

Lakeview Area News

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Remember to vote Tuesday, August 4. We will be choosing candidates for governor and state senate. There are also millage requests on the ballot. See page 9 for information on the request for additional funding for the Commission on Aging.

The Heritage Festival at Sidney is August 6-8. See page 3 for more.

Summer Forecast

Thu Sunny, with a high near 86. Northwest wind 3 to 6 mph.
Thu Night Partly cloudy, with a low around 61.
Fri Partly sunny, with a high near 86.
Fri Night A chance of showers after 8pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63.
Sat Showers likely, mainly after 2pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 80.
Sat Night Showers likely, mainly before 8pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60.
Sun Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.
Sun Night Mostly clear, with a low around 58.
Mon Sunny, with a high near 84.



MSU's Dairy Farm of the Year is at Home in Blanchard



The Okkema family received the prestigious MSU Dairy Farm of the Year Award last April. Pictured from left are Cora Okkema, Ramona, Tjerk, Derk Okkema, Evelyn Okkema-Damveld, Aaron Damveld, holding the next farmer generation, Oliver Damveld. (photo provided)

By Bev Berens

Tjerk and Ramona Okkema watched as the sign designating De Grins Oer Dairy as MSU's Dairy Farm of the Year was installed last week. The personal plaque, presented in April, has already found its place on the wall. Installing the farm sign is the final act in the process, meant to show the community and all who pass the farm while

traveling in Central Michigan, that dairy greatness lives here.

Behind each farm lies a story, often based on family. The farm name itself, De Grins Oer Dairy, begins the story as the name translates from Tjerk's West Frisian, Netherlands homeland as over the border dairy. Crossing the border was exactly what the couple did in 1999, bringing with them three young

children, a household of items and tools, and a dream to build a farm and a place to call home for their young family.

Ramona, originally from a dairy and greenhouse operation in New Hampshire, spent time as a young woman working in Europe through the International 4H Youth Exchange (IFEY) two-way cultural exchange program. They met through one of

her host families, who partnered with Tjerk's father on a dairy farm. Several years would pass before they married. Ramona returned to the United States, chasing a career as a pilot with no intention of marrying a dairy farmer, let alone a Dutch one. But not even language, culture or an ocean could separate them indefinitely. "It was providential," she said.

The dream of farming

in the United States began when Tjerk visited Canada as a seventeen-year-old. The open fields, the sizes of farms, and the freedom to farm without a government that micromanaged every decision made for a farm was invigorating. A second trip which included farms on both the U.S. east and west coasts in his early twenties fueled the dream.

(continued on page 2)

Roll on In: A Day With Trucks

By Mindy Raglin

What a beautiful day for enjoying all kinds of trucks! The Tamarack District Library had a special day for all kinds of fun with their Touch a Truck day in July. The shiny trucks were viewed by young and young at heart, and were enjoyed fully with all the excitement a bigger vehicle has to offer. The spectacle was such a hit that the road nearby closed down, as if to also enjoy the spectacle of people loving these larger vehicles. The sun was shining, billowy white clouds overhead, and a fun time was had by all.

Here is a fun fact or two, the first truck was invented in the year 1896 and it was a massive 80,000 pound model. The massive truck was invented by German engineer Gottlieb Daimler and it was called Vehicle 42. — Google. Kids are drawn to trucks because they have large moving parts, loud sounds with high visual

impact and trigger powerful sensory and developmental excitement. —Quora.

Here are the trucks that participated in Touch a Truck day at the Tamarack District Library. DTE energy was there with their crane and work truck, Village of Lakeview brought a police vehicle complete with all of its bells and whistles. The Lakeview fire department had a shiny red fire truck and Scoob's Towing brought it's tow truck and Scooby Do van. Main farms had a fun tractor and even the Lakeview Area Schools had a school bus! Last but not least, Napa Auto Parts had a shined up race car and a trailer.

What a delight and imagination our very own Tamarack District Library has! Touch a truck day was thought up by the staff at Tamarack District Library who wanted to quote Fred Rogers- "The thing I remember best about successful people I've met throughout all my years, is

their obvious delight in what they're doing... And it seems to have very little to do with worldly success. They just love what they're doing, and they love it in front of others."

Every event by the local library is carefully thought out and hosted by an amazing staff who truly cares about community. I know early on what the library brought into my life as a child growing up in Lakeview. The library brought adventure and fun, not to mention, a loving environment that to this day, at age 46, has stayed with me.

A big thank you to everyone that made this event so impressionable on our children and all who attended. Thank you to everyone showing up in a vehicle that delighted and made a summer day that much more fun. It proves with a bit of imagination and also a community and beyond, coming together, a memory can last a lifetime.



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