

# Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

Thursday, November 28, 2024 (989) 352-5111 ... Fax: (989) 352-8286 www.lakeviewareanewspaper.com ... Price \$1.00

Classifieds  
Announcements  
Business Directory  
Display Ads

Lakeview Area News

Print has staying power!

989-352-5111

Advertise with Us



The Lakeview Area News office will be closed this week, November 28 and 29 in observance of Thanksgiving.

### Fall Forecast

**Thu** 20 percent chance of snow showers after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, high 37. WNW wind 5 to 10, gusts 20.

**Thu Night** Snow showers likely. Mostly cloudy, low 24. Precipitation 60%. New snow less than a half inch.

**Fri** Snow showers likely, mainly after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, high 30. Precipitation is 60%.

**Fri Night** Chance of snow showers before 1am. Mostly cloudy, low 22.

**Sat** Chance of snow showers after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, high 29.

**Sat Night** Chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, low 21.

**Sun** Chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, high 32.

**Sun Night** Chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, low 22.

**Mon** Chance of snow showers. Partly sunny, high 31.



## CASA Craft and Vendor Show Benefits Children



Customers perused a wide variety of items at the CASA Craft and Vendor Show.

By Bethel Larsen

Seeing the crowd flocking to the Montcalm Area Career Center on Saturday, November 16 was well worth the inconvenience of having to park behind the building. All those cars meant that the CASA volunteers—Court Appointed Special Advocates—would be better able to serve Montcalm County children who are in the foster care system because of abuse or neglect. The first CASA Craft and Vendor Show was proving to be a popular event, indeed!

Outside, the bright red El Taco Guero truck that always attracts a crowd in Lakeview already had patrons lined up for tasty Mexican fare. (Trying it for the first time later, I could understand its popularity!)

Inside, a display of the M.A.C.C. Computer Assisted Design (C.A.D.) program and some board books for toddlers greeted visitors, and a banner eloquently describing the mis-

sion of a CASA volunteer stated “I am for the child who lived in motels, cars, and shelters. The child who now stands in the entryway of a group foster home. Clutching a makeshift suitcase. A garbage bag... I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer. I am you.”

I made my way down the hallway, where a young woman presided over a display of handmade jewelry at very reasonable prices. It was a happy surprise that she included a small bonus gift with each purchase. Farther on, a mother looked on as a girl of about ten politely presented her colorful bracelets made of stretchy links. A nearby table held jars of pure honey as well as lip balms and other honey-based products. The Gipzy Spiritz booth offered free samples of homemade cookies. Who could resist? The big oatmeal caramel apple cookies were delicious!

Knitted hats and headbands in lush colors,

quilts and afghans, and a variety of critters crocheted from thick yarn filled other displays. Laser-cut wood ornaments and signs, hot chocolate bombs, and bath bombs attracted customers to several other tables. Christmas wreaths and ornaments beckoned to those who were seeking to refresh their seasonal décor. I paused by a table piled high with hanks of hand-spun yarns. If only my knitting skills could do justice to those gorgeous colors! Behind the table, Sue Ann Carpenter of The Sassy Ewe sat spinning wool rovings from her own sheep into yarn for those more adept in its use.

The last booth in my clockwise circuit was that of Brown Lake Maple near Rockford, where owner John Cunningham offered samples of maple-coated nuts and hard maple candy. Yes, please! Pure maple syrup and cinnamon-infused maple syrup were offered in jars of various sizes. I tried a sip of warmed cinnamon maple

syrup. Mm-m-m—liquid bliss! I took his card for possible Christmas gift purchases or to replenish my own supply of syrup. Homemade pancakes and waffles deserve real maple syrup!

According to Montcalm CASA Coordinator Jamie Gorby, who chaired the event along with Stephanie Barone-Bucholtz, the show raised \$2,060.00 from fifty-one vendors who paid \$35.00 each for a table or \$45.00 for a 10'x10' booth. A cleaning fee for the M.A.C.C. facility is yet to be deducted. The worthy cause for which this fundraiser was held, Montcalm CASA currently has eighteen volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates with two more in training. They work with thirty-one children divided among fifteen cases—that is, separate family groups. According to the Montcalm CASA website, a CASA volunteer “works with attorneys, social workers, school personnel,

health care providers, and parents, and any others who are involved with the child”, using the gathered information to make recommendations to the court for what is deemed in the child’s best interests. The goal is “a safe, permanent home as quickly as possible.” They have the task of explaining the legal events to the child and listening to “the child’s feelings, hopes, and opinions” in order to wisely advocate for the child before the court. To gain the understanding necessary to accomplish this task, each CASA volunteer spends about six hours a month with his or her assigned children in the foster home, visiting every seven to ten days. Though the outcome determined by the court may or may not align with the child’s wishes, “at least they have a voice” through the CASA volunteer, according to Jamie.

(continued on page 2)

## Shoebboxes' Journey of Joy Unstopped by Hurricane

By Bethel Larsen

It is a journey as joyful and predictable as decorating the Christmas tree or baking Christmas cookies, and even my youngest granddaughter “knows the drill”: cruise store aisles to buy basic hygiene and school supplies, some small toys, and a “Wow!” item—a soccer ball and pump, a doll, or some other special prize. Pack them as efficiently as possible into a standard shoebox, removing any unnecessary packaging. Think about the child in some faraway impoverished village who

will receive this collection of things taken for granted in our part of the world—and, just before Thanksgiving, remember and give thanks for everyday blessings as these Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are gathered at church collection centers and relayed by truck to Boone, North Carolina. From Boone, they are sent to some of the neediest parts of the world and offered with a Gospel presentation to children who may have never received a gift of any kind.

(continued on page 2)



Christine Langworthy helps unload 110 newly arrived shoeboxes at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Big Rapids.

We Will Be Closed Thanksgiving Day



Christmas Trees & Wreaths Are Here!



BLACK FRIDAY SPECIALS!

20% OFF CARHARTT

15% OFF ROCKY, GEORGIA, BOGS & DRY SHOD BOOTS

907 WASHINGTON ST • LAKEVIEW, MI

989-352-6886 • LAKEVIEWELEVATOR.COM