

# Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

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## TOWN TOPICS

The first day of autumn is tomorrow. It's time to take a color tour and enjoy nature's spectacular display.

Art Prize in Grand Rapids started yesterday, Wednesday, September 20. Make plans to visit these authentic creations.

Montabella schools will be celebrating its homecoming next week. Turn to page 4 for more information.

It's not too early to think about fall events. The Lakeview Summerfest Committee is hosting an Octoberfest on Saturday, October 14. See Upcoming Events on page 3 for more information.

One week later, on October 21, Blanchard will host its Harvest Festival. Plan on attending both of these events and enjoy the season.

School and sports is on page 13.

Have a good week!

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## Autumn Forecast

Partly to mostly sunny skies for most of the week, Thursday through Monday (H: 86; L: 62). Then there is a slight 30% chance for rain showers for Tuesday (H: 78; L: 60). Back to partly sunny skies for Wednesday (H: 75; L: 58).



## Aris Eye Care, PC, Received Grant for Students



Jeff Towns and Dr. Teresa Aris

By Shirley Pool

Dr. Teresa Aris recently learned her office was the recipient of a \$4,240 dollar grant. It was the only one issued in Michigan and there were only 14 given out in the entire United States. Needless to say, Dr. Aris is elated to have been chosen for this grant money. The Executive Director for the

Michigan Optometric Association Jeff Towns came to Lakeview on September 12, 2017 and presented Aris with a check to begin her new program of helping Lakeview students with their vision needs. With these funds, Aris will be able to help 54 kids.

This program is sponsored by Optometry Cares, The AOA Foundation, Healthy Eyes Healthy

Children, Essilor Vision Foundation, and MAE Foundation.

In June, owner of Aris Eye Care, PC, in Lakeview, Teresa Aris O.D., M.S., received a box of eye glasses and her assistant found a small card in the box informing them about a possible grant called EMA's Eyes to help school children receive free vision screenings and eye glasses. The office assistant promptly brought this to the doctor's attention. There was not much time to apply for the grant and Aris went right to work contacting Kyle Hamlin, Superintendent of the Lakeview Schools, and Jeff Towns to have letters of support written in order to meet the grant deadline.

Aris will set up a program on the first Wednesday of each month beginning in October and ending in June where she will go directly into the school and provide children with a full vision screening. She plans to begin with Kindergarten students.

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## Okkemas Celebrate New Milking Facility



The cows' milking area

By Shirley Pool

The Okkema family celebrated the completion of their new milking facility on Friday, September 15, 2017 at their farm on Adams Road north of Six Lakes. It is certainly not the kind of barn or milking area our grandparents knew a few years ago. This facility is all made up of shiny stainless and galvanized steel surrounded by white walls and ceilings. There were different colored mum plants posi-

tioned throughout the building and guests walked around viewing the beautiful new facility. The floors are cement and everything is able to be washed down. When I commented to Tjerk Okkema how beautiful everything appeared he gave me one of his big smiles and stated, "It will never look better than what it does today." As I thought about his statement, I am sure he is right because soon the family will be milking 40 cows at

one time on the big round turntable.

There has been a small army of contractors working on the project for months. Outman Excavating has been doing the excavating work on the grounds. JBS Contractors from Mt. Pleasant did the contracting work. Great Lakes Dairy Supply, Inc. are on call 24 hours a day, C & R Electric came from Shepard and Alma, Zinser Plumbing and Heating are located in Clare.

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## Gigi's Travels to Stanton



By Linda Huckins

The very popular Gigi's Traveling Boutique in Lakeview now has a sister store in Stanton. Brenda Fryear officially opened the doors to the Stanton store on Tuesday, September 19th to what she called "a very soft opening."

The store is inviting, charming, colorful, and full of all the wonderful merchandise that Gigi's customers have come to love and expect. They carry jeans and casual wear as well as office wear and dressy outfits in sizes from XS to 3X and accessories. The Stanton store also carries "Fair Trade Items".

"What is new," Fryear said, "is our larger selection of coats, jackets,

and sweaters and higher quality shoes and boots."

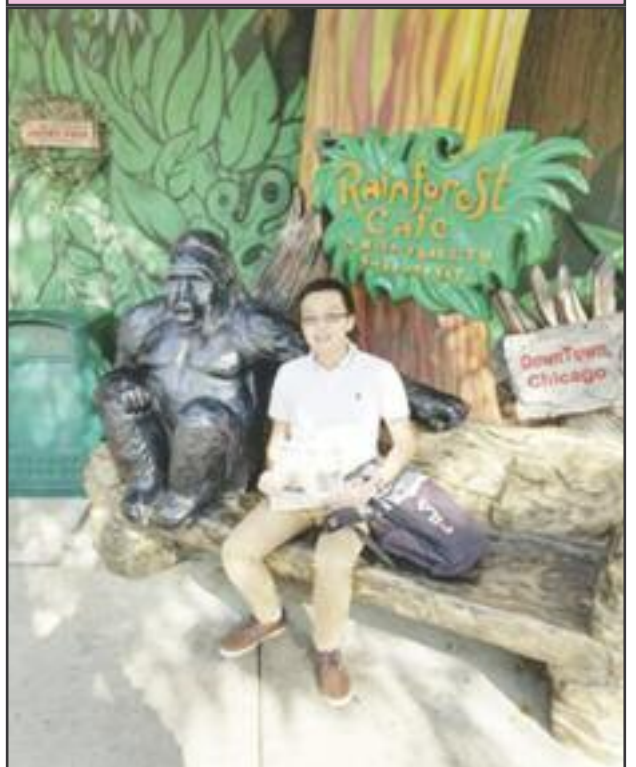
As with most soft openings, there are still things that need to be done. A rack and one of the chairs for the sitting area arrived damaged and had to be returned and not all the inventory has arrived. Also, there is no signage for the front of the building yet.

Nevertheless, the same unique, wonderful, and colorful styles are still available. If you don't see something in particular that you are looking for, just ask Brenda or one of the other Gigi employees and they will try to get it for you.

"Our main point is absolute customer service," Fryear said.

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## Where the LAN Has Been



Philip Wu, former exchange student of Jake and Charlene Kinsey, is pictured with the Lakeview Area News at the Rainforest Cafe in Chicago, Illinois. The Kinseys dropped Wu off at college a few days earlier. He is currently taking courses to complete his bachelor's degree. Turn to page 14 for more of Philip Wu's Chicago travel pictures.

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