

Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

Thursday, May 9, 2019 (989) 352-5111, (989) 352-8146 Fax: (989) 352-8286 lannewsroom@gmail.com Price \$1.00

TOWN TOPICS

Happy Mother's Day

Sunday is Mother's Day. Remember your mom or women who are like a mother to you by a card, dinner, flowers or a small gift. Remember to shop locally.

It is with deep sadness that we report that a Grand Dame of Lakeview and a good friend of this newspaper, Juanita Butler, has passed away at age 104. A death notice is on page 4. Her full obituary will be in next week's paper.

Graduation season is coming up soon. Next week, we will publish Central Montcalm grads.; the following week we will run Tri-County, Montabella and Lakeview.



FRIDAY - MAY 10
6 PM - 8 PM
LAKEVIEW VFW
POST #3701
8968 N GREENVILLE RD

ADULTS \$10 - 12 & UNDER \$7

SWISS MEATBALLS, EGG NOODLES, DINNER ROLLS, ASPARAGUS, SALAD AND DESSERT
TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE

BEER & WINE BY TURK LAKE
MEMORIAL DAY
PARADE & VENDOR SIGN UP

QUESTIONS
VFWPOST3701@GMAIL.COM

Spring Forecast

Thurs., thunderstorms, high 68, low 40; Fri., a.m. clouds/p.m. sun, high 53, low 37; Sat., partly cloudy, high 60, low 43; Sun., p.m. showers, high 60, low 42; Mon., partly cloudy, high 64, low 46; Tues., a.m. showers, high 66, low 46.



County Lawsuit Over



Dale Abraham, CPA. In 2016, Partner Mike Gaffney resigned from the firm.

By Joe Tilton

Through a mediator, and by order of Judge Ronald Schafer, that the parties must try mediation before trial, the lawsuit (case No. 2018-S-23707) filed against Abraham & Gaffney, P.C., the company hired by the Board of Commissioners to conduct annual audits, is settled.

"A weight has been lifted," County Administrator Bob Clingenpeel told the *Lakeview Area News*. "I couldn't be happier and I hope the public realizes a lot of work has been done over the past three years to bring the au-

ditors to justice for not disclosing the financial problems we were facing."

Two elements came to the decision to settle through a mediator instead of trial: what the insurance company was willing to settle for and the probability of the case going to trial. "We have covered litigation cost with this settlement, plus," Clingenpeel went on to say, "It took a third and fourth meeting in the mediator's office to reach the settlement." The amount is reportedly \$650,000 for release and dismissal of the suit.

Blame was squarely

placed on the responsible, auditing party, who did not inform the Board of Commissioners that the county was in financial trouble. However it has since been discovered how other parties had the information. There are two critical reports in any Board of Commissioner's meeting: the clerk correspondence and controller/administrator's report and there were no revelations from either about warnings from the state. Still, the auditors are the final word on finances, and that's where the problem ultimately rested.

Who were the others who knew what was going on? Who said, "You've got a problem?" These questions are now available for consideration because it's known the State of Michigan was warning the county about the growing financial issues. Notices were being delivered through standard channels, yet the information was not shared in any Board of Commission meeting from 2008 to the end of Chris Hyzer's tenure as Administrator, and there were no in-person discussions about the notifications. Meeting minutes and audio recordings prove no hint of warnings. Now, further investigations can be made about other information blocks that sent the county into financial turmoil for so long.

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Remembering Juanita

We would like to remember Juanita Butler in next week's newspaper with a two-page tribute. If you have a memory of Juanita, a funny story, or even some pictures, send them to us via e-mail:

lannewsroom@gmail.com

You can also bring them into the office.

If you want pictures published, bring in a self-addressed, stamped envelope along with the pictures and we will mail them back to you.

Be sure to include the name (s) of the people in the photos.

Let's get enough to fill two pages! Juanita was such an important part of our community and a wonderful supporter of this newspaper. Help us to make next week's issue one that she would be proud of.

Thank you.

Aris Eye Care Open House



Dr. Teresa Aris (center) with her staff

By Linda Huckins

Last Wednesday, May 1st, Aris Eye Care in Lakeview held an open house from 3-6 p.m. to celebrate its 5th anniversary serving Lakeview.

Attendees got to take a tour of the updates in the office, browse a wide selection of frames and enjoy finding a new favorite, and see what's new in terms of eye care. Attendees could also get their eyeglasses cleaned and enjoy delicious food.

Each visitor to the open house received a gift bag containing an eyeglass case, candies, and information about Aris Eye Care.

In addition, people could sign up for a drawing to win door prizes. *Lakeview Area News'* Jake and Charlene Kinsey each won a prize. Jake received an insulated bag that keeps foods hot or cold and Charlene won a scentsy warmer with four different fragrances to melt

The Open House also served as a farewell party for Marsha Weiss who is leaving the practice and a welcoming party for Aris' newest employee. Weiss served as optician and office manager.

Aris Eye Care opened in Lakeview in May 2014. Dr. Teresa Aris started this practice because she noticed a need in the community for eye care and optical services. She said that she and her staff are thankful to be able to serve not only Lakeview but the surrounding areas.

The office is located at 936 S. Lincoln Avenue, Lakeview, Michigan. To make an appointment for an eye exam, call 989-287-4566.

2019 Office Hours are:
Monday - 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 pm
Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
They are closed on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

National Day of Prayer



National Day of Prayer service was well attended

By Linda Huckins

Last Thursday, May 2, was the 68th annual National Day of Prayer where people of all faiths gathered in their communities around the country to pray for our nation. In Lakeview the observance took place at 12 noon at the Lakeview Community Center with retired pastor Ted Johnson leading the proceedings. As is Lake-

view's custom, the program started on the sidewalk outside of the center with Johnson welcoming everyone. "This is Lakeview's 28th annual National Day of Prayer," he said. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of "America".

After this brief opening ceremony, attendees moved inside of the center where chairs were set up. Almost all the chairs were

taken with approximately 50 people in attendance. There were even a few folks standing.

Johnson started the program by playing a DVD from the National Day of Prayer committee. It featured Dr. Ronnie Floyd, a pastor and the new president of the National Day of Prayer.

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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!

Flowers, Trees and Shrubs are here!
Gift Certificates Available

Lakeview ELEVATOR
FARMS • FEEDS • PET SUPPLIES

Ph: 989-352-6886
M-F 8am-6pm, Saturday 8am-3pm, and Sunday Closed

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Hudsonville Ice Cream