

## Remembering our Veterans

by Jim Kauppila

The Fruitport Lions Club joins My Subaru of Muskegon to support the Muskegon County Veterans Affairs Food Bank. Initially My Subaru of Muskegon, sponsor of the Sunday Car show located at Fruitport Middle School, wanted to be a collection point for the Food Bank. In order to maximize the collection potential, collections will be taken at the Ox Roast throughout the Fruitport Old Fashioned Days event. Food, personal hygiene products, and cash will be accepted. All items donated will be transferred to My Subaru for disbursement to the Food Bank. With Memorial Day approaching, please consider the needs of our veterans and make a contribution. We are grateful for the support of My Subaru of Muskegon, and their efforts to support our veterans.

## Who Owns Your Body?

by Lisa Middlecamp-Lowder, PhD, and one other

Is it God? Is it government? Is it you? Do you consider your body part of your property that is protected by the constitution? Does it matter? Is it relevant today? Do you trust the government to protect your rights and your body and your children 100%? Do you trust the medical community to protect your interests above all else, all the time? Did you know that Michigan protects drug manufacturers from lawsuits?

We often think the days of forced sterilization, institutionalizing the “mentally unfit,” or forced experimentation are long behind us. But are they? Not that long ago, our own government allowed for experimentation and abuse through the Tuskegee Experiment. According to Wikipedia: “The Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male was an infamous and unethical clinical study conducted between 1932 and 1972 by the U.S. Public Health Service. The purpose of this study was to observe the natural history of untreated syphilis; the African-American men in the study were told they were receiving free health care from the United States government.” Sadly, our own government made false promises to this group of people that treatment would be provided. Yet, it never was—for 40 years.

Interestingly, out of WWII, came the Nuremberg Trials which were held for the purpose of bringing Nazi party officials and high-ranking military officers to justice for crimes against humanity. Now regarded as a milestone, it was determined back then that each individual must submit to a higher authority than the official above them. Out of the trials came 10 points of the Nuremberg Code, where point one, in fact, says: “The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential.” So, exactly how was the Tuskegee Experiment ever even approved by our own government?

In general, many of us put our faith in our government and our medical system. Yet, how do we reconcile that with: “Don’t be foolish, take your doctor’s advice: Smoke a fresh cigarette.” As the world was on the cusp of realizing exactly how dangerous cigarettes were, cigarette companies scrambled to enlist the help of advertising agencies who then used doctors to promote their favorite brand of cigarettes. From the 1930s to the 1950s, advertising’s most powerful phrase—“doctors recommend”—was paired with one of the world’s deadliest consumer products.

Why is any of this relevant? Today, our biggest lobbyists are pharmaceutical companies. Lobbyists will attempt to wine and dine all legislators in an effort to influence votes. Lobbying doesn’t just happen legislatively, its woven into our insurance companies, our unelected government agencies and our physicians’ offices. Insurance companies provide financial incentives to physicians for meeting certain goals, whether its having patients up-to-date on vaccinations or insuring a goal is met with colonoscopy referrals. It doesn’t take much research to see a revolving door between officials at the CDC, the FDA, and executives within the pharmaceutical industry. We need to start asking if the industry actually has the best interests of the patient in mind, or are the recommendations mostly driven by profit?

Hippocrates, the “father of medicine,” is quoted as saying: “Let thy food be thy medicine and thy medicine be thy food.” Most drugs can not heal your illnesses, they are often designed to reduce your symptoms, and come with a long list of possible adverse reactions. Alternative therapies

that focus on natural healing and supplementation can not be patented (read: unprofitable), yet many report successful resolutions of various illnesses. As the drug industry tries to regulate and eliminate their competition (homeopathy, chiropractic, vitamin C therapy, nutritional supplementation, etc), should we be concerned?

It doesn’t take much research to see that adverse reactions, hospital error, abuse of prescription drugs, etc. are negatively impacting—not just overall health—but health costs in America today. What happened to the Hippocratic Oath: “First, do no harm”?

When each prescription drug or medical procedure comes with a long list of possible adverse reactions, when we know that each of our bodies will respond uniquely to environmental influences, food and medicine—are we really ready to accept the pressure of vaccine, prescription and medical procedure mandates? Do you want to have authority over what procedures you or your children undergo? Would you be concerned if your insurance company dropped you for not taking a prescription you don’t believe you need?

The issue of sovereignty over our bodies is a question of the times. And when considering the extreme influence of the drug industry and America’s sordid past with regard to experimentation, it’s up to each individual to advocate for themselves and for their children.

For more information, please consider attending an upcoming Medical Freedom Panel, to be held on May 14 at 7 pm, downtown Muskegon at the Century Club.

## Calvary Students have Great Success at Law Day

submitted by Brad Richards



**Calvary Christian Law Day speech contestants,** Left to Right: Kaleigh Nesbit, Corbin Spencer, Ben Gerst, Jacob McFarren, Ben Gerst, and Alexandra Assaad

**Photo Credit:** Steve Fouts

Calvary Christian School once again had an outstanding showing at the Muskegon County Bar Association’s Annual Law Day events on Friday, May 3rd at the downtown Muskegon Holiday Inn convention center. All Muskegon County schools, public and private, are invited to compete, and today’s winning students mark more than a decade running of Calvary Christian students being represented on the winner’s stand. Over \$10,000 of scholarships have been won over this time by Calvary students. This year, Calvary students took 3 of the top 4 places in the 9th - 11th grade speech contest! Meanwhile, CCS 6th grader Dimitri Lawrence took 2nd place in the Middle School Essay contest. Winning 1st place in the speech contest was Calvary junior Kaleigh Nesbit, winning 3rd place was Calvary sophomore Ben Gerst, and taking 4th place was Calvary junior Alexandria Assaad. Congratulations to our high achieving Calvary Christian School students and their advisor, Mr. Steve Fouts!

## Fruitport VFW News

submitted by Max Riekse

VFW Post 3734 - Veterans of Foreign Wars at 5201 Airline Road, held its 2019 elections, and the following were elected officers for 2019-2020:

- Max Riekse: Commander; Vietnam & Iraq veteran.
- Floyd Peplinski: Senior Vice Commander; Panama & Iraq Veteran.
- Edward Vokal: Junior Vice Commander; Korean Veteran.
- George Kotkowicz: Quartermaster; Iraq Veteran; and Sinai (Egypt) Veteran.
- Chaplain: Jerry Lundberg; Vietnam Veteran.
- Trustee: Larry Davis; Korean Veteran.
- Trustee: Andy Peck; Persian Gulf Veteran.

• Trustee: Ronald Peterson; World War II Veteran.

• Surgeon: Darrell Huddleston; Vietnam Veteran.

George Kotkowicz, Fruitport Cub Master and Fruitport Scout committeeman, serves as the post chairman of our VFW scout committee, along with Andy Peck, also a Fruitport Scout Committeeman.

Meetings are normally held on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 pm, and are usually done by 8:30 pm or sooner. The next meeting of the Fruitport VFW Post will be held on Monday, May 6th, at 7:30 pm; followed by meetings on June 3rd; July 1st; August 5th; September 9th; October 7th; November 4th; and December 2nd. VFW membership is open to honorably discharged men and women veterans who served overseas with qualifying foreign service medals; bring a copy of your DD-214 and/or call the commander, Max Riekse, at (231) 865-3238 to see if you qualify. Dues are \$35 a year. The Fruitport VFW post has no bar; and there is no drinking before, during, or after meetings. The Fruitport VFW Post is over 50 years old. Let’s keep it going.

The Fruitport VFW will lead the Fruitport Memorial Day/Old Fashioned Days parade on Monday, May 27th, with its VFW color guard; proceeded by the post, in cooperation with the Fruitport Cub Scouts and the Fruitport Boy Scouts, putting American flags on veterans’ graves at the Fruitport Pine Hills cemetery on Wednesday, May 22nd, starting at 5 pm; and holding a Memorial Day event at the Fruitport Pine Hills Cemetery at 11:00 am on Monday, May 27th; with the Fruitport High School Band performing, as they have done for many years, and which is greatly appreciated. Fruitport is pulling together to commemorate those veterans who have served our Constitutional Republic.

## Caution: Verizon Scammed Me!

by Ron Cooper

On Monday afternoon, 4/29/19, my daughter, Bekah, and I went to the Verizon Store at 5350 Harvey Street.

We were told that a Jetpack MiFi 8800L would fill our needs. We were told that we could try it and if it didn’t work, we had 14 days to return it and get our money back. We paid \$269.69 which included the Jetpack, one month’s service, a required \$20 for something. The same day (4/29/19) we tried to use it for our intended purpose and it didn’t work adequately.

Tuesday morning, less than 24 hours later, I returned it to the same Verizon Store for the promised refund. We were then told that there would be a \$50 restocking fee and they could not return the \$70 advance payment for one month’s service that was included in the cost.

On 4/29/19 we paid Verizon \$289.69 and on 4/30/19 we were refunded \$161.99, for a loss of \$127.70. The people that waited on me told me they were sorry for any miscommunication and the policy for the \$50 restocking fee was on my receipt. The receipt was given to me as I was leaving their business the previous day, the sale was finished and for them to expect me to read all the print on their receipt and discover the \$50 restocking fee buried in the middle of it and respond to it, is ridiculous!

There was no miscommunication. They told us multiple times that we could get our money back if it did not do what we needed. In less than 24 hours I dealt with four people working at Verizon and all four were on the same team, stealing \$127.70 from me. I suspect that they have done the same thing to other people also. If you have had a similar experience as a Verizon customer, email your experience to mail@fruitportareanews.com and we may be able to print your experience in a future issue.

Verizon is in business in a large part of the U.S. If they are scamming customers nationwide, that adds up to a lot of money in their pockets. It would be interesting to know if all the scammed money goes to Verizon or do the so-called service representatives get a commission? They seemed pretty smooth on how they handled me, like maybe they do this regularly. Do they get a commission or is it required to scam Verizon customers in order to keep their jobs?

If you have been scammed by Verizon, email FAN with your experience so others in our community can become aware.