

Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

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USA National Ice Fishing Championship



By Lane Leppink

Planes, trains and automobiles..... it sounds like the name of a movie, but it's how anglers came from six different states in our nation, from towns like Bigfork, Montana and Sandy, Utah to come to our 330-acre, Tamarack Lake in Lakeview, Michigan to chase one dream: to be among the best ice fishermen in the country at the USA National Ice Fishing Championship. If there was an Olympic sport of

ice fishing, these boys were creating our team that will be representing the USA in Kazakhstan next year. This was the stage that was set in Lakeview over this past weekend of Feb 26 – March 1. US Angling Confederation adopted Lakeview as its home town last summer, and once again, our great village pulled together and showed the rest of the country how to do it right!

Lakeview needed to get ready to host the NATIONAL Championship

this year, and celebrate the help that raised monies for the 2026 USA Team that was heading to the World Ice Fishing Championship that is held in Pieta, Sweden later in March 2026.

Lakeview started it's 2025/26 plans for supporting US Angling by awarding the USA Ice Fishing Team a community grant from the LACF grand funds last fall. Then, as the season progressed, a collection of area businesses came to the front of the line and helped the USA Ice

Fishing Team by sponsoring their official team jersey that will be worn at every event between now and in Sweden. A huge shout-out to those businesses include: Community First Federal Credit Union, McKenna's Restaurant, Leppink's Food Center, Big Rapids Realty, Four Seasons Exterminating, Tamarack Sports, E & I International, Tamarack Builders, Griffith Builders, and Great Lakes Taco Bell.

As the weekend approached nobody knew if

Mother Nature would bless or curse the ice fishing event that is held on the last weekend in February. The multitude of requested prayers were answered favorably, and the weekend weather couldn't have been better.

In confidence, the USA Ice Fishing coaching staff choose where the fishing would take place on the first two days of the tournament.

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Town Topics

Daylight Saving Time in the U.S. will begin on Sunday, March 8, 2026, when clocks "spring forward" one hour at 2 a.m., resulting in the loss of one hour of sleep.

Winter Forecast

Thu Showers. High near 43. East wind 6 to 11 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

Thu Night Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36.

Fri Showers likely after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 61. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Fri Night Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50.

Sat A chance of showers before 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59.

Sat Night Partly cloudy, with a low around 33.

Sun Mostly sunny, with a high near 54.

Sun Night Partly cloudy, with a low around 38.

Mon Mostly sunny, with a high near 59.

Cody Jean Skinner - Chief Warrant Officer 1



Cody Jean Skinner is from Lakeview, Michigan, where she spent 17 years growing up on a horse farm before moving to Florida. While in Michigan, she attended Lakeview Public School, Brockway Christian Academy, and Crossroads Charter Academy.

In 2021, she joined the Florida Army National Guard as a 42A, Human Resource Specialist, enlisting at just 17 years old. Cody completed civilian flight school, and at age 22 she can proudly call herself a commercial pilot.

Cody Skinner's most recent achievement is graduating from the U. S. Army Warrant Office Career College at Fort Rucker, Alabama. U. S. Army Warrant Officers make up less than 3% of the Army and are highly specialized experts in their field serving as trainers, advisors, and leaders. In the summer of 2026, Cody will attend Fort Rucker flight school where she will be trained to fly the CH-47 Chinook.

Cody Skinner is cur-

rently assigned to 1-111th AV BN in Jacksonville, Florida.

Cody Skinner's previous assignments include human resources specialist, HHB 2-116th FA; and Human Resources NCO, HHC JFHQ FLARING. She holds an Associate's degree from Seminole State College of Florida as well as her Commercial Pilot, Airplane Single Engine (ASE) Rating, Commercial Pilot, Airplane Multiple Engine (AME) Rating, Airplane Instrument Rating, and Commercial Pilot Single Engine Seaplane (SES) Rating. Her military education includes Advanced Individual Training and Warrant Officer Candidate School.

Her awards and decorations include the Army Service Ribbon, Humanitarian Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Texas Border Security and Support Service Ribbon.



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