglia home with prayers for Emmy. Feel free to bring a bag chair and umbrella as we will be there come rain or shine. There will be chili and extras provided for a light lunch.

All are welcome to pray, sing, and show their love for Emmy on Sunday, October 13th at 1:00 p.m.

The Cerniglia home is located at 5491 Heights Ravenna Road in Fruitport. If you are interested in attending, consider wearing your Fruitport attire and/or blue and white. Also, Heights Ravenna can be a difficult area to park so car pools are encouraged.

If you aren't able to attend, perhaps you might consider sending a card. This is just another way to share the true spirit of Fruitport and the loyalty of Fruitport Blue!

Frauenthal organ one of a kind

(Submitted by Frauenthal Center for the Performing Arts)

The Frauenthal Barton Organ was built in 1927 by the Wangering Organ Company to accommodate silent movies. Wangerin built several smaller organs for Barton, as they couldn't keep up with the orders from 1926 to 1928. This particular organ found its first home at the Regent Theater, which was located on Western Avenue in downtown Muskegon. After a fire damaged the organ's electrical controls in late 1928, it sat idle until the Michigan Theater (now known as the Frauenthal) was completed in 1930. The organ was then moved to its new home and enlarged by the Barton Organ Company.

The original organ was constructed as a small instrument with a 6 rank, 2 manual keyboard. A rank is a group of pipes making up a particular sound such as a trumpet or a flute. The original ranks were tibia, string, flute, vox humana, kinura and tuba. When the Barton Organ Company enlarged the organ, it became a 3 manual, 8 rank instrument with the added ranks being the string Celeste and diapason. The organ was then installed in a single chamber on the left side of the new theater.

The organ entertained patrons for 30 years before falling into disrepair. The West Michigan Theater Organ Society was formed in the 1960s to restore the organ to its former glory. Stan Stone and Jim Fles have been two key members in preserving this important piece of Muskegon's history. Together with the organ society they have preserved and expanded the organ into a second chamber on the right side of the theater, doubling its size. Another member of the society, Henry Klooster, left a major gift for the restoration of the organ. The organ is now referred to as the Klooster Memorial Barton Organ in his honor.

When the Frauenthal Theater was restored in 1998, the console of the organ was moved from the orchestra pit, where it has been housed for 68 years, so the theater could accommodate larger orchestras. This involved cutting th 400 conductor connecting cable and replacing it with a computerized system, using a small six-wire cable. Now the organ console can be moved anywhere on stage and is stored below the stage when not in use. Computerizing the organ allowed for actual digital samples of real organ pipes to be placed in a new chamber on the opposite side of the theater to balance the sound. The organ now has the equivalent of eight ranks of pipes and can produce sound effects and sounds from instruments such as a concert flute, tuba, string Celeste, clarinet, xylophone, cymbal, tambourine, tom tom, a siren, train whistle, car horn, bird chirping, and many others. •

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