

Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

Thursday, March 21, 2019 (989) 352-5111, (989) 352-8146 Fax: (989) 352-8286 lannewsroom@gmail.com Price \$1.00

TOWN TOPICS

Wednesday, March 20 is the first day of Spring. We are not sure Mother Nature realizes it!

Hope everyone had a nice St. Patrick's Day. McKenna's Restaurant held their annual celebration on Saturday, March 16 this year. See pictures on page 13.

Vietnam Veterans, the Hough/Pontius VFW Post 3701 in Lakeview will honor you at their dinner on Friday, March 22. Congressman Moolenaar will be there with some surprises for those vets.

Flooding has been a problem in our area this past week. Some flood pictures are on pages 1 and 14.



FRIDAY - MAR. 22
6 PM - 8:30 PM
LAKEVIEW VFW POST #3701
8968 N GREENVILLE RD

ADULTS \$10 - 12 & UNDER \$7

SMOKED BRISKET, MAC & CHEESE, BROCCOLI, SALAD
DINNER ROLL & DESSERT

BEER & WINE
BY TURK LAKE RESTAURANT
BASKET RAFFLE & TEE SHIRT SALES

QUESTIONS
VFWPOST3701@GMAIL.COM

Winter Forecast

Thurs. (today), partly cloudy with high 45, low 30; Fri., partly cloudy with high 50, low 26; Sat., mostly sunny with high 54, low 34; Sun., mostly cloudy with high 59, low 39; Mon., pm showers with high 54, low 37; Tues., am showers with high 51, low 34.



County Case Moving Along



Chris Hyzer, former Montcalm County Administrator

By Joe Tilton

Montcalm County's Board of Commissioners filed suit in mid February of last year, accusing Abraham & Gaffney, a Lansing based accounting firm, of malpractice. Each of the partners, including Dale Abraham, Michael Gaffney, Erick Glashouwer, Steven Kirinovic, Alan Panter, Aaron Stevens and William Tucker IV, were named in the suit.

The case has been delayed by motions for things like change of venue, meaning defendants want the case to be heard someplace other than Montcalm County.

The action accused the firm of wrongdoing that goes back years. The firm was hired by the county in 1996 for independent auditing. The suit accuses the firm of "failure to perform their auditing duties in accordance with their professional responsibilities and obligations to Montcalm."

Chris Hyzer, who was hired by the county, was a former employee of Abrahams & Gaffney prior to being an employee of the county as Administrator. As a former employee, the firm is accused of not properly reviewing the county books, ledgers and records and, as the suit claims, "acted with such reckless disregard of its responsibilities that their actions essentially amounted to no audits at all." The suit also claims the firm, "held themselves out to Montcalm as auditing and accounting experts. Montcalm also relied upon the defendants to inform it when Montcalm's spending severely outweighed its revenue."

Apparently, the relationship between the firm and Chris Hyzer fostered inaccuracies that led to deep cuts in services to citizens of Montcalm County. Also, the Lakeview Area News has been told of incidents where Hyzer was asked about financial issues that caused

Board of Commission members to suspect problems. Hyzer's responses were, "I'll take care of it." We have also learned how specific mailings from the State of Michigan, regarding financial concerns, intended for the Board of Commissioners and it's leadership, were held up in the county clerk's office. Kristen Millard is not named in the suit.

Hyzer didn't go far. He was hired by the City of Ionia in April of 2016 as the City's Finance Director and Treasurer. Rather than show his connection to Montcalm County, Ionia's website reads, "Chris previously served as county controller and administrator, finance director and as a governmental auditor."

It took about six weeks for defense attorneys to file for a change of venue after the initial filing. The petition leaned, in part, on a case heard by Michigan's Supreme court in 1870, and another in 1973, where "they were in effect deciding in their own cause." The inference was that a judge in Montcalm County should not be involved in a case because [relative to jury selection] "various citizens of Montcalm County who have to pay potentially higher taxes, pay increased fines, pay higher fees..." sitting in judgment.

Now we learn that depositions will be heard in April. Also, arbitration is likely to happen in May. Should a settlement not be reached by arbitration, the case will go to trial. A potential trial date has not been suggested.

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Water Made Many Roads Impassable



With the melting snow came flooded roads. The above picture, taken by Karen Kinsey, is where Tamarack Creek crosses Satterlee Road, just north of Lakeview. See more flood pictures on page 14.

LMS Students Celebrate Pi Day



Lakeview Middle School Principal Tim Erspamer and 4th Grade Teacher Colliene Willison wearing their Pi shirts. The shirts were given to math teachers and displayed 3.14 and some of the other numbers that make up the value of Pi.

By Linda Huckins

Last Thursday, March 14 was a special day for Lakeview Middle School students. It was Pi Day.

Here's what's important about Pi. Pi (π) is the 16th letter of the Greek alphabet, and is used to represent the most widely known mathematical constant. Pi is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. In other words, pi equals the circumference divided by the diameter ($\pi = c/d$).

Pi goes on forever but the first numbers are 3.14, which was why

March 14th was chosen as Pi Day.

At Lakeview Middle School, many activities were taking place, but the most enjoyable was that each student got to eat a McDonald's apple pie. What is better than eating pie on pi day?

There were 400 pies delivered to the middle school that day, so each student received one.

Because March is reading month, many of the teachers tied the reading into Pi Day. The students read silently while eating their McDonalds pies.

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The Return

Twenty-four years ago the Lakeview Wildcats boys basketball team made it to the semi finals and played Flint Hamady. Lakeview won that game and went on to the championship, but suffered a tough loss to Ishpeming. Shane Bies was fortunate enough to play in those games.

A great experience was had by all!

Now fast forward to 24 years later. Shane Bies

has returned to the floor of the Breslin, only this time as a basketball official. Yes, he returned to the boys semi-finals on the floor of the Breslin with his new team of three officials.

All-in-all, a grand experience for Shane, the grandparents and their three grandsons who did ball and water duties during the afternoon.

Sometimes, I guess, you can go home again.



Fred Bies and son Shane at Breslin in East Lansing, with the Lakeview Area News.

Chick Day
April 3rd

Next Chick Day - Order by
April 4th for April 17th delivery

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