

Graduation / Old Fashioned Days / Memorial Issue

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.

John & Tricia Winkas: 2026 Fruitport Old Fashioned Days King & Queen

by Carol Hulka



We are pleased to announce the 2026 Old Fashioned Days King and Queen, John and Tricia Winkas. As long standing members of the community, the Winkas family has resided in the Village for 32 years. Their enduring connection to Fruitport is rooted in their education, as both are proud alumni of Fruitport Community Schools, with Tricia graduating in the Class of '88 and John in the Class of '87.

John and Tricia will be celebrating 33 years of marriage in August. They have two children having graduated from Fruitport Community Schools. Their daughter, Haleigh, has earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ferris State University and commencing a residency at Corewell Health Grand Rapids. Their son, Hayden, is working in the skilled trades as a

CALLING ALL VETERANS!

Looking for veterans to ride in our Jeep Salute. This year marks 250 years of Independence for the United States of America. We would not be an independent nation without our VETERANS. Please come and take a ride in a decorated jeep during the Fruitport Lions Memorial Day Parade on May 25, 2026. All of Fruitport township would like to thank you for your service and have you honored in the Lions parade.

You can contact either Clayton Stressman (who is coordinating the jeeps) or Heidi Tice. Their contact information is (231) 750-7592 and (231) 578-6500 respectively. We will need all riders to meet at the Fruitport Middle School at 12:00 pm by the bus garage. Please call and let us know you would like to be honored so we know how many jeeps to set up.

2nd-year apprentice with the Local 7 Sheetmetal Workers' Union, employed at Shoreline Metal Fabricators in Muskegon.

Their combined professional dedication to Fruitport Community Schools is truly remarkable. Tricia, who holds a degree in accounting and business from Muskegon Community College, has served the district for an impressive 36 years. Currently Tricia is working at Fruitport High School. John, a U.S. Army veteran, has dedicated 31 years of his career to Fruitport Community Schools, during which he earned a degree in Business Management that supports his current role as Director of Operations.

John's profound impact extends well beyond his professional duties, establishing him as a respected civic leader and dedicated volunteer. He has assumed critical civic responsibilities, notably serving on the township Tax Review Board and the township and village Zoning Board of Appeals. His commitment to service includes 30 years of consistent support for the Fruitport Lions during Old Fashioned Days week—a dedication recognized by the Lions Club with the prestigious Melvin Jones Fellow award. Furthermore, he actively invested his time in local youth by coaching various club sports, including soccer, baseball, and basketball.

John and Tricia expressed their delight that receiving the nomination is "a great honor"

which underscores their lasting appreciation for the "honor and privilege to live in this great community."

Don't miss your chance to wave at this year's Old Fashioned Days King and Queen in the Memorial Day Parade!



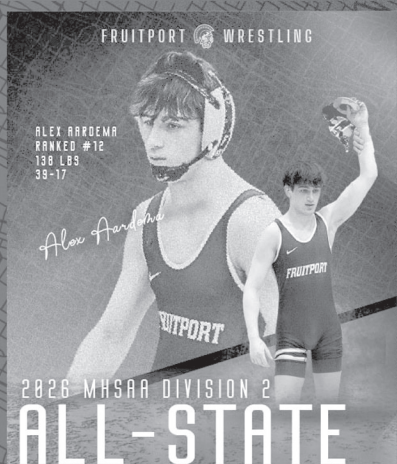
Freshman Bryelle Hirdes (125 pounds), pictured above, is the first female wrestler from Fruitport to qualify for the state finals.

Sophomore Bailey Garner (105 pounds) and junior Audrey Hinton (110) qualified for regionals.

CONGRATULATIONS! ALL-STATE WRESTLERS



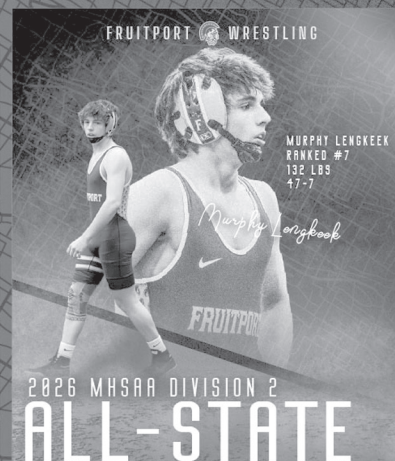
ALEX
AARDEMA



DIVISION 2
138 lbs

6TH PLACE

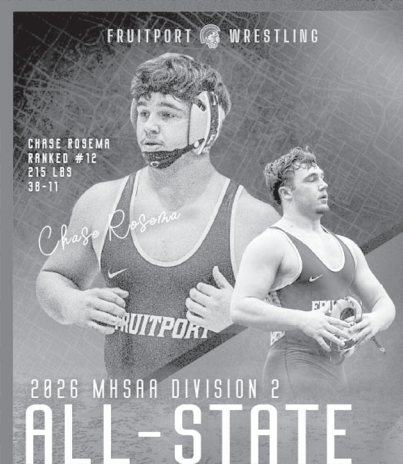
MURPHY
LENGKEEK



DIVISION 2
132 lbs

3RD PLACE

CHASE
ROSEMA



DIVISION 2
215 lbs

8TH PLACE