

NEIGHBORS

Children home for spring break

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battlecreekenquirer.com

It's already Thursday, the deadline for me to get this column out is the mail. This week our five children are home on spring break. The boys have been cleaning out the barn and hauling manure. The girls have been helping with the spring cleaning and also cleaning up the yard. We've had a few nice days this week.

LOVINA EICHER THE AMISH COOK

is here today. She came last night and stayed the night. She used to live in the same school and grade as Verena but they moved to another school district. They still keep in contact and the Amish to visit her. They always enjoy each other.

My husband, Joe, grilled chicken last night for supper and along with that, we had spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, Zella cake, and angel food cake. It was a nice evening to grill.

The children are taking the ponies to exercise now that it is warm. Lovina and I took the drive to drive the miniature ponies. They can't be ridden on and hitch her to the pony wagon. It's nice that they learn

CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

with a smaller pony and get used to it.

12 cups bread flour
1 1/2 tablespoons baking soda
1 tablespoon salt
4 cups chocolate chips
Mix wet and dry ingredients (or use an ice cream scoop) onto greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 12-20 minutes depending on size.

and she must've hit just in the wrong place. It was disappointing to Timothy as at seven months old it was a nice time already.

Little Princess, our miniature pony, turned a year old yesterday. April 9, Timothy and Lovina said she thinks she should go to the farm for her birthday. The boys said they should give him extra feed. It made me laugh. In another year he will be ready to train to

drive the pony wagon. Jacob and Verena's oldest daughter, Elizabeth, 17, will have surgery done on her eye tomorrow. She had the surgery good results. We wish her a complete and speedy recovery. I took daughter Susan, 18, to the doctor this week. She has been so miserable breaking out all over with an itchy and painful rash. Her hands are all blistered and peeling skin. It started after she started her new job at the RV factory. She cleans the outside of the RVs and has to use a strong cleaner to clean off the excess caulk. The doctors said she is allergic to the strong chemicals in the caulk. We hope they will consider moving her to a new position. It's just all the money to have to be miserable all this time. The doctor gave her antibiotics and cream to try to clear it up.

THE BOARDROOM

Recent discussions held and decisions made by local boards of education.

Harper Creek Community Schools
Meets second Monday monthly: 4:45-5:00 or harpercreek.net
Approved a 19-credit graduation requirement for the Harper Creek Center for Academic Achievement.
Approved a two-year contract with Property Solutions of MI for naming Sonoma and Beale

Lake characteristics and the district's Crosby Drive property.
Responed James Keffer to the Willard Library Board of Trustees.
Authorized the Marching Band to take a field trip to Cedar Point in August.

Athens Area Schools
Meets third Monday monthly: 7:25-7:47 or athens42.org
Could not be reached for information.

Discussed, but made no decision on, whether or not the district should ask voters to approve a property tax for facilities scholap.
Revised four articles to attend other districts.

Homeer Community Schools
Meets third Monday monthly: 5:57-6:46 or homeerhcs.net
Added April 18 and June 9, 10, and 11 as in-school days to make up for classes canceled because of snow this winter.
Heard from Superintendent Bob Halagany that he is still gathering information for a cost analysis of whether it is better for the district to continue offering transportation services in-house or to privatize the service.
Voted to seek bid for elementary asphalt

replacement, last time as a limited portion of the roof and update to the middle school gymnasium, to be paid for with Schover bond money.
Voted to add a paid golf coach position.

Olivet Community Schools
Meets second and fourth Monday monthly: 2:56-7:52 or olivet-schools.org
Could not be reached for information.

CLASS NOTES

Athens Area Schools
changed June 4 from a half-day to a full one and will have half-day school days on June 5 and 6 to make up for classes canceled because of weather this winter. Superintendent Rick Franklin said in a news release.

Franklin said the changes would give the district enough time to delay classes by two hours if needed because of springtime weather, but any more cancelled days would require the district to add more time to the end of the school year.

State law requires school districts to offer a minimum number of days and hours each school year, with a certain number of days cancelled because of weather foregone. When districts dip below those minimums, they have to make up for lost time.

Climate change talk Thursday at Albion
Nobel laureate Richard Alley will speak on climate change at 7 p.m. Thursday at Albion College's Goodrich Chapel as part of the college's 25th annual Elkhorn Isaac Ruess Research Symposium, the college said in a news release.

Alley is the Evan Pugh professor of geosciences and associate of the Earth and Environmental Systems Institute at Pennsylvania State University, the release said. He is a presenter for PBS Earth: The Operator Manual and wrote the book, "The Two-Mile Time Machine," which was named Phi Beta Kappa's science book of the year in 2001, according to the release.



Graduates of the Olivet College President's Leadership Institute.

WMU to give 2,704 degrees Saturday
Western Michigan University said it will hand out 2,704 degrees in commencement ceremonies Saturday at Miller Auditorium.

The schedule includes a 9 a.m. ceremony for the College of Education and Human Development and Extended University Programs, a noon ceremony for the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Health and Human Services and Aviation, a 3 p.m. ceremony for the College of Business, and a 6 p.m. ceremony for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Tickets will be handed out through graduates, with any leftover seats given to attendees after the ceremony.

The ceremony also will be shown on large screens in rooms 1023 and 1028 of Brown Hall, will be televised on Channel 5 of WMU's cable television system and there will be a live stream for the first 1,000 to connect.

Staffers, students honored
The following staffers and students received the following honors, according to news releases from the various organizations:

Chris and Megan Stone, Battle Creek, a girl, Friday, April 11.

Bronson Methodist Hospital, Kalamazoo
Aed Vandenand and Sarah-Wendy Watson, Galesburg, a boy, Sunday, April 13.
Dave and Corinne Hocker, Kalamazoo, a boy, Monday, April 14.
Ryan and Martina

At Honor High School: Students Tyler Ridgeway, Alex White and David Porter earned a grand prize for their video entered in an annual video-making competition at Michigan State University. Also at Honor High, student Tim Mary earned a perfect score for his piano performance at the Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association's State Solo and Ensemble.

At Olivet College: Battle Creek's Brittany Hayes, Travis Lankford and Trevor Talum, Olivet's Mike Funk and Hastings' Helen MacQueen were among 24 students who graduated from the Olivet College President's Leadership Institute. Also at Olivet College, Battle Creek's Molly Gosley, the college's director of media relations and senior writer, won the Prince Aelred Award from the Central Michigan Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America for her story in the spring 2013 issue of Olivet alumni magazine, Shipley's Record on the President's Leadership Institute.

At the University of Findlay (Findlay, Ohio): Battle Creek's Jackie

Johnson, Hickory Corners, twin girls, Monday, April 14.
Charles and Brianna Curtis, Kalamazoo, a girl, Tuesday, April 15.
Jeramie and Katie Newburn, Battle Creek, a boy, Wednesday, April 16.

Daklawn Hospital, Marshall
Mark and Sarah Colwell, a girl, March 20, April 16.

Kelly, Monday, April 14.
James Beaton and Aubrey Nagle, a girl, Averi Lynn, Tuesday, April 15.
Jordan Smith and Desha Meyer, a girl, Lillian Koelle, Tuesday, April 15.
Dustin Smith and Storie Linnabury, a girl, Lydia Skye, Wednesday, April 16.

BUSINESS NOTABLES

Neurosurgeon Timothy Spencer, who performs surgeries at Oaklawn Hospital, has opened a practice at 1420 Beale Lake Road in Battle Creek. While serving in the military, Spencer developed minimally invasive spinal surgery techniques that allowed him to be active daily even within six months after surgery.

He also has expertise with regenerative medicine, using adult stem cells to heal torn or musculoskeletal regions as an alternative to surgery. Spencer is board certified in neurosurgery.

Music Center JUST DESSERTS
April 26 at 7:30pm
First Presbyterian Church
111 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek
Tickets: \$25 / \$63.1911, option 1
A Benefit for the Choral Programs of The Music Center
Featuring Arts Voice Director, Dr. Mark Wells and Mezzo-Soprano Alexis Stark
Battle Creek Boychoir, Girls Chorus & Young Men Ensemble Director, Joel Snyder;
BC Community Chorus Director, Dr. Clayton Parr
www.YourMusicCenter.org

Battle Creek Gilmore Grand
with Gilmore Young Artist Andrew Hsu
W.K. KILLGORE AUDITORIUM in BATTLE CREEK
SATURDAY, MAY 3 AT 7:30PM
In Collaboration with the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival
Advance Tickets: \$8-\$45
269.963.1911, option 1
WWW.BATTLECREEKSYPHONY.ORG
Sponsored in part by: Robert and Eleanor Dwyer, Dr. Lorraine Mitzlak, Women Who Care, *Allegro*