



Swift rescue
Teamwork saves local man
from disaster | **Social, D1**

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Early growing season has area farmers **Seeing green**



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HAMPTON TWP. — Every farmer hopes their corn is knee high by the Fourth of July. This year's crop is already taller than most farmers.

Drive the country roads of Bay County this weekend and be prepared to see cornstalks inching up to 7 feet tall. An early growing season has helped many crops mature about two to three weeks early.

"The corn's already tasseling," said Gerald Talaga, vice president of the Bay County Farm Bureau, who farms 400 acres in Hampton Township, including 120 acres of corn.

"Everyone has gotten into the field earlier this year. The ground is a lot warmer, so once you get planting, it starts to grow quicker."

A corn tassel is the male flower of the corn plant. The tassel is a group of hair-like, stemmed flowers that grow at the top of the cornstalk, said Bay County Farm Bureau President Terry Histed.

The function of tasseling is to produce pollen, which causes the ear of corn to grow and ripen.

"Each of those hairs represent a kernel of corn," said Histed. "As pollen falls off, it hits one of those hairs and that pollinates the corn."

Histed said the only thing that would make the process



Top, sweet corn is for sale at Mulders Farm in Hampton Township. Above, Cory Wagner, 18, empties a bucket of cucumbers onto a vegetable-grating line, where they are washed and sorted, Thursday at Mulder's Farm.

AMANDA LOMAN | THE BAY CITY TIMES

even better now is a little bit of rain — especially after such a hot week.

"The corn is at about 6 or 7 feet," he said, "but a little bit of rain can always help with this stuff being earlier. When corn is tasseling, it's nice to get rain on it."

Farmers' wishes were, in part, answered Thursday as

a little rain fell in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Thanks to the early growing season, area produce stands have been enjoying early success as well.

"It beats going to the grocery store," said Marilyn Janke of Essexville. "And it's a

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What we grow

A look at the number of acres of corn, soybeans and sugar beets planted in Bay County in 2009:

Corn	50,000
Soybeans	41,000
Sugar beets	13,100

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Built for Bay City

Love of tall ship models
brings connection

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BAY CITY — Ken Griswold built his first model airplane when he was 7 years old. Over the next 70 years, his passion for building yielded more than 100 completed models, a lifetime hobby and even a wife.

Griswold met his wife, Judy Griswold,

Ships on display

Two of Bay City resident Ken Griswold's model tall ships are on display through Aug. 31 at the Alice and Jack Wirt Public Library, 500 Center Ave. in downtown Bay City. The library is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

in an online chat room for senior citizens in 2005. It was his screen name, "Shipbuilder," that caught her attention.

"I love the tall ships, so when I saw his screen name, I asked if that's what he built," she said.

Though distance separated them — Judy Griswold, 65, lived in Bay City, while Ken Griswold, 77, lived in Tennessee — the two maintained a

platonic relationship built on their shared love for ships.

Ken Griswold even set up a webcam so Judy Griswold could watch as he built a replica of the Bluenose II, a 143-foot schooner based in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, which visited Bay City as part of the 2001 Tall Ship Celebration.

It was that intricate model that eventually brought Judy and Ken Griswold face to face in 2006.

Judy Griswold purchased the model from him after its completion. The ship's fragility necessitated that the transaction be completed in person.

Ken Griswold moved to Bay City in 2007 and the couple married in 2009.

The model Bluenose II, along with a model of the clipper ship Cutty Sark are on display at the Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library, 500 Center Ave. in downtown Bay City. They'll be available for viewing through Aug. 31.

For Ken Griswold, the pair of models represents the pinnacle of his craft.

See **SHIPS, A2**



AMANDA LOMAN | THE BAY CITY TIMES

Ken Griswold, 77, has been building model ships and planes for 70 years, including the wood model of a 1900 modified Friendship Stoop on the table of his workshop. Griswold currently has two tall ship models, the Cutty Sark and the Bluenose II, on display at the Alice and Jack Wirt Public Library.



Jennifer C. Barnes



Harry P. Gill



Stevens J. Jacobs



Mark E. Janer



Darrin Nichols



Abel B. Torres



Eric W. Zimostrad

Judicial candidates speaking at forum

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BAY CITY — Bay County residents are invited to participate in a forum Sunday featuring Bay County's judicial candidates.

The forum begins at 1 p.m. at BARTS, 804 E. Midland St. on Bay City's West Side.

All candidates in upcoming contested judge races for Bay County Circuit and District courts are planning to attend, according to Bay City attorney Edward M. Czuprynski, who organized the forum and will serve as

the moderator.

District Court candidates are Judge Jennifer C. Barnes, Stevens J. Jacobs, Mark E. Janer, Abel B. Torres and Eric W. Zimostrad. Circuit Court candidates are Harry P. Gill and Darrin Nichols.

Audience members may submit written questions at the forum or in advance via e-mail at forjustice@bayjustice.com.

In addition, members of a three-person panel — Craig McMorris, WNEM TV-5 anchorman; Steve Neavling,

a Detroit Free Press reporter; and Paul Stevenson, attorney, administrative co-chairman and co-founder of The MDP Justice Caucus — will pose questions to the candidates.

Czuprynski, of Bay Justice Associates, had considered running for a judicial seat but decided instead to continue his private practice "and his advocacy for justice in the community," he said.

"It's the goal of this forum to provide voters with information about each candidate so that they can decide for

themselves who will best serve our community," Czuprynski said.

During the Aug. 3 primary election, voters will narrow the District Court field to two candidates who will face off in the Nov. 2 general election.

Since only two candidates filed for Circuit Court, Gill and Nichols will square off Nov. 2 as well.

Those attending Sunday's forum will be invited to a backyard cookout open house at the historic Bay Justice Building, 814 N. Monroe St. in Bay City, after the forum.



Idea floated to create court for special needs of returning veterans

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BAY CITY — As war rages in Afghanistan and Iraq, a discussion has sparked in Bay County over an idea to create a court for military veterans.

The court would be designed to handle the special needs of returning

veterans whose brushes with the law may be tied to things like post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries.

Some members of the Bay County legal community want to implement a veterans court, modeled after sobriety and mental health courts that focus on intense supervision and treatment,

rather than incarceration.

Others say the funding will be hard to come by and the program is likely to overlap the functions of the drug court that's already in place in Bay County.

Bay City attorney Stevens J. Jacobs has proposed that Bay County implement a veterans court and said he has been meeting with local

veterans organizations to get feedback and support.

Jacobs is one of five candidates for District Court judge. His opponents include District Judge Jennifer C. Barnes, Bay County Criminal Defense director Mark E. Janer and Bay City attorneys Eric W. Zimostrad and Abel B. Torres.

His competitors say

they're interested in learning more about the concept and that they'd likely favor the idea if the money is available to back it.

"Veterans often have special needs not met by the normal court system," said Jacobs, who served in the U.S. Army stateside and in Frankfurt, Germany, from February 1973 until March

1976.

"Our military veterans returning from war often need special care to overcome psychological problems."

The veterans court concept was initiated in 2008 in Buffalo, N.Y., by Judge Robert T. Russell. Within two

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IN YOUR PAPER

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News about people
in your communities.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We... shall continue our far-reaching and sound advances in matters of basic human needs: expansion of social security, broadened coverage in unemployment insurance, improved housing, and better health protection for all our people."

Republican Party platform, 1956

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