27-year search for mother finally successful

By AMY HEIDEN

If you can measure the size of the accomplishment by the obstacles that had to be overcome — as Booker T. Washington said — then your need a very large yardstick to measure Bonnie Fritz’s achievement.

Her search for her birth mother, whom she has never seen, took over 27 years and reached all the way to Colorado.

She met obstacles along the way, including uncooperative agencies and judges.

But in August, her dream of finding and talking to the woman who bore her was fulfilled, as the two spoke tentatively and tearfully on the telephone.

“I was scared to death to talk to her, but it was something I had to do,” Fritz said.

“I talk a lot when I get nervous so I don’t think she had a say to say much of anything.”

Fritz’s search for her family roots began when she turned 18, and living in Colorado.

Her adoptive parents, a farming couple in Pawler, Colo., had never made any secret of her adoption.

They had taken her into the family shortly after she was six weeks old, and adopted her when she was 16 months old. By then, she didn’t or wouldn’t provide her with much information.

She first contacted the Colorado Department of Social Services, but was told that records of the adoption were sealed and could only be opened with a court order.

USA sponsors community ed program

USA School District will sponsor a Community Education Program at all three centers this fall.

Class offerings being considered include adult and children’s gymnastics, babysitting clinic, computer registration or Spanish, holiday decorations/crafts, computers/graphic design, woodcrafts and automotive repair.

Persons interested in teaching or taking any of these classes, or who have suggestions for other classes should call Chris Hoppe at 674-8669 or 674-8478.

By AMY HEIDEN

Bonnie Fritz has spent many frustrating years searching for her mother. Now that she’s found her, she has more family photos to show daughters Amy and Becky and AMY HEIDEN PHOTO

Her search then was put on hold for awhile when she met and married Raymond Fritz, an Elko native, who was serving in the Army in Colorado Springs.

When Raymond mustered out, he packed up his new wife and daughter Amy to move back to Michigan to live.

A couple of years after moving to Michigan, she learned a few tidbits of information about her adoptive grandparents.

“They told me my adoptive grandmother was from Colorado, Nor- way, as were her maternal grandparents.”

“Little bit of information just whetted my appetite for more,” Fritz said. “I still didn’t know my birth mother’s name.”

Her first big break came after her adoptive mother died and she and Amy and a friend went back to Colorado to help sort through the estate.

“Any was going through some papers and found one dated in 1948, and in it was my birth name. She screamed at me, ‘Mom, look at this right now,” Fritz said.

“I showed that paper, given to her adoptive parents, was her name, Madonna Marie Piper. Bonnie Jean, she said she was always known as hers, was the name given to her by her new parents in 1948 when she was given up by her mother.

The paper also gave up a few more clues. Her mother had been married when she gave up her daughter, and already had a three-year-old daughter. Apparently, her parents felt that raising two daughters in a room to a separate pool would be unfair to par- ents and children alike.

After her return to Michigan, she then contacted a judge of the juvenile court in Pueblo who agreed to let them see her file on her adoptive father.

“We drove to Colorado not knowing what we’d find,” Fritz said.

But her hopes were dashed again when the files proved to be written in shorthand, and no one in the office secretarial pool would consent to transcribe them.

“We couldn’t take anything in and we couldn’t make copies. Then the judge literally threw me out of his office and told me not to come back,” Fritz said.

That was 13 years ago, and in the intervening years, Fritz has spent a small fortune on phone calls, running up such large bills that her phone was disconnected twice.

She watched every episode of “Unsolved Myster- ies,” hoping that one of her relatives was searching for her.

Please turn to Page 3

Teacher talks continue

By MARY DRIER

Teachers in Unionville-Sebewaing Area School District are expected to have a teachers’contract in place in about 30 days.

A tentative three-year agreement was reached Thursday, said Sup. William D. Dodge.

“The agreement still has to be ratified by the USA Teachers’ Association, the Tri- County Bargaining Association and by the Board of Educa- tion,” said Dodge.

“We are not releasing any of the details until the ratification is completed,”

The district has about 906 students and 55 teachers. The contract expired June 30 and the teachers have been working without a contract.

While things are looking up at the USA School District, contract negotiations in the Tuscola Intermediate School District are in mediation.

Both sides agreed negotia- tions are at an impasse.

As teachers are doing In- formational picketing.

The Ebek-Pigeon-Bay Port School District is also without a contract and negoti- ations have gone to mediations.

Blade & Progress

NEWS ROUND-UP

Week's weather watch

Dry Day, Slightly Warmer, Slightly dryer, Bright, dry and little warmer Chance Showers, Warm Day

60/39 65/45 60/39 72/52

Wednesday Thursday Friday Weekend

Laker teacher suspended, investigation continues

A Laker High School teacher has been suspended and an investigation is underway concerning sexual advances against several female students.

The male teacher, who has not been identified pending possible issue of warrants, is not to make contact with any local students while the investigation continues.

School officials responded to several statements made last week by students involved and their friends, and police were called in Friday afternoon.

Case is under the jurisdiction of Huron County Prosecutor’s Office concerning possible charges, expected later this week.

Michigan

"By the Numbers"

How's home building?

We're building nearly 6% more homes and apartments in Michigan this year compared with last year, says the Michi- gan Association of Home Builders. The value of those housing units is up 10.1% this year, reflecting higher costs

Michigan Association of Home Builders, the value of those housing units is up 10.1% this year, reflecting higher costs

SEE ROUND-UP. Continued on Page 3
Caseville sewer hook-up deadline nears

By AMY HEIDEN

Caseville Village Council has set an end date, Oct. 2, for the final deadline for residents to hook up to the new sewer system.

The council decided to set the deadline in December, giving residents plenty of time to make their plans and decide what to do with their sewer hook-up.

Residents who do not hook up by Oct. 2 will be subject to a fine of up to $500 per month, according to the ordinance. Residents who do not hook up by the deadline will face a fine of up to $500 per month, according to the ordinance.

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"The reception from my Thumb Cellular phone is clear. I can go anywhere in the Thumb County area and still have good service. That means a lot."
**Luke's Supermarket**

- **Western Grains Deli - Boston Beef Chuck Roast**
  - $1.49 lb.

- **Family Pack Denver Steak**
  - $1.68 lb.

- **Fresh Lean Ground Beef From Chuck**
  - $1.58 lb.

- **Assorted - 50 oz.**
  - **Prego Spaghetti Sauce**
    - 2/$3.00

- **Reg. 45c**
  - **Hershey Candy Bar Sale**
    - 3/$1.09

- **Premium Crackers Nabisco**
  - 16 oz.
  - $1.29

- **4 Pack**
  - **Cottonelle Toilet Tissue**
    - 16 oz.
    - $88

- **Cranberry & Crunchy - 16 oz.**
  - **Reese's Peanut Butter Blend**
    - $1.69

- **Luky's Grocery Specials**
  - **Regular & Thin San Giorgio Spaghetti**
    - 24 oz. Spaghetti Bottle
    - $89
  - **General Mills Hidden Valley Ranch**
    - Hidden Valley Ranch Dressing - Regular & Low Calorie
    - 8 oz. Bottle
    - $2.79
  - **General Mills Cheerios Cereal**
    - 12 oz. Box
    - $2.79
  - **General Mills Trix Cereal**
    - 12 oz. Box
    - $2.79
  - **Flaxseed/Orange, Flaxseed/Grapefruit**
    - 4 oz.
    - $2.99
  - **Delmonte Drink**
    - 64 oz.
    - $1.99
  - **Guarantees at Luke's**
  - **Machine Milled Oatmeal Bread**
    - 24 oz.
    - $99

**Starting Next Week!**


**Starting Next Week!**

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**Luke's Supermarket**

- **Milk**
  - Unpasteurized Milk Sliced
  - $1.39
  - Country Fresh Milk Sliced
  - $1.19

- **Eggs**
  - Dozen
  - $2.69

- **Cheddar, Monterey, Taco - 8 oz.**
  - $2.69

- **Macaroni Cheese Dinner**
  - $2.99

- **7-Up, Squirt, Vernors**
  - 12 oz. can + 12 pack + Reg. & Diet
  - 7-Up, Squirt, Vernors - 12 oz. can
  - $2.99

- **Macaroni & Cheese Dinner**
  - $3.99

- **Reese's Peanut Butter Cookie**
  - $2.99

- **Coca Cola Products**
  - Regular Price 5/$5
  - Apple Strudel Stix
  - Regular Price 4/$3
  - Blueberry Pie
  - Regular Price 4/$3
  - Wheat Bread
  - Regular Price 6/$2.00
  - Peanut Butter Cookies
  - $2.79

- **Luke's**
  - Pepperoni Sticks
  - 8/$2.18
  - Italian Sausage
  - $1.88
  - Pickle, Mac & Cheese, Olive
  - $1.78
  - Polish Sausage
  - $1.78
  - Turkey Breast
  - $2.48
  - Korean Sweet & Spicy
  - $2.48
  - Cole Slaw
  - $0.78

- **Taco Shell**
  - 1/2 Gallon
  - $1.39

- **Country Lane Ice Cream**
  - 5/$5
  - $89
  - Banquet Dinners
  - 3/$1.00
  - 6 Pack Candy Bars
  - 2/$5.00

- **Sargento Shredded Cheese**
  - 12 oz. - Individually Wrapped
  - $1.39
  - County Line American Slices
  - $1.19
  - Country Fresh Milk Sliced
  - $2.69

- **Orange Juice**
  - $0.88

- **Willow's Wild Cuts**
  - Hamed
  - Turkey Breast
  - $2.48
  - Italian Sausage
  - $1.78
  - Pork Sausage
  - $1.78
  - Cole Slaw
  - $0.78

- **Luke's Supermarket**
  - Mikes - Schwimmers
  - In Luke's Shopping Malls
Western Thumb Sports Report

**Football**

**USA GRIDDERS LOSE TO DECKERVILLE**

By Myrheen

When the USA Gridders traveled to Deckerville for their Trim C conference game last week, they knew they were in for a tough game. The Gridders were coming off a 4-0 win from the previous week, but their opponents were riding high on the momentum of a recent victory. What they found was a tough fight, but the Gridders managed to hold on for their impressive victory.

**LAKER FOOTBALL**

**MARLETTE**

The Laker football team headed south to take on the Marlette Bearcats. The game was intense, with both teams displaying impressive skill and strategy. The Lakers came out strong, but Marlette managed to keep them at bay with a strong defense. The final score was a close 21-14, with the Laker fans cheering them on as they walked off the field.

**BASKETBALL**

**LADY LAKERS MOVE TO 2-0**

The Lady Laker basketball team added another win to their record, bringing them to 2-0. The game was a competitive one, with the Lady Laker team working hard to secure their victory. The Lady Lakers were led by their star player, who scored a total of 15 points.

**LADY EAGLES**

Pigeon Lanes is having a Sunday night mixed league meeting on Sunday, Sept 27 at 6:30pm. Anyone interested in bowling please attend our meeting.

**POPCORN DEB MITCHELL couldn't make the layup with Gardner's Gleyce Farms in the paint, but got a go-ahead basket with two seconds left for the lead.**

**Soccer**

**GALLERY DROPS 2 GAMES**

The Caswell soccer team dropped two games this weekend, losing to Zilwaukee and Coleman. The team faces another big test this weekend when they travel to Corunna to face off against a tough opponent. Ears and Gethes also had great performances during the matches.

**VARNISH JACKET**

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**Cross-Country**

**EPPM CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM WORKING ON GOOD EFFORT**

The Cross-Country team has been working on improving their efforts. With a few new members, the team is looking forward to a successful season.

** amd**

**Last chance to win dollhouse!**

The following Women's Association is having their annual bingo to raise funds for a scholarship fund. All donations will go into the Scholarship fund. This is a great way to help students get a head start on their college careers. Mark the date and get your tickets today.
Thump Club News

New Salem Ladies Aid

The last meeting of the New Salem Ladies Aid was held on February 21 at Unity Baptist Church, New Salem. Mrs. Charles J. Johnson, president of the club, called the meeting to order. The group then sang "How Great Thou Art."

Kathy Spokesman presiding. Speeches were made by Mrs. J. P. Johnson, Mrs. W. T. Johnson, and Mrs. L. E. Johnson. Mrs. Johnson also presented a gift of the club to Mrs. J. P. Johnson.

The meeting adjourned with singing of "How Great Thou Art."

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY #421

Meet at 7 p.m. with President

PUBLIC NOTICE COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP

MIDWEST TOWNSHIP

RESIDENTS, PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the General Election will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 1991.

RESIDENTS OF MIDWEST TOWNSHIP ARE ASKED TO VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION."

Thump Area Obituaries

ROBERT FRANCIS NOEL

1892-1991

Robert F. Noel, 99, of Elkin, passed away Saturday, September 14 at University Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. He was the son of William and Elizabeth (nee) Schmidt Noel.

A retired professor, he taught mathematics at the University of Michigan and the University of Idaho. He was also a past president of the Michigan Academy of Science, Mathematics, and the Arts.

A funeral service will be held on Monday, September 16 at 11:00 a.m. at University Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor. Interment will follow in the Michigan Academy of Science, Mathematics, and the Arts Cemetery.

Kenneth D. Haag

1927-1992

Kenneth D. Haag, 70, of Elkin, passed away Thursday, Sept. 9 in his home.

He was born March 2, 1927 in Pisgah, son of Craig and Bertha (nee) Haag.

Mr. Haag was a retired and lived in the city all his life. He was a member of the League of American Wheelers and a member of the American Legion.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 11 at 2:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, Elkin. Interment will follow in the Michigan Academy of Science, Mathematics, and the Arts Cemetery.

PAMELA K. JEROME

1944-1992

Pamela K. Jerome, 48, of Michigan, AZ, formerly of Elkin, died Saturday, December 20, 1992 at Desert Samaritan Care Center, Mesa, AZ, after a long battle with cancer.

She was born March 3, 1944 in Red Anson, daughter of Earl and the late Olive (nee) Jerome.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 26, 1992 at Desert Samaritan Care Center, Mesa, AZ.

Lillian Louise Kunzman

1912-1992

Lillian L. Kunzman, 78, of Coalmont, died Tuesday, Sept. 15, 1992.

She was born April 23, 1912, in Elkin, daughter of John and Mary (nee) Kunzman.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 19, 1992 at the Coalmont United Methodist Church.

Three letters can all make a world of difference in your television.

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We’re now part of Tele-Communications, Inc. (TCI), the single largest cable television company in the world. Which means you have over 500 more employees, including those you’ve worked with all along, working together to bring you programming and service that’s nothing short of spectacular.

And since TCI is a leader in developing new technologies, you can look forward to even better TV in the future. To the TCI family. Sit back, relax and get ready to enjoy television that’s out of this world.

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TCI Cablevision of Greater Michigan, Inc. (FORMERLY KNOWN AS WESTCAB INC.)