

Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

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TOWN TOPICS

Happy 4th of July!

Saturday is July 4th, the birthday of our nation. At this point in our history we need to take the time to thank our founding fathers and all the other people who came before us and played a part in creating the republic that we live in. Were they perfect people? No, of course not, but they did create the best country in the world. Now, their memorials and statues are being desecrated and our history is being erased. We need to embrace our past, learn from it, and strive to improve society. I still believe we live in the best country in the world, but my heart hurts over its future. God, heal our land. - Linda Huckins

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Summer Forecast

Thurs., mostly sunny, high 92, low 63; Fri., mostly sunny, high 93, low 66; Sat., partly cloudy, high 92, low 66; Sun., mostly sunny, high 94, low 67; Mon., pm thunderstorms, high 92, low 67; Tues., isolated thunderstorms, high 92, low 57.



Lakeview Has a New School Superintendent



Lakeview Community School's new superintendent, Kelly Nielsen

By Linda Huckins

Big changes are taking place at Lakeview Community Schools this year. Superintendent Kyle Hamlin resigned effective June 30th to become superintendent of the Montcalm Area ISD. The "torch" has been placed into the very capable hands of Kelly Nielsen who took over as Lakeview's new superintendent on July 1, 2020. Also on July 1, Lakeview High School's Vice Principal

and Athletic Director, Lance Jones, took over as Lakeview Elementary's new principal. A new hire, Christopher Zylstra, is now the new LHS Vice Principal and Athletic Director. We expect to have more on Mr. Jones and Mr. Zylstra in next week's paper.

Kelly Nielsen has served as Lakeview Elementary Principal since 2012. Before that, she taught elementary grades, served a year as interim principal, was a preschool

coordinator, and taught in the Title I Literacy program.

Nielsen is a lifelong Lakeview resident and a Lakeview High School and Central Michigan University graduate. She is married to local farmer, Jeff Nielsen, and refers to Lakeview as "my community." Kelly Nielsen jokingly says that her other profession is farmer. "Sometimes students will come to me with farming questions," she said.

The couple has three children and one grandson. Their children are Tori and her husband, Devin, Cavendish; Rylee Nielsen; and Sydnie Nielsen. Tori and Devin have a 5-month-old little boy, named Cole. "He [Cole] has been a joy during this pandemic," the proud grandmother remarked.

Nielsen has worked in both the Bright Start Elementary and the old Lakeview Elementary buildings. The Lakeview Elementary building housed grades 3-5. In 2010, Bright Start closed and grades pre-K - 3rd moved to the elementary building and grades 4 and 5 went to the middle school.

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Lakeview High School Shop Class in Question



Shop class at LHS may be closing

By Joe Tilton

David Sanderson, owner of Lakeview's PromoQuip, launched an effort to raise money to purchase wood for the school's shop class. The plan, as you read about several weeks ago, was to collect dead batteries to sell, and in turn donate the money for supplies to assist with the class.

With more than 1,600 pounds of batteries collected, information began circulating how the shop class may be cancelled. Sanderson told the Lakeview Area News how he's keeping options open for where the money would go should the class be eliminated. "If the class is taken from the curriculum, I want to be transparent with the public about the funds. We may be looking at donating the money to the arts, such as the music department or even athletics." The promoter continued, "I'm upset and disappointed at even the possibility of taking the class away from students, but if they decide in the July 14th Board of

Education meeting against having the class, accountability is critical."

Since the 1980's, 75-percent of shop classes have disappeared from public schools.

The stash of batteries is on a pallet at PromoQuip waiting to be sold at a market peak. Additionally, publicity encouraged another person to offer a sizable donation of wood, including some exotics, for the class to use.

The post-pandemic budgets for schools and other tax-supported entities have caused deep review of plans to meet educational requirements with less money. Some optimism is felt because of federal funds of around \$3-billion, are slated for Michigan, and a part of that amount will go to schools, including hazardous pay for teachers.

Should the shop class continue, contributions of automotive-type batteries will be important, so continue to bring them to PromoQuip. Shop class or no, the school system will benefit from the donation.

Happy 4th of July



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A Patriotic Story: Faith of Our Fathers



FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

Francis Scott Key

By Savannah Geerligs and Olivia Geerligs

Respected as a convincing, compassionate attorney, Francis Scott Key was living in Georgetown, Maryland with his wife and young children when war with Great Britain erupted. The ill-prepared U.S. forces suffered defeat at first and the British made short work of capturing Washington, D.C. After this battle in August

1814, Key was sent to negotiate the release of American surgeon William Beanes. The British held Dr. Beanes under General Ross aboard HMS Tonnant in Chesapeake Bay.

Ross was not interested in releasing prisoners but Francis persuaded him. Unfortunately victory was short. "Since you see we're attacking Fort McHenry," General Ross frowned, "you won't return to the American lines until after the battle." Francis tugged at his necktie, which suddenly seemed too tight, as he was led to Dr. Beanes.

The young militia lieutenant lost track of the days while he and Dr. Beanes strained to see troops securing the fort. Would it hold? Their loved ones, homes, and livelihoods awaited an unknown fate. And the cause of liberty! How could the country sustain the loss of Baltimore, one of her most vital ports?

Ka - BOOM! The first naval missile hurtled toward Fort McHenry on September 13. Francis

raced to the deck and gripped the railing to steady himself, wiping spray from his eyes. The fleet pitched in the waves from explosions all day. Through heavy smoke Francis caught a flash of red and white above the fort before evening swallowed the last light. "As long as they're firing, we know our flag's still there," Dr. Beanes murmured. Then in the dark, the guns fell silent. Francis never imagined there were so many minutes in a night. His restless steps kept time with the hourglass.

At last the shore loomed blue, misty. Slowly, water turned gold. Key's trembling hand gripped his spyglass. "Look! Look," he cried through tears of joy, "it's our flag!" Seizing a nearby paper, he penned his prayerful relief. "O, say, can you see by the dawn's early light what so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?

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