

THE ELBERTA ALERT

*free!

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A Community News Organ

Fri., Oct. 7, 2011

ALL DOGS GO TO "HEAVEN"?

ON LABOR DAY WEEKEND, area dog lovers and their canine counterparts were surprised by the notice that loomed at the entrance to the Frankfort Dog Park, located at the Frankfort-Elberta High School track. It read simply **DOG PARK CLOSED**. After 16 months of successful dog days, the gates to this ad hoc dog park were closed, it seemed, for good. The organizers are now looking across

the bay to Anderson Park as an option for more a permanent dog playground.

According to Jordan Bates, a cofounder of Frankfort Dog Park with Aubrey Ann Parker and John Vinkemulder, the high school location was never official and never intended to be permanent. Rather, it was an experiment to demonstrate the community's need for a dog park.

The Frankfort Dog Park averaged 20

attendees during the designated times of Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings, and attendance was growing. Some people came from as far away as Honor for the opportunity to socialize their dogs and let them off the leash legally. Although most parks in Elberta, except for the

Image #1: Phase I of the Elberta Dog Park construction, which leaves the basketball court in tact.

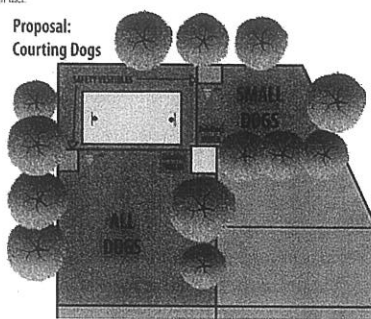
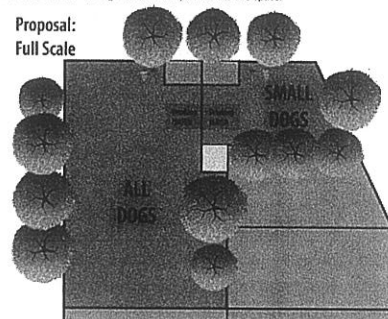



Image #2: Phase II of the Elberta Dog Park construction, in which the basketball court is removed and the "all dogs" section is expanded into this space.





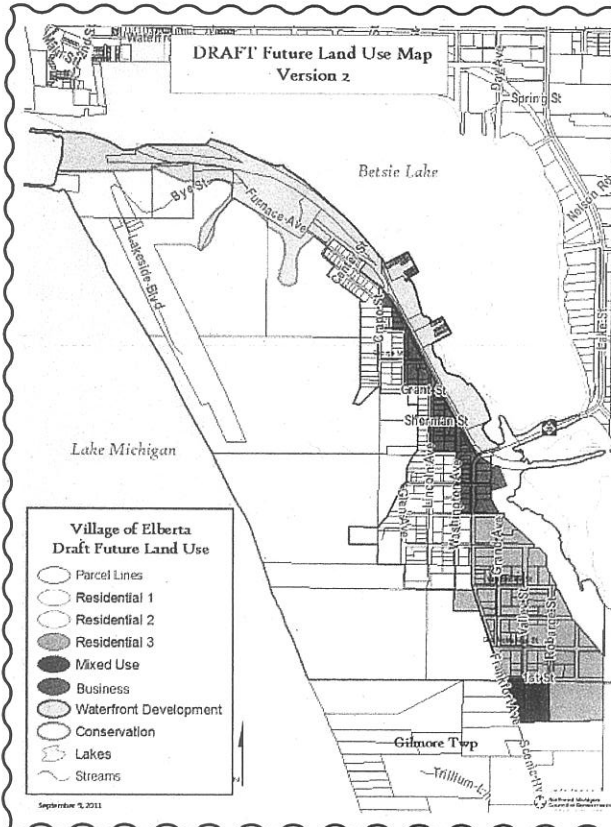
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Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions will be applying herbicide to the Betsie Bay, Betsie Lake, and Betsie River shoreline to control invasive phragmites between Sept 24 and Oct 10, 2011. Phragmites are controlled using glyphosate (Brand name: Refuge, rate of application: 1.5%), imazapyr (Brand name: Habitat, rate of application: 1.5%), a surfactant (Cypret Plus) and a tracer dye (Cypret Select). Applications will occur by foliar spraying with a backpack sprayer, by boat or using a tank sprayer with an ATV. Signs will be posted to all treated areas stating the date of application and listing water restrictions. A complete risk/benefit statement concerning herbicide treatment is available at the municipal offices of Elberta, Crystal Lake & Gilmore townships and Frankfort. Or visit the Friends of Betsie Bay at www.friendsofbetsiebay.info. For information on the herbicide application procedure or timing of application, contact Vickie Smith at (231) 943-0762.

Please Note: Water access is restricted for 24 hours following application.



ABOVE: Two phases for the Anderson Park dog park. If the basketball courts are removed, the Dog Park team has offered to help fund hoops for the Waterfront Park. LEFT: The dog park's official logo, designed by Peter DeVoe. Some funds have been raised through the sale of logo hats. PARK DESIGNS BY JORDAN BATES. ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF JORDAN BATES.



DRAFT MASTER PLAN RELEASED!

After an eight-month effort, the Master Plan Committee (Ken Holmes, Connie Manke, Kelli Stapleton, and Marcia Stobie), with great help from regional planner Sarah Lucas of the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, have completed a revision of the 1994 master plan. At the September 15 council meeting, the Planning Commission (Marcia Stobie, Christeen Kibby-Crawford, Ken Holmes, Russ Mix, and Kelli Stapleton), recommended that Council release it for a 63-day public review period. Copies of the plan can be had at the Village Office, and on the Alert website at <http://wp.me/p1bgEv-af>, and at www.nwm.org. A public forum on the plan will be held in mid-November.

Park, allow dogs, they must be leashed at all times. For many dogs, it is impossible to get enough exercise on a leash, especially if their owner has limited mobility.

"They have certainly shown a need for a dog park" says Frankfort-Elberta Schools superintendent Tom Stobie, who says he decided to close the former dog park because of concerns about sanitation and complaints from people who were uncomfortable sharing the track with unleashed dogs. "Now it's time to move on."

And move on they did. At the September 15 Village Council meeting, John Vinkemulder, Jordan Bates, and Aubrey Parker submitted a proposal to retrofit Anderson Park as a dog park. Adjacent landowners were subsequently to be given a copy of the dog park proposal and asked to write a note to the council with their reaction to the plan. "This way we'll know how people feel about it, since they'd be living right next to it," explained Village president Reg Manville. The results from this poll will likely

Waterfront

be the deciding factor as to whether or not the park will be converted. Manville declined to offer a sneak peek on the attitudes of the landowners he talked to. "It will be discussed at the October council meeting," he said.

The Dog Park team consider Anderson Park an ideal location because a lot of fencing is already in place, and the park is easily accessible, even for the handicapped, and visible from the street. An alternative location in Elberta would be the field next to the old baseball diamond by the Village Community Building. Elberta is being a lot more proactive about the issue than Frankfort, Bates says. "We are going to focus our efforts on developing the Elberta dog park," he said. Bates would ideally like to see dog parks in both areas. But discussions about a permanent dog park have been going on in Frankfort for three plus years. That's a 21-year wait in dog time.

If the Anderson Park plan is approved by the council, the basketball court will be fenced off and gates installed for safely getting in and out of the dog area. The fencing would cost around \$5,000. The dog park proponents would oversee fundraising for this project, which would incur no cost to the Village of Elberta.

You may remember Mr. Tom Votruba's July 17 contribution to the Alert website, an account of his timid dog Schmee overcoming social insecurities and playing with the other dogs at the Frankfort dog

park. This story is likely among countless others that highlight how dog parks contribute to community well-being. The PARK isn't just a place for dogs to exercise; "it's a people park for people with dogs," says Bates.

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STONE-COLD STEELIES

By Westley Allen

COLD TENDRILS OF ICY wind sneak their way into every exposed opening leading to your body; tendrils sent to rob all warmth from your body. Sheer cold numbing your fingers beyond belief. The monotonous tone of wind whistling through your jacket. The feeling of desolation as you sit upon a pier staring at the expanse of water before your eyes. Small flakes of snow drifting in the air, melting as they come in contact with your face. The faintest of voices in your head questioning the little bit of sanity that you may possess. Suddenly out of the corner of your eye you see the tip of a fishing pole bend as if pulled down by an invisible force. Is this just an illusion? Is this a side effect of sitting still on a pier for several hours looking at nothing? Nope. That is the sign that you know what you are doing: that you are on a mission. A mission to catch the highly fastidious steelhead.

Steelhead fishing is the first sign that

a person is out of their mind. Now, there may have been some former warnings that weren't picked up, such as: spending 90 percent of your time attempting to catch fish, spending incredible amounts of money on the newest fishing paraphernalia guaranteed to catch you a fish, etc. Of all the sorts of fishing to participate in, steelhead fishing is the most demanding. One must start with the mind-set of, "I may not even catch a fish, let alone be doing the right thing to catch one." Fishing for steelhead is a far cry from fishing for bluegill or perch. The childhood method of skewering a worm onto an oversize hook under a bobber that could be used to raise the sunken remains of the *Titanic* will most definitely do you no good. As a matter of fact, if you even think of doing this you should just leave the pier before you become the daily entertainment of many anglers (well, the few that you may see), anglers who for the most part are using very small tied spawn sacs full of salmon eggs.

Fishing for steelies is almost like a rite of passage. You will not see too many newbies doing this. Most fishermen are veteran fisherman that have been fishing this way for years; well, besides me. Once you step into this realm of fishing there is no turning back. I have gone through the initiation process. It was not

fun. It was a dreadful experience. Take an average teenager, whisk them away from the warmth of their room, away from the comfort of technology, and remove the



Westley Allen, Ross Thorsen, 12.3 lb. steelie.

electronic devices from their possession. In the place of electronics is a fishing rod. Warmth is traded for algid conditions. I can tell you that what is seen here is a now very choleric and frigid teen. This style of fishing may be looked upon as absurd and foolish. I had the same view two years ago. I remember looking at people on the beach wondering what in the heck they could possibly be doing with their fishing poles perched in the sand along the shoreline. I would give these anglers

the most quizzical of looks, not knowing that there was actually a method to their madness. Now I can be grouped among the aforementioned anglers every fall, when steelhead have their run up the rivers to spawn, and in the spring, when those who stayed in the river over the winter make their exit, and hold my own in the unforgiving weather. I'm proud to fish alongside these older fishermen. I have not only gained respect for them but have received a great amount of respect in return. Not only have I caught several steelhead, but I have caught some very large steelhead, my biggest weighing in at roughly 12.3 pounds. (The average steelhead is between 5 and 8 pounds.) My goal is to catch one over 15 pounds. When this fish is caught, which it inevitably will be, it will be immediately mounted.

Steelhead fishing is an adventure all its own. You may catch a fish, you may not, but it's definitely a learning experience. I know that it has been for me. I won't be giving up fishing for steelies anytime soon. Every fall and spring I will march myself onto a pier or beach and brave the harsh elements all in the name of fishing.

Westley Allen is a junior at Benzie Central High School.

PHOTO BY FRANK SPADAFORE

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OCTOBER

Dr. F. J. La Rue has moved his office to his own building, formerly occupied as an office by Dr. D. M. Roos; the Boston Red Sox & the New York Giants are meeting in the World Series.
—The Elberta Alert, October 11, 1912

Date	Event	Details	Location	Time
2, 16, 23, 30	ELBERTA ALERT EDITORIAL MEETING	Come to the Library and hand in a story, submit a correction, make a suggestion, or just shoot the shinola with the editorial team.	Elberta Library, 704 Frankfort Ave.	1 pm–2 pm
4	PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION	Regular meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission	Elberta Library, 704 Frankfort Ave.	7 pm
5, 8, 27	EVENTS AT THE MAYFAIR TAVERN	Benefit spaghetti dinner, \$10 and cash bar, 4 pm–9 pm; all proceeds go to Kelly Beaton's cancer care. Oktoberfest celebration with brats, wiener schnitzel, German beers, and live music. Ghoulish Halloween wine dinner featuring wines of autumn; costumes encouraged! Call to reserve.	515 Frankfort Ave. 231-352-9136	4 pm–9 pm; 6 pm on
6, 22, 29	MUSIC AT THE CABBAGE SHED	Open mike Thursdays; FunDubMentals northern Michigan reggae will drop a shovel. \$5 cover. Then on Saturday, Devil's Night eve, DJs Equinox and the Votrubicon will Scare Your Dance Off.	198 Frankfort Ave. 231-352-9843	9 pm on
7	MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE	Regular meeting of the Master Plan Committee with Sarah Lucas.	Elberta Library, 704 Frankfort Ave.	8 am
8	FALL FESTIVAL!	A parade kicks off the funfest, with the Scottville Clown Band, Ed Moody carving his giant pumpkins, other pumpkins getting launched hundreds of feet by the Masters of Mayhem, the Mutt March, local floats, pumpkin-weight guessing (prize: a bike!), Steve the UPS man in the dunk tank, a straw maze, the Hillbilly Olympics, and free screenings of <i>It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown</i> at the Garden.	various locations and Open Space park	11 am–4 pm
11	PARK AND REC MEETING GILMORE TOWNSHIP MEETING	Regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission; rescheduled to second Tuesday this month only. Regular meeting of the board of Gilmore Township.	Village Community Bld., 401 First St. Elberta Library, 704 Frankfort Ave.	7 pm (first Tuesdays) 7 pm (second Tuesdays)
11	HISTORICAL BOOK LAUNCH PARTY	Come for the Benzie Area Historical Society's annual meeting and stay to celebrate with Lou Yock the publication of his second book, <i>Lost Benzie County</i> , out now.	Benzie Area Historical Museum, 6941 Traverse Ave.	4:30 pm–9 pm
15	RIBBON CUTTING AT DUNES PARK	Come out and celebrate the Village's acquisition of the old Almondinger/Thorpe property. Hosted by the Grand Traverse Land Conservancy as part of its fall hike series, with a hike to the top.	Elberta Dunes Park, off M-22, south end of town	10 am–12 noon
15	COMMUNITY DINNER AT ELBERTA'S BEST CHURCH	Free dinner and fellowship at Elberta United Methodist Church.	555 Lincoln Ave.	4 pm–6 pm (third Saturdays)
19	REFLECTIONS BY THE BAY	"Cookbooks and Cooking," with Jim Voltz	Benzie Shores Library, 630 Main St., FFort	7 pm–8 pm
20	VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING	Regular meeting of the Village board of trustees. A lawn maintenance ordinance and a dog park proposal will be discussed.	Village Community Bld., 401 First St.	7 pm (third Thursdays)
20-23	FRANKFORT FILM FESTIVAL	Our homegrown cinematic cornucopia at the Garden. Schedule at FrankfortGardenTheater.com/filmfestival	The Garden Theater Frankfort	Various Times \$10 per film \$50 festival pass

BEHIND THE SCENES: DOGMAN—THE MOVIE

By Anonymous

In December, director Rich Brauer will bring Benzie County's favorite cryptid to cinematic life at the State Theater in Traverse. Filming took three weeks and cost under \$1 million (it qualified for the Michigan film incentive). The production brought money and excitement to the area. Scenes were shot on Crawford, Ballard, and Grace Roads, in downtown Benzonia, and at the residence of Jack and Ruth Swander, which served as the home of the fictional Hanklin and Dorothy Purvis. Cast and crew (including animals) were mostly locals, and the Mayfair Tavern won the catering bid. What follows is a report from the ground...

WHEN ARRIVING ON, or I should say near, the set of *Dogman: The Movie*, the Mayfair catering crew were told to shut off their car lights because the infamous "truck on fire" scene was being filmed. We sat in the dark for several minutes and then headed to the Swanders' barn to load the buffet table. Then we stood and watched the moviemaking process. Twelve of Benzie's finest volunteer firefighters were there to put out what was deemed by onlookers an "I could've blown that thing up better than that!" fire. Glen Lake Electric was on hand to rig the truck for pyrotechnics. After the truck was put out and the area cleared, everyone broke for dinner.

Everyone streamed into the barn—cast first, then the Swander family, the crew, then our local EMS, firefighters, and Ken's towing—for the fantastically divine food made by the Mayfair Tavern team led by Heather Frary. As we watched from afar, we could hear and see some typical "Hollywood" things. There was the Nazi with the headset speed-walking to bark orders to anyone who moved; and the lead character, Larry Joe Campbell, who despite now living in LA was a supernice individual who was really psyched when he saw me cutting

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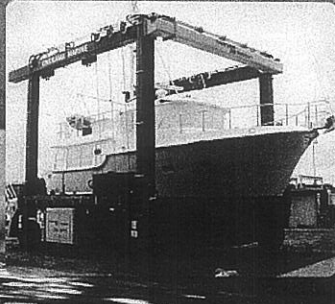
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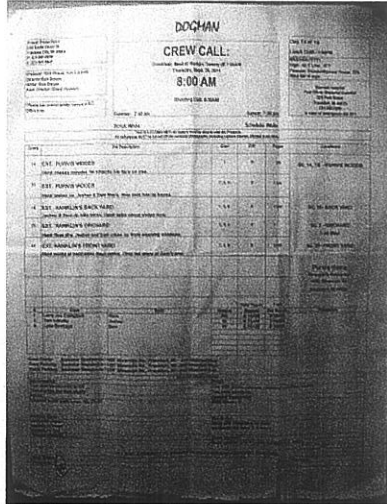
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up my brownies—"Whoa, SWEET!" he said. Larry Joe grew up on a farm outside Cadillac and played Jim Belushi's neighbor Andy on *According to Jim*. He was surrounded by ... I guess you would call



A production call sheet, leaked to the Alert, showing the first scene for day 14 as "Hank chases intruder. He smacks his face on tree." Cast and crew ate at the Hungry Tummy most mornings, and Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital served as a key location.

them assistants. High compliments were made to the Mayfair Tavern staff for the variety of food provided, including for those on restricted diets.

The next scene I saw being shot was the one where the char-grilled

truck gets returned to the main character at the Purvis house. We stood in the pitch black and watched through the trees. The headset lady told us to move to the left side of the road and be quiet—"Even you, over there in the trees!"—speaking to Heather. I won't mention what Heather said after that; it was hilarious, though. We kept as quiet as a bunch of small-town folk can in a situation like that. We hoped that someone's lit cigarette would show up in the road where we were standing on the movie and discussed the raw deal that the "Hollywood" people gave to Ken's towing for doing their bit part. Like, no royalties, advertising or payment, plus they endured countless calls about times and needing photos of employees. A Benzie sheriff's car pulled into the drive, leaving us to wonder how much it costs to "rent" a cop car. Ken was concerned that his classic '80s tow truck wouldn't start after they had his buddy Rick keep the lights on. Ken yelled to Rick to "start her up so the battery doesn't die." The cop in this scene was played by Frankfort high school senior Emily Swander, who is the Swanders' granddaughter. Yay, local girl!

I left after the return of the crispy

car had cut. It was neat to see that a five-minute scene took an hour to shoot. Wow, everything had to be just so. Things as insignificant as a coffee cup on the picnic table outside the house that's seen through the window—crazy stuff, but it makes sense if you think about it. At dinner at the Mayfair one night, Larry Joe read Merren [Garber]'s article in one of the Alerts and said he would be sure to check out the Solstice Festival.

Heather had a great story about the filming of the chickens the day the helicopter was there to shoot the aerial shots. Apparently the chickens had a Humane Society rep. The rep told the crew, "The chickens need a break." They were getting stressed out walking around the set, haha. Now that they've been in a movie, the chickens may be eligible for SAG membership.

See more Dogman behind-the-scenes stories and photos on the Alert website, including an interview with Rich Brauer.

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THE TRUTH FROM RUTH

Beginning in 1952, Ruth Nanni, née Soule, lived here at 718 Lincoln Avenue, in the house her grandfather Leslie Rust built in 1902 from \$100 worth of green lumber bought from Crane's. "Tootie" taught Village children how to tap dance, how to find the books they wanted at the Elberta Library, and how to have fun while learning scripture at Elberta United Methodist Church. From 1987 to 1997, she was the leader of the Kitchen Kats Kitchen Band, a kazoo band that ranged over several counties, entertaining in senior centers, schools, anniversary parties, and parades, including the National Cherry Festival. Ruth passed away September 22 at the age of 90. She will be missed at council and township meetings, where she was one of the few regular citizen attendees, and at Elberta Alert Editorial Team Sunday meetings. Herewith are some thoughts and memories from Ruth's friends and excerpts from an interview the Alert did with Ruth last March.

JANET BUCK: She was proud of her heritage—her father, Raymond Soule, was a descendant of George Soule, a Mayflower Pilgrim and signatory of the Mayflower Compact. A replica of the house he built in Plymouth Plantation in 1627 still stands today.

RUTH NANNI: I was born on Gratiot Avenue, in a neighborhood that was later bulldozed to make way for a four-lane highway. But I grew up in St. Clair Shores, which when I lived there had no sidewalks, just cinder paths, and no sewers—it was all farms.

CAROLEE NESS: One time down in St. Clair Shores she earned a dollar. She'd found out that if she had a dollar she could get 10 tap dancing lessons, and she wanted those lessons. She really took to it. She taught her little sister how to tap dance. I believe it was in 1939 during a talent event at the Free Show, they performed together in matching dresses on a big old flatbed truck. They won five dollars and a box of chocolates. She worked for a studio downtown for a time. After she moved up here she had her basement finished and did lessons down there. And everybody sent their kid at one time or another.

RUTH: If I'm ever in a wheelchair, I could still teach tap dancing.

CAROLEE NESS: She and her husband eloped when she was 18. She had to write some tests her senior year, and they went to another county at noon hour and got married—she did it between tests. Then she

lived at home a little longer and did some cleaning she'd promised her mother and moved out little by little, in secret. She was a little stinker.

RUTH: My husband and son and I moved here because Richard had a job keeping those radar bubbles up in the air at the airport base in Empire. But I said I wouldn't go unless we could live in my grandfather's house. Up in the attic you'll see there's still bark on some of the two-by-fours. Later Richard worked for the railroad, keeping the diesel engines in repair. One time he ran the train from here to Owosso just by holding two wires together, because they didn't have the part; they kept all the parts in Owosso. He had only a 10th grade education because he had to get a job to support his parents, but he always wanted to go back to school. He lost his sight when he was 52 [because of a welding accident while he was working for Westinghouse]. He had to retire on disability and lost his pension. We only got \$100 a month, so we cashed in all our savings and had to get food stamps for a while, but we made it all right.

CAROLEE NESS: Tootie could really stretch a dollar.

RUTH: Jessie Grondin and I were the first librarians at the new Elberta Library. We worked there for 6 years and took library training in Traverse City. I set up the vertical files, typed up the cards, and had an office full of reference books. Sometimes we'd be down there till 11. We got paid \$5 a week. That library was really a labor of love. When they were building it, little kids saved their money to purchase bricks for a quarter a brick.

I had a color code for the books with tape—history had blue, something else had red. And you'd be surprised how orderly it kept the library. Even the little kids took ownership, sorting books onto the right shelf, even if they couldn't put them alphabetically. Anyplace I



Tootie with one of her Kitchen Kats homemade instruments, made out of a bedpan. The tuning knobs are corn-on-the-cob holders. PHOTO BY EMILY VOTRUBA

saw a picture I would put it in a box for kids to use for their school reports, since not all of them could get a hold of magazines.

CAROLEE NESS: Tootie always had a nurturing thing. She took care of people and kids. She kept you awake and alive.

RUTH: A counselor came and encouraged Richard to take the college entrance exams. He passed them, and competed with the sighted in Kalamazoo and Southern Illinois University. I read his books to him and typed his papers until he learned Braille and got a special typewriter. He got his master's degree in counseling and worked in Illinois. I worked at an adult daycare there and started developing my Kitchen Kats ideas.

CAROLEE NESS: We led youth fellowship together on Sunday nights for many years during the '70s. We had as many as 143 kids down here for Bible school. Kids from Frankfort, Catholic kids...they came over here because it was more fun. They were sitting beside each other holding hands, but that never hurt anybody. The 10-, 11-, and 12-year-olds couldn't wait, they were so excited—she was an exciting lady. So we wound up having a 10-11-12 club. One year we had Thanksgiving and every kid brought their own turkey TV dinner. It sounds hideous, but it was really fun. We furnished the cranberry sauce and drinks, and we put the dinners in the oven and then we did handicrafts. Then we ate, worshiped, and were thankful.

LOIS SCHRAM: Ruth was great

for spur of the moment fun. One night she heard my sister and I playing my keyboard and here she came with her homemade trombone and joined in. Then she had a better idea and had us come to her house (her husband was already in bed) and she fired up her Thomas organ and invited Dorothy and Beverly Gethals over and in spite of the hour we had an impromptu band. I was scheduled for surgery the next day or two but for that night I was feeling just fine!

CADY NESS-SMITH: A lot of people don't know that Tootie was the neighborhood prankster. If anyone had a slightly inappropriate guest, she would attach tin cans deep under the person's car so you could hear what time they left at night. I remember just one prank that was played on Tootie. Someone put a dead skunk on her porch. Till the bitter end she believed that someone had been driving down the street so fast, that the skunk had been thrown up there on impact. She went on to use that skunk in two of her own pranks.

CAROLEE NESS: Then she went into party mode and started throwing parties for everyone. There was a Carnival Party, where she appeared as Madame Rose the Gypsy fortune teller; a pirate party, a purple party, a devil birthday party for Doug Holmes...



RUTH NANNI: It was in the basement—we had a sign on the stairs that said "Go to Hell." We had fake logs burning, red blankets, devil's food cake, and we were all dressed as devils, and we had an old swivel chair from the Marine Office with a heating pad there on high that we made him sit on....

CAROLEE NESS: ...several Hawaiian parties—she made grass skirts for all the girls out of paper bags and taught the kids how to hula. We were living proof you didn't have to be the richest person.

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MYRA HUMSTAD
(March 20, 1941–September 16, 2011)
Myra Lou McConnell was born in her grandmother's house on Lincoln Avenue and grew up in Elberta in the house her father built on the corner of Lincoln and Bigley, surrounded by her extended family. She graduated from Benzonia High School (class of 1959) after Elberta High closed; there she met and fell in love with her future husband, Karl Humstad. Myra is survived by their four children and four grandchildren. She was an avid genealogist, animal lover, and a true friend.

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BLAST From the FUTURE!

Local history, topics, and interviews by Elberta teens

Homecoming Weekend 2011

By Merren Garber

ON A DARK AND CHILLY NIGHT there was a homecoming. Ha ha, just joking; it wasn't dark until nighttime. But it was very chilly, especially for all the girls wearing their dresses. And for my first time going to homecoming, I had a lot of fun and enjoyed myself.

To start off our homecoming weekend, our Frankfort Panther football players won our homecoming game against Suttons Bay with the score at 40-6. We kicked some Suttons Bay butt, but I must say that everybody on both teams played great. Congratulations, boys. And then Saturday rolled around and that was the day of our homecoming dance at the

high school. After going to Fusion for dinner we all headed to a friend's house. My friends Kennedy, Maggie, Mia, and I all got ready at Kennedy's house and we looked great! And when our dates arrived, we got pictures on their deck and eventually headed over to the school.

Seeing the sparkly lights, balloons, and streamers decorating the gym, I had a feeling it was going to be a fun night. We danced to fast songs and slow songs. And when we needed it we took a break and talked with various people, laughing and smiling the whole time. Then it was time for the homecoming representatives to have their slow dance with each other and they all looked so nice.

The sad part was leaving. I had such a great time and I didn't want to go, but I knew the night would have to come to an end eventually. I said goodbye to my friends and went home with the group I came with and we watched movies for



Homecoming Dance team: Maggie MacGirr, Mia Charbonneau, Kennedy MacGirr, Avery May, Alex Reynolds, and Merren Garber. PHOTO BY JENNIFER WILKINS

the rest of the night. But even now I miss dancing and I wish it could be Saturday once again so I could enjoy myself one last time. But now I hope next year can be just as fun as this year's homecoming and I'll be looking forward to it just as much

as I did with this year. I hope everybody had a good time, and I'll see you at school on Monday.

Alert editor Merren Garber is a freshman at Frankfort-Elberta High.

SIGNS, cont'd

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tournaments there could be held for further fundraising.

Council examined Frankfort's lawn ordinance in preparation for adopting a similar one here. Frankfort's requires all growth that isn't landscaping, trees, shrubs, or gardens to be kept to 8 inches or under. "It's pretty vague," said Reg. "One man's weed is another woman's flower. You can really back yourself into a fine line here." Ken Holmes said, "One place on Washington Avenue is in terrible shape with all the weeds and stuff and people wonder what's going on there.... I guess they figure they live in the forest and they're just going to let it grow. But that's not the way Elberta's ever been." Linda Manville asked that the area between the sidewalks and the street, which some residents do not mow, be addressed in the ordinance. The subject was tabled so the wording could be revised ahead of the October meeting. During public comment, Emily Votruba of Washington Avenue raised questions about the ordinance: would grass be required? would native plantings be allowed? how would the ordinance be enforced? Laura Manville said the Village would mow properties deemed in violation, charging an hourly rate and assessing that fee as part of the owner's tax obligation if the owner failed to pay. Emily asked that there be public review of the ordinance ahead of a vote. Diane Jenks said there would be a public

forum at the October council meeting. Dan Kelly of Crystal Lake commented that the increase in suburban-style lawns in his area was problematic aesthetically and environmentally. At press time the proposed wording was not yet available.

Council and Scott Gest agreed to the wording on the forbearance agreement between the Village and the Elberta Landholding Company. Gest said the interest rate on the Village's loan with ELHC, which won't come due until the property development begins to realize increased tax revenue, is under prime.

During public comment county commissioner Marcia Stobie mentioned that other area meetings list her report on the agenda. "I never know when to give my report [here]." The contract for the new county administrator is not yet final. The county budget was approved and posted for review; about \$385K was cut. A rollback of the Headlee amendment is being considered for the February ballot. "That's music to my ears," said Laura Manville. Among other unacceptable budget constraints, Marcia said, the sheriff's department for the second year was unable to replace any vehicles. Speaking as a member of the planning commission she asked dog park organizers to consider

who will maintain the park, what sort of surfacing and landscaping to use, and whether nonresident park users will be asked to make contributions.

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Happy Hunting

By Lois Schram

'T WAS A WEEK B-4 HUNTING AND OH, WHAT A SIGHT
OUR HOUSE WAS A MESS FROM MORNING 'TIL NIGHT.

HUNTING SHIRTS HERE, PANTS OVER THERE
SOME ON THE CLOTHESLINE TO GET SOME FRESH AIR!
WHICH BOOTS SHALL I WEAR, THOSE OR THESE?
I CAN'T WEAR THIS PAIR--TOO NOISY IN THE LEAVES.

WHERE IS MY THERMOS, MY BACKPACK AND BOW?
DOGGONE IT ALL; I JUST STUBBED MY TOE!

NOW IT'S "OPENING EVE" AND LUNCH IS ALL PACKED
IT'S FINALLY TIME TO HIT THE 'OLE SACK.

DAYLIGHT COMES & IT'S A COLD HARD WIND
THOSE DEER CAN JUST WAIT, HE SAYS WITH A GRIN.

BACK TO THE SACK, THE HECK WITH IT ALL...
HIS VOICE TRAILING OFF AS HE WENT DOWN THE HALL!

Elberta hunters! Call the Alert Hunt Line and tell us what you've bagged. We'll publish the results at the end of the season. 231-399-0098.

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