

Chamber Classic Golf Outing
Raises \$4,500 for Muskegon
Silent Observer Program

MUSKEGON, Mich. – The Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce promotes community safety through the Muskegon Silent Observer Program. With over 60 teams and dozens of volunteers, this year’s Chamber Classic golf outing, held at Chase Hammond Golf Club, raised \$4,500 for the Muskegon Silent Observer Program. This is the largest amount raised to support the Silent Observer Program from the Chamber Classic.

“This additional funding will enable the Silent Observer Program to enhance marketing efforts throughout Muskegon County and provide additional funding for tips payouts,” said Tom Schultz, Silent Observer committee Chairman. “The number of tips received by Silent Observer, and the amount of rewards paid out for crimes solved, have increased significantly over the past several years. I’m confident that this additional funding will help to continue that momentum for the Silent Observer Program.”

The Silent Observer Program is funded by private donations and contributions from the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce. To find more information or to make a donation visit silentobservermuskegon.com.

To submit information on a crime call Silent Observer at 231-72-CRIME (7463), download the P3 Tips app on your Android or Apple device, or visit silentobserver.com.

The Tri-Cities Historical Museum
is open **Tuesday** through **Friday**
from **10a.m.** to **5p.m.**, and **12-5 p.m.**
Saturdays and **Sundays**.

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MUSKEGON COUNTY SILENT OBSERVER

Halloween
by Larry J Pellet



It was no-holds barred entertainment at the Melching residence this Halloween as hundreds poured into the compound for the 5th annual invite-only party on a crisp sunny Saturday afternoon and evening. The festivities, courtesy



of Fruitport’s Doug Melching, included flame handlers, costume contests, pirate ships, hayrides, two saloons and free snacks, as well as countless animated spooks, a waterfall, bonfire, alligators in the moat, and a zip line exhibition by none other than the host himself...bellowing all the while.

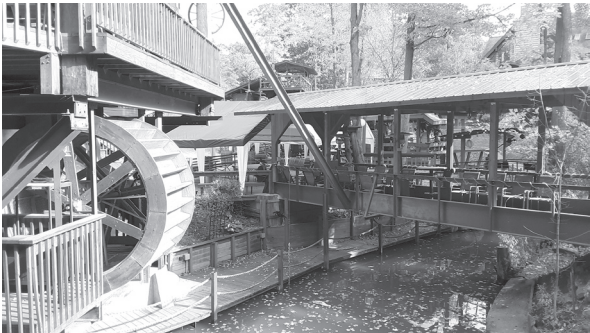


As with most parties this time of year, celebrities graced the presence. Among those sighted were Janis Joplin, Big Bird, Blackbeard (Melching) and a whole host of his pirates, Kid Rock, the Joker, Papa Smurf, Prince Phillip, Snow White, and the list goes on.

At least a month of planning and effort went into the near-Hollywood production, and babies, kids and adults of all ages enjoyed a drama free family atmosphere. None had more fun than Melching however, as his zip line routine



highlighted the show. Of particular interest were the long-winding hayrides through treacherous woods, filled with gremlins, ghosts and witches. The only thing that saved the screaming and trembling riders was the fact that most of the heinous creatures were secured safely to the ground.



“It was impressive”, stated Fruitport native and one time neighbor Bill Cooper.

Ever the charismatic entertainer, Melching made his way through the festive audience throughout the evening, posing for pictures and catching up with friends and neighbors that he may or may not have recognized through costumes. Oh, and there was that occasional drink now and then.



With a solid team around him, a DJ and sophisticated sound system, and the respect of his patrons, Doug created an evening that could not be matched here in West Michigan. Pirate hats off to you, friend.

Outbreak of Lung Illness
Associated with Using E-cigarette
Products

The Centers for Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Food and Drug Administration, state and local health departments, and other clinical and public health partners are investigating a multistate outbreak of severe pulmonary disease associated with e-cigarette product use (devices, liquids, refill pods and cartridges).

As of September 17, 2019, 530 cases have been reported to the CDC, with seven confirmed deaths. All reported cases have a history of using e-cigarette or vaping products. Most patients have reported a history of using e-cigarette products containing THC. Many patients have reported using THC and nicotine. Some have reported the use of e-cigarette products containing only nicotine. The investigation has not identified any specific e-cigarette product or substance that is linked to all cases. No consistent evidence of an infectious cause has been discovered. Therefore, the suspected cause is a chemical exposure.

The CDC has received complete sex and age data on 373 of 530 cases.

- Nearly three fourths (72%) of cases are male
- Two thirds (67%) of cases are 18 to 34 years old
- 16% of cases are under 18 years and 17% are 35 years or older