

# Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

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One way we know spring is here is because the Trufant Flea Market is now open.

The ice was out on Tamarack Lake March 11 this year. That may seem early, but last year it was February 13.

Spring cleanup day in Edmore is April 26.

Don't forget to vote May 6 on the 'Non-Homestead' Operating Millage Proposal.

### Spring Forecast

**Thu** Rain and snow showers likely before 11am, then a chance of rain showers. Mostly cloudy, high 42. NE wind around 10, with gusts as high as 20. Precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch.

**Thu Night** Mostly cloudy, low 28.

**Fri** Sunny, high 51.

**Fri Night** Mostly clear, low 27.

**Sat** Sunny, high 56.

**Sat Night** Partly cloudy, low 32.

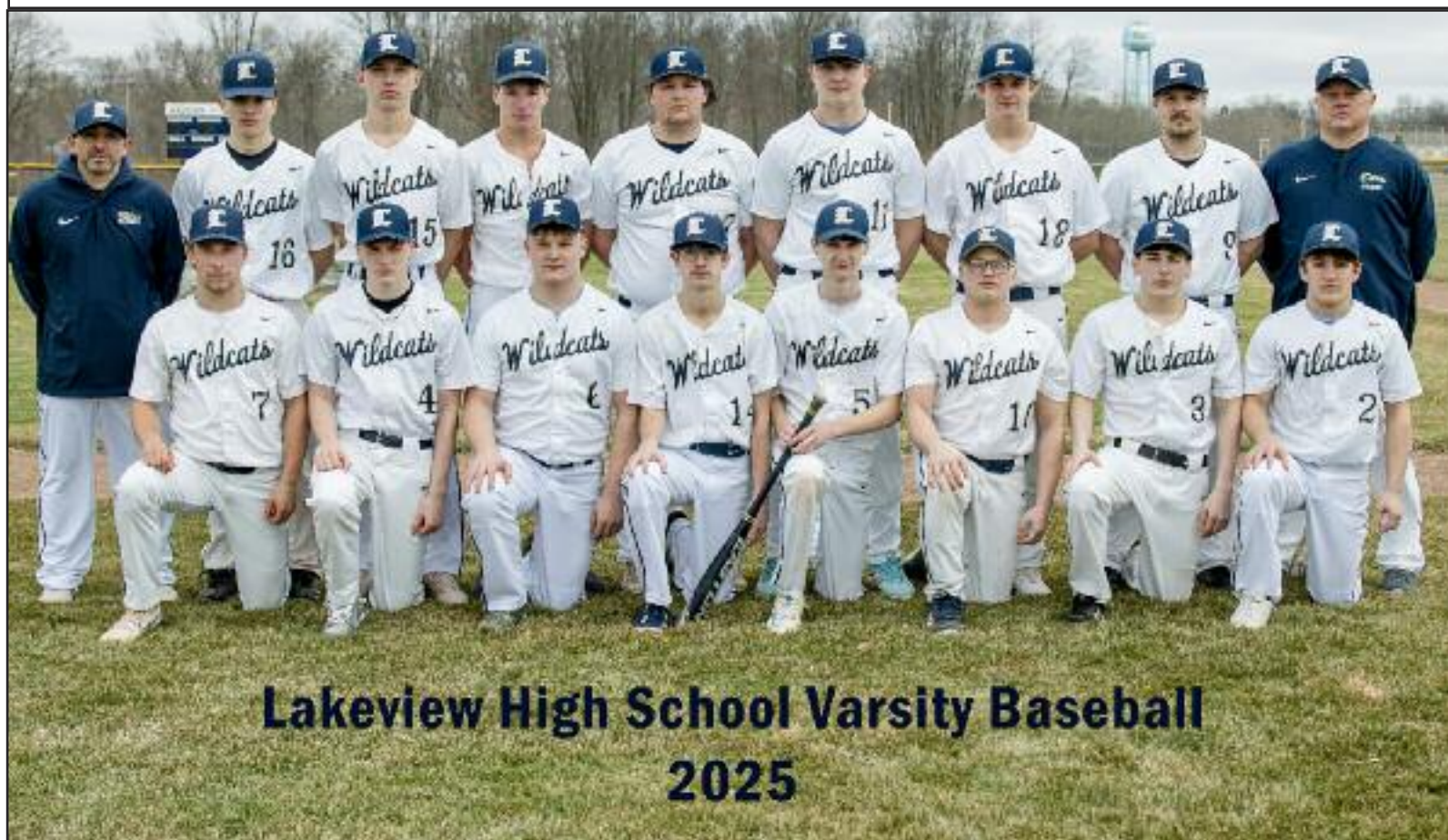
**Sun** Mostly sunny, high 62.

**Sun Night** Mostly cloudy, low 44.

**Mon** Partly sunny, high 67.



## Spring Sports at Lakeview High School



Lakeview High School Varsity Baseball  
2025

Photo Credit - Leigh Saxton (more photos next week)

## Historic Theater Restoration—a Family Affair



Photo Credit - Michigan Economic Development Corporation

### By Bethel Larsen

It intrigues me how often one story leads to another. When I sought out a theater that was showing the new release *The Last Supper*, I did not know that the search would lead me to an interesting story about an historic movie house in Clare and its restoration in the hands of a local family.

In 1930, as the Great Depression was casting a lengthening shadow over Michigan and talking movies—still a novelty—provided an affordable escape from the pervading gloom, theater owner John Asline found that his

Princess Theater on McEwan Street in Clare could not keep up with the crowds coming to the movies. His solution was to buy a vacant lot two doors to the north and build the Ideal Theater specifically for “talkies.” The Ideal Theater served the public well as movie production technology became ever more advanced—Technicolor, Cinemascope, surround sound—and digital formats, streaming services, and large screens eventually made a “theater” experience at home common for many Americans. Despite all the changes, the Ideal Theater’s bright marquee continued to announce the latest films until the COVID-19 pandemic closed its doors in 2020. But for the teamwork of three sisters, the theater might have been one pandemic casualty among many. The outcome, however, was much happier.

Lisa Benic, who manages the day-to-day operation of the theater, observed, “Seeing a shuttered theater in a small town is very sad, and we really didn’t want that to happen in Clare.” She and sisters Sandy Wright, who now owns the building, and Sue Leverence, an architectural designer, approached the owner through a Realtor friend to purchase the theater in April, 2021. The time had come for more than a facelift: ADA-compliant access needed to be built into the structure, and other modifications were necessary to achieve a level of comfort and convenience consistent with modern expectations. Nevertheless, the sisters and the community wanted to honor the building’s long history and maintain its 1930s Art Deco atmosphere. Lisa relates, “We found a wonderful architect, Thomas Roberts out of Wyandotte,

Michigan, who had experience with historical buildings and theaters in particular.” Sister Sue “worked closely with the architect to design improvements...that would maintain the historical elements of the building while modernizing wherever necessary. It was very important to us to keep those features that people really identify with [the Ideal] (the neon clock, the light fixtures, the Art Deco design elements) while updating the space for safety and comfort, including a large wheelchair area and accessible restrooms.”

(continued on page 2)

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