

# Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

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## TOWN TOPICS

"Third Coast" is closing out this year's Music in the Park series. The performance will be held on Wednesday, August 23, 7:00 p.m. at Lakeside Park.

Edmore's Potato Festival is this weekend. The schedule of events can be found on page 4.

Greenville's Danish Festival is also this weekend. The schedule of events is on page 8.

The solar eclipse is this Monday, August 21. The Tamarack District Library is hosting an Eclipse Party from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Edmore Times is on page 7 and Historic Blanchard is on page 10 for this week only. Sorry for any confusion.

Have a good week.

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Lakeview Area News

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## Summer Forecast

There is an 80% chance for rain showers for Thu. (H: 79; L: 68). Partly sunny skies for Fri. (H: 76; L: 62). Mostly sunny skies for Sat., Sun., and Mon. (H: 87; L: 60). Then there is a 30% chance for rain showers for Tue. (H: 86; L: 71) and a 60% chance for Wed. (H: 78; L: 69).



## Alley Cat Has New Owners!



New Owners Tom and Ann Smith

By Linda Huckins

The Alley Cat Bar & Grill in Lakeview will soon open under new ownership. Tom and Ann Smith purchased the bowling alley and restaurant from Larry Cole last Friday, August 11. The Smiths own Turk Lake Restaurant. "Lakeview is a great community," Tom said. "I've always wanted to open a business here so when the opportunity to buy the Alley Cat presented itself, I took it."

Tom has experience in restaurant and food management, including

owning and operating the restaurant in Turk Lake for 26 years, so he knows how to run a restaurant. But, the most exciting part of owning the Alley Cat for the Smiths is the bowling alley. "We used to bowl in Greenville," Tom said, "but it's been a few years."

The couple plans on keeping the name Alley Cat Bar & Grill but adding Lakeview to it. "We want to keep the small town flavor," Tom said.

They will be hiring all new employees (wait staff, cooks, and kitchen help) and will be conducting interviews within the

next week or so. Look for postings around town and in this newspaper for dates and times of the interviews.

The exception is Zack Groce who will stay on as bowling alley manager. Tom will spend a lot of his time in Turk Lake so Ann will manage the Alley Cat.

The Alley Cat was remodeled not too long ago and they love the décor saying that it suits them. "The kitchen needs some attention," Tom said, "but it's not a problem for us."

(continued on page 2)

## Budgets Slashed to Zero for One Dept.

By Joe Tilton

Proposed cuts in Montcalm County's budget is creating ripples in many departments. One elimination, leaving -0- in place of a previous funding of \$68,000, is the MSU Extension Office.

Don Lehman, District Eight Coordinator for Montcalm (former Groundwater Agent for Montcalm) and six more counties, told us that the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners has been supportive of the Extension Office and that they are still in negotiation to keep the office open.

"We are down to two staff members now," Lehman said, "and we have been able to keep it open at least half of the time until new funding is found, however, it's tentative at the moment. Clerical support is our biggest issue."

The office serves as an agriculture education and nutrition center, yet money from the county budget is not used for research. State funds that support Michigan State University is largely responsible for out-of-county activities.

A question about support for 4-H programs was raised, and Lehman said he is still working with the county to keep clerical and coordinator activities going. We were assured that the budget cuts would have no effect on the 4-H Fair. As the largest youth-development organization in Michigan, 4-H programs serve 200,000 youth in the state with learning opportunities.

"We have presented materials to the Finance



District 8 Coordinator Don Lehman

Committee," Lehman said, "and at worst case we believe the office space and utilities will be provided although cash support may be going away."

Other counties in his region are having budget problems as well, causing various problems for the MSU Extension System.

"A group is looking for ways to keep us funded," Lehman went on. "One such group is considering a way to offer a millage that would specifically go for Extension activities." That group met in Stanton last night (Wednesday). Information from that meeting came too late for our deadline.

Other "deep" department cuts proposed, if approved, will impact Animal Control, Medical Examiner, Maintenance, Elections, Probate/Juvenile and others totaling \$625,354.00.

At the same time, a new fee schedule for department activities has been prepared for submission. Some fees have not changed while others will undoubtedly go up. Dates showing when existing fees were set are as far back as 1985 while most were initiated in 2006.

## Stanton Old Fashioned Days



Central Montcalm Band in the parade

By Joe Tilton

Even with sunshine and occasional dark clouds threatening rain, thousands turned out for the many entertaining events in Stanton on Saturday, August 10 for the Old Fashioned Days celebration.

The morning featured kids' pedal tractor pulls and pedal-car races, with 100 antique and garden tractors lining Main Street before the parade at 1:00 p.m. that took nearly an hour to complete. Police, sheriff and fire dept. vehicles led the parade with bands, beauty queens and business floats fol-

lowed by antique tractors spicing up the viewing. Enough candy and sweets were given out along the parade route to keep the audience tastefully happy.

Air dogs kept a full crowd entertained as they ran and leapt for a toy dangled over a pool of water, reaching some distances that could qualify them for national events. One dog, "Spor," is an Eastern Regional qualifier for the big show.

Businesses were open and appeared to be well shopped during the event, as were vendors on sidewalks selling everything from Avon to knives.

Even side-street businesses reported additional traffic and sales.

As classic, antique and specialty cars followed at the end of the parade, they parked where tractors had been to begin one of the largest annual car shows in the region. One of the vehicles was an extremely rare 1896 Ford, the first model ever made by the company. Another was an antique hand-carved hearse.

Tasty treats were plentiful, including pulled-pork barbeque sandwiches and most foods you would find at fairs and carnivals.

(continued on page 14)

## SOFD Grand Marshals



Grand Marshals Gene and Wilma Baldwin (photo courtesy of Shirley Pool)

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