

Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

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TOWN TOPICS

Juanita Butler of Lakeview and former owner of *The Lakeview Enterprise* turns 103 years young on Sunday. Happy Birthday.

The Tamarack District Library is looking for donations of books and money for the Little Libraries that they are erecting around our area. For more details, see the story on page 2.

Applications are being accepted for the Miss Lakeview Pageant. Looking for young ladies to participate. See the bottom of page 4 for details.

A financial audit conducted on the Board of County Commissioners' books looks good. Read all about it on page 11.



Where:

Blanchard Wesleyan Church
542 Jackson Road Blanchard



When:

Thursday, April 5
9AM-5PM
Friday, April 6
9AM-5PM
Saturday, April 7
9AM-Noon

Taking Donations

For donation pick-up and information,
Call: Pastor Ruth
989-330-7008

Spring Forecast

There is a definite (100%) chance for overnight snow for Thu. (H: 40; L: 22); and a 70% chance for morning snow for Fri. (H: 35; L: 25). Mostly sunny skies for Sat. and Sun. (H: 40; L: 22). Then there is a 50% chance for rain/snow mix for Mon. (H: 41; L: 24). Mostly sunny skies for Tue. and Wed. (H: 46; L: 32).



Lakeview's 8th Annual Easter Egg Hunt



The Easter Bunny tip-toes through eggs as children watch

By Joe Tilton

Rain and 37° weather did not stop the crowd from showing up Saturday on the soccer fields southeast of Lakeview High School for the eighth-annual Easter egg hunt, sponsored by Lakeview Community Church.

Pastor Dave Hansen said, "We have 80 prizes this year, all donated by members of the congregation and others. Among the prizes are 50 bikes."

Beginning an hour before the "go" was given at 11:00 a.m. to start the gathering of the 11,000 plastic eggs, names were

written on slips of paper and deposited in containers near each bike, signifying which one the entrant would like to have. Following the egg "gathering," names were drawn to determine the winners.

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Trendy Jewelry, Chic Antiques, and More



Marilyn Faling with her display of wigs

By Linda Huckins

A new store will soon open in Lakeview at 410 S. Lincoln Avenue next door to Lakeview Family Dentistry. Marilyn's Boutique will carry gem stone jewelry at reasonable prices as well as purses, scarves, ponchos, jewelry cases, wigs, and some household decorating items and gifts.

Marilyn Faling decided to open the store after she retired from Sheridan Community Hospital where she served as an administrative assistant.

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Clean-Up on M-91



We Serve

By Linda Huckins

The Lakeview Lions Club has adopted a portion of M-91 from Kendallville Road north to Deaneer Road (just a little over 2 miles). They will be responsible for cleaning up the highway. According to

Lions Club Adopt-a-Highway Chairman Penni Deshaw, the club decided to participate in the program as a way to give back to the community and keep the highway clean and safe.

"Last year we contacted the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) about adopting a highway and got approved to start in 2018," Deshaw said. "To quality, our members had to watch a safety video from MDOT and read and sign their rules and guidelines."

MDOT issued the Lions Club a permit,

which Deshaw will take to their Stanton office to receive trash bags and safety vests. "We are ordering our own gloves," she said.

The dates when club members will be on clean up duty along M-91 are: April 14-22, July 14-22, and September 22-30. So far, eight members have signed up to participate in the first clean up activity.

Deshaw said that signage will go up in a couple of months stating that the Lakeview Lions Club has adopted that portion of the highway.

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Pre-trial Filings and Hearing on County Suit

By Joe Tilton

Montcalm County (plaintiff) wasted no time answering Abraham & Gaffney, P.C., (defendant) when their defense attorneys requested a change of venue, or a different county for the anticipated trial, over fraud and fraudulent misrepresentation, plus other charges. It is also learned that visiting Judge Scott Hill-Kennedy will likely replace Judge Ronald Schafer on the bench for the remainder of the proceedings.

In the answer filed March 29th with the Eighth Circuit Court, Attorney Peter Kupelian argued that the trial should be held in Montcalm County and not in a surrounding county, citing, "A juror is not disqualified in a criminal case even though he may have formed an opinion from what he has read, if, notwithstanding that, he can hear the evidence and the charge of the court and render a fair and impartial verdict according to the law and the evidence."

Defendants had referred to newspaper articles in the county, claiming pre-trial publicity may have prejudiced the jury made up of Montcalm residents. Plaintiff's answer that according to "MCR 2.222, a trial court may order a change of venue for the convenience of parties or when an impartial trial cannot be had where the action is pending." However, "convenience of attorneys" and others involved in the suit, such as witnesses, is a reason for holding the trial where it was filed, Montcalm County.

Arguments for keeping the trial here include: "Defendants are not prejudiced from having potential taxpayers as jury members. Cases were cited, notably, a case where it was determined that "courts have determined that taxpayers do not infringe upon the constitutional right of a party to an impartial tribunal to hear his cause." Also, defendants have failed to demonstrate that the pre-trial publicity will cause jury prejudice. In one case, the change-of-venue



Judge Scott Hill-Kennedy

petition was heard in the court of appeals, and the decision to not change. The location was upheld. Besides, Plaintiffs argue, Defendants have the opportunity to ferret out any individuals that have been directly impacted by actions underlying this case."

The demand for a change of venue must be denied because it is not "untimely." Still another argument by Defendants is that a jury in a neighboring county, with no personal interest in the outcome is in more fair. Plaintiff's response is that "Neighboring counties are inappropriate."

Isabella County retains Defendant Abraham & Gaffney as its "independent auditing firm," that at least one principal in Stevens Kirinovic & Tucker, P.C., is working as auditor in Ionia County, and is a defendant in this case. Additionally, "Rehmann," a defendant in this case who is engaged in preparations of Montcalm's 2016 fiscal-year audit, also has connections to Mecosta, Newago, Kent and Clinton Counties, meaning the Defendants have failed to establish that there is a more convenient forum in the vicinity.

With these and other arguments, plus many cases cited to support their arguments, Attorney Kupelian writes, "It is undisputed that Montcalm County is the proper venue for this action.

The hearing to determine where the trial was to be held is today (Thursday) at 2:00 p.m. in the courthouse in Stanton. The *Lakeview Area News* will report on when the hearing will take place and will be there to relay the decision.

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Hay and Straw For Sale

Chick Day

Order by April 5th for
April 18th delivery

Rabbits \$10.00