

Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

Thursday, September 19, 2019 (989) 352-5111 ..Fax: (989) 352-8286 .www.lakeviewareanewspaper.com ...Price \$1.00

TOWN TOPICS

We were saddened to hear of Dale Petersen's passing. He and Carole were Grand Marshals in this year's Trufant Jubilee. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

This weekend is busy in Howard City. There is a street dance Friday and the Harvest Festival is on Saturday. Come out to support our sister community and have fun.

A joint Village of Lakeview and Cato Township Clean-Up Day will be held this Sat., September 21 from 8 a.m.-noon on North Street. For more info., call the village office at (989) 352-6322.

The last day of summer is Sunday, September 22. Welcome autumn!

Tamarack Sportsman's Club under Threat of Closing



Bob White and Sarah Wilson at the shotgun firing range

By Joe Tilton

A popular site north of Lakeview, which is used for hunter-safety courses and even Michigan State Police firearms qualifications, could be closed if the property is forced to pay Cato Township property taxes. The change apparently comes with the new assessor.

Tim Baker, a retired MSP Officer and Director of the Club, said last Friday at the Club facility, "This could be the end of hunter-safety courses, and we will be forced to close if we have to pay taxes on this property that's used for educational purposes." The fact is concerning since the number of licensed hunters in Michigan is dropping, while hunting is a major source of income for the state.

The 80 members of the Club would have to go to other locations or even their own property with their youth to teach

firearm safety. Membership includes the option to practice on the range anytime and is open to the public. A sportsman's club in Rockford was told they had to pay \$1,000 a month for their Kent County Taxes. Fees had to go up to cover the requirement, which eliminated some memberships. If the same happens here, the Tamarack Sportsman's Club will close.

"This Club allows parents to be involved with their children with education and safety," Baker followed. "We've been tax-exempted since 1969, which allows us to keep our membership fees low enough for the average family to afford being here. We're happy to accommodate the MSP as well."

The event on Friday was live fire, allowing, with instruction, weapons safety instruction, hunter-safety rules and identification. The large class of 26

was mostly girls with only ten boys attending. Middle school through high school aged attended four classes at the Middle School in Lakeview before going to the range. While there, students took a 50-question written tests followed by firing .22 rifles with scopes and open sights, shotgun, plus archery instruction and procedures to follow while hunting.

Hunter safety courses happen in May and September.

The Rockford Sportsman Club's purpose is the same as Tamarack's. "The purpose of RSC is to promote the conservation of natural resources, fish and wildlife, to teach and promote conservation, hunter safety, and sportsmanship and to provide opportunities for fellowship of outdoor minded individuals through club activities and participation in the shooting sports."

(continued on page 2)

Harvest Festival's New Court



By Ashlee Senn

When Madison Thun decided to go out for Harvest Festival Queen, she did so due to a desire to serve her community, something she will certainly get a chance to do now that she has been crowned Harvest Festival Queen. In addition to serving the Howard City community, Madison hopes to use her platform as Queen to raise awareness of and raise funds for KidsFirst Emergency Shelter.

During her speech, Madison shared that KidsFirst Emergency Shelter is the first stop for children removed from their home, prior to entering foster care. Madison is 16 years old and an eleventh grader at Tri County High School where she is both a side line and competitive cheerleader and runs track.

Joining Madison on the Harvest Festival court is Danika Sedine who was crowned Jr Miss Harvest Festival. Danika opted to run for Jr Miss for two

reasons: to challenge herself personally and to be a role model for other young girls in the community. Danika, a seventh grader at Tri County Middle School, enjoys playing soccer and is an honor roll student who enjoys math and science.

The 2019 Harvest Festival Princess is Lella Shadley. Lella is a third grader at Tri County where she enjoys playing AYSO soccer. She opted to run for Harvest Festival Princess because she thought it would be exciting.

During their reign, the Queen and court will serve the Howard City community through representation at other various festivals and parades, volunteering within the community at the VFW and the library, and many other community events.

This Saturday, September 21st the girls will help kick off the 17th Annual Howard City Harvest Festival as they begin their year-long reign.

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Summer Forecast

Thurs., mostly sunny with high 81, low 59; Fri., partly cloudy with high 82, low 64; Sat., pm showers with high 78, low 65; Sun., scattered thunderstorms with high 71, low 58; Mon. am showers with high 69, low 53; Tues., pm showers with high 69, low 55.



Cleaning the Flat River for Kayakers to Enjoy

By Linda Huckins

Two local men have taken it upon themselves to clean the Flat River to make it more accessible for kayakers, fishermen, and boaters. Cody Rockafellow is from Six Lakes said he has been cleaning the river off and on since he was 10 years old. He said that when he was a kid, he and his father would clean a portion of the river so they could go sucker spearing. "We only cleared enough of the river so we could spear suckers," he said.

This spring, Cody and his friend, Joe Albin from Howard City, have been cleaning the upper portion of Flat River. The river was so clogged with downed trees that the river was unusable. "There were full blown trees," Cody said. "We had to cut the tops and make a passage so kayaks and boats could get through."

The Flat River starts at First Lake in Six Lakes and goes all the way to Lowell. However, Cody and Joe have only cleared the river to McBride, but

have plans to clean it to M-91. Most of the Flat River is between 2 and 5 feet deep, but at times it can be as deep as 6 to 8 feet.

The men volunteered for the clean up because of a love of the river. Joe said, "I enjoy being on the river and if I can help someone out it is a win-win."

Cody added, "I like to clean up the river to sucker spear and to help others to enjoy the river. It also helps local kayak businesses."

Jim Ashbaugh from the Flat River Watershed Council praised the young

men on their efforts. "Kayaking is a big business in Greenville and Lowell," he said. "They have received grants to build kayak launches. I am in the process of trying to get a launch built in Entrican and then maybe Six Lakes."

He added that if we had a launch in Six Lakes, people would come from miles around. That would be a boon to local businesses. These kayakers would have to buy gas, food, supplies, etc. from local businesses. Besides

that, Six Lakes has a campground that would be perfect for kayakers to camp and then launch they kayak into the Flat River.

Cody said that along with Joe, Brian Knapper has been helping him clean the Flat River for three years. This is amazing because Brian is only 16 years old. That means he started at age 13.

(Turn to the back page for the rest of the story and a picture of Jim Ashbaugh, Cody Rockafellow, and Jim Albin.)

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