

# Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

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We are saddened to learn of the passing of Kyle Hamlin. He was a former superintendent of Lakeview Community Schools (2011-2020) and also superintendent of Montcalm Area Intermediate School District.

### Summer Forecast

**Thu** Chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, high 87. Light and variable wind becoming S 5 to 7 in the morning. Precipitation 50%.

**Thu Night** Showers likely. Mostly cloudy, low 67. Precipitation 60%.

**Fri** Chance of showers, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2pm. Partly sunny, high 84. Precipitation 60%.

**Fri Night** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 8pm. Partly cloudy, low 64.

**Sat** Sunny, high 88.

**Sat Night** Mostly clear, low 62.

**Sun** Sunny, high 85.

**Sun Night** Partly cloudy, low 56.

**Mon** Mostly sunny, high 80.



## It all began about 150 years ago.

By Julie Drews

It all began about 150 years ago. As has been said, "Jesus said: 'I will build my church. Ye are God's building'". It all began on December 30, 1874 in Montcalm County that the then Cowden Lake Church of Christ was born. The very beginnings of the memories and registers, include often the names of W.H. and Caroline Randall, who had the perception that was needed to turn a dream into a reality with the help of God. The Randall's donated the land at the corner of Gravel Ridge and Coral Roads that eventually would become the site of the church.

It is said that for a small community, the Randalls were progressive people. W.H. had been a member of a church in Clarence, N.Y. and Caroline a member of a church in Pine Run, in Genesee County in Michigan. They came to Montcalm County in 1871 and the summer of 1874 Randall was instrumental in the organization of the Lord's Day School in his home. Records show that he was the first person to present principals of the Gospel to the public in this



Front, Left to Right: Emily Buchanan, Jane Buchanan, Francis Johnson, Carrie House  
Back Row: Caroline Randall, Mrs. Ingraham, Hattie McLennon, Ella Edwards, Ada Bonn

section of the state.

W.H. was so overjoyed with the success of Lord's Day that he wrote to D.W. Andrews of Pine Run in the fall of 1874, asking for someone to come to Cowden Lake for a meeting "of a religious nature". A meeting was set for December 4, 1874, in the house of A.L. Edwards. The meeting lasted for two days, with 42 people pres-

ent. This included what was listed as "Christians, Baptists, and Methodists". On December 30, 1874, it was decided to proceed and the Cowden Lake Church of Christ was established. At that time meetings were held at the Cowden Lake School.

On December 8, 1879, plans were made to construct a building to serve as the church. At this

meeting a motion was made to have Brothers James Stark, W.H. Randall, and H.J. House elected to a building committee to draw plans and specification for a meeting house, and to "superintend" the work. It was also decided to have Brothers A.L. Price, Lyman Brown, and Uriah Stryker, along with Sisters Olive Stark, Ada House, and Jane Buchanan

serve as a committee to collect aid and subscriptions to build a meeting house. Brother Price was named treasurer to hold all funds collected and a motion was made and carried that the side of the church would be established on the southwest corner of the Randall's land.

(continued on page 4)

## Music in the Park: July 24 - Mulebone Returns to Music in the Park for the 17th Time!



The Lincoln Legacy: Dallas and grandson, Chad, with Chad's daughter, Audrey, who announced the band!

By Stephen Charnley

Hugh Pool and John Ragusa are no strangers to Lakeview, having come to the shores of Tamarack Lake to perform their unique take on the blues. The duo, who hails from New York City, goes by the memorable name of Mulebone. (The name has another reference from New York City from the days of

the Harlem Renaissance in the 1930s. "Mule Bone" is a famous play, countering the prejudicial stereotypes of Blacks, written by Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes, literary giants of that period). Mulebone is the band that's come the farthest to perform in addition to being the one which has performed the most years.

I announced to the

crowd of over 300 that Mulebone's perennial sponsor was Four Seasons Exterminating, owned by Ed and Christine Winter, who also host the duo overnight at their historic Lincoln Avenue home.

We also had a group of members from the Lakeview United Church of Christ as helpers, passing out programs and a variety of delicious cookies. Their pastor, the Rev. Jason Dillingham, greeted us and noted that their congregation is very open and welcoming to anyone, "no matter where you are on life's journey." Jason is also running for Michigan State Representative vying for the position with incumbent Pat Outman.

Zack McCalister was back with creole cooking under the pavilion, serving up, with help from Kayla Dexter and Chelsea Riley, a delectable blackened chicken sandwich. I saw many enjoying the offering and heard afterward he'd sold out. This would be his last time at MIP this summer. Thanks to Zack for stretching our palates with some tasty Louisiana fare.

Dean Gilbert, an essential part of our Music in the Park Team then intro-

duced Alayna Williams, who sang the national anthem as members of the UCC raised the flag.

For the introduction of the band, we had a special treat. Many know that the Lincoln family has a long history with Music in the Park. In fact, their ancestral home stood on the grounds of Lakeside Park! (Dallas' parents, Ford and Ruby Lincoln's home used to sit where the parking lot now is. Dallas has fond memories of growing up there and of how his dad and my grandfather Glenn, who lived kitty corner across the street, would throw horseshoes out back on summer evenings till darkness drove them inside.) Continuing this tradition of family collaboration, I invited Dallas' great granddaughter, Audrey, to come to the microphone. With grace and poise, this 11yr. old, rising 6th grader introduced Mulebone. As the crowd was applauding, I overheard John Ragusa tell Hugh Pool that they needed to have her come along and introduce all of their performances. (Who knows? Maybe some day Audrey Lincoln will be a well known name not just

in Lakeview but also in New York City!)

Mulebone, as always, gave us a soulful and virtuosic performance. Hugh Pool was channeling the great Bob Dylan as he played the guitar and the harmonica, weaving with the notes lyrics of interest and meaning. John Ragusa is a master on flutes of all kinds, including the rarely seen bass flute. But he really wowed the crowd when he unwrapped the conch shell and with it created soulful and haunting music. They ended the evening with their signature conclusion, "Jesus on the Mainline", a blues spiritual that had the audience clapping in rhythm and dancers of all ages filling the concrete apron of the Lena Rader Meijer outdoor theatre.

After hearing them, a newcomer to Music in the Park, a recent retiree to one of the area lake communities, asked me how we could afford to bring such talent to our little town. I answered that it has everything to do with the generosity of our community and the vision of leaders like the Lincolns.

(more photos on page 2)

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