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ABOUT THIS EDITION

Stories and photographs produced by staff members at the Ashtabula Star Beacon and The Meadville Tribune.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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(800) 879-0006

Ashtabula Star Beacon
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Pymatuning State Park packs in fun

MEADVILLE TRIBUNE

Pymatuning State Park offers a broad range of activities year-round for outdoor enthusiasts.

There are lake-related activities such as swimming, boating and fishing as well as camping, hiking, sightseeing and hunting during warm weather months, while winter activities include snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, ice boating, sledding, ice skating and ice fishing.

Pymatuning, located in western Crawford County along the Pennsylvania-Ohio border, is the second-most visited park in Pennsylvania's state park system.

Pymatuning draws about 3.3 million visitors a year, rank-



ing it second only to Presque Isle State Park, which is located on the shores of Lake Erie in neighboring Erie County.

Pymatuning's biggest attrac-

tions are its water-related activities as Pymatuning Lake is the largest lake in Pennsylvania, covering 17,088 acres.

The bulk of the lake is in

Crawford County, with about 25 percent of the lake in adjacent Ashtabula County, Ohio.

Pennsylvania is planning to invest about \$10 million at Pymatuning to improve the park, including work on both the dam and one of its three boating marinas.

Work on repairs to the dam near Jamestown — a more than \$6.2 million project — is expected to begin in June and take more than a year to complete. Lake levels at Pymatuning will be maintained throughout the work, said Dan Bickel, the state park's superintendent.

The Linesville marina is targeted to get a \$2.3 million facelift this fall after the boating season ends in October.



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That work will include new docks that will remain in place year-round; dredging the marina; regrading the boat launch area; and adding a stone fishing pier. Once the work starts this fall, the Linesville marina won't reopen until the 2017 season, Bickel said.

"There's a lot of work to be done, but it will make things better overall," Bickel said of the Linesville marina project.

BOATING, FISHING AND SWIMMING

Boaters may use motors with up to 20 horsepower on Pymatuning and even if you don't own a boat, you can rent one at the marinas at Jamestown, Espyville and Linesville. Each offers boats, canoes and motors for rent.

The park has four swim-

ming beaches in Pennsylvania which are open Memorial Day through Labor Day. Three of the beaches are in the Jamestown area and one is at Linesville. Jamestown and Linesville Beach No. 1 both have bathhouses, sanitary facilities, food concessions and/or vending machines.

There is a 2,500-acre area at the northeast end of the lake that is off-limits to fishing and the public, as it's used as a propagation area for migratory waterfowl during their flights north and south.

CAMPING

There are two camping areas open from mid-April through mid-October each year.

All campgrounds are near swimming, boating, fishing



and hiking and have a sanitary dump station. The maximum stay in all camping areas is 14 days during the summer season and 21 days during the off-season. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

In the northern part of the

park, Linesville Campground has modern facilities, including showers, flush toilets and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-accessible campsites. About half of the campsites have electricity. Pets are permitted on selected sites.


On the south end of the

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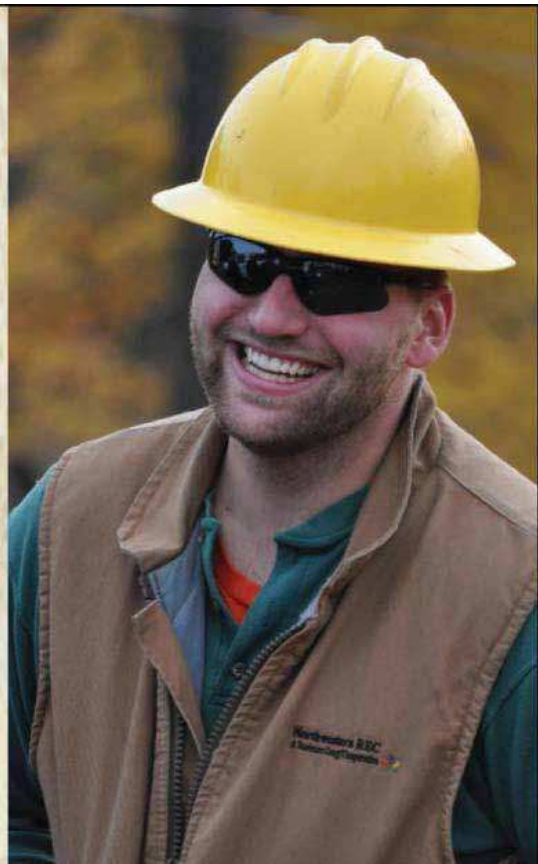
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Pymatuning Reservoir, Jamestown Campground also has modern facilities, including showers and flush toilets. About half of its campsites have electricity. There is a boat launch, beach, camp store, amphitheater and a playground. Pets are permitted on selected sites.

For those who would rather camp indoors, Pymatuning has 25 modern cabins available — 20 in the Jamestown area and five in the Linesville area.

The Linesville-area cabins all meet ADA standards for accessibility, as does one in the Jamestown area. Each cabin has a furnished living area, a kitchen/dining area toilet/shower room and either two or three bedrooms.

Occupants must bring their

own linens, towels, cookware and tableware.

Throughout each summer season, Pymatuning staff and area experts and volunteers offer a variety of environmental, education and interpretive programs for visitors — including hands-on activities, guided walks and evening events.

Reservations for camping at Pymatuning may be made by calling (888) PA-PARKS or (888) 727-2757.

SIGHTSEEING

There are a number of places for sightseers to visit at Pymatuning State Park. Some of the most popular include:

- The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission hatchery — One of the largest warm-water fish hatcheries in the



world — is just north of the Linesville-Espyville causeway.

- Pymatuning's famous Spillway, just down the road from the hatchery, where visitors can feed bread to the carp. The carp are so numerous in the area that ducks

have been known to walk on the fishes' backs.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Pymatuning State Park and its public facilities and events, call (724) 932-3142, email pymatuningsp@pa.gov or visit dcnr.state.pa.us. ■

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Pumpkin Fest an autumn tradition

By JANE SMITH

Special to The Tribune

Conneaut Lake will become a town painted “orange” in October as the 23rd annual Conneaut Lake Fall Pumpkin Fest opens for another season.

“It’s a go; we are going to have Pumpkin Fest,” said Doris Henderson, chairman. The committee has approved the contract with the Trustees of Conneaut Lake Park and will meet soon to hand over the check for leasing the park for the weekend of Pumpkin Fest.

One of the highlights of Pumpkin Fest is the traditional big pumpkin drop.

The festival has two such drops scheduled this year.

The big pumpkins weigh about 1,000 pounds, are lifted via crane into the air and then dropped hundreds of feet to smash a vehicle sitting below. Festival visitors gather to watch the drop and make the “count down” with the operators to the thrill of all those involved.

The Pumpkin Fest itself is a festival of all types of vendors, offering a wide variety



of food and crafts by both nonprofit organizations and professional crafters. Online registration is available for all vendors, according to Henderson.

Another major aspect of the festival is the many musical entertainers that are set up at locations throughout the festival grounds. Featured are various types of music designed to allow music lovers to hear their type of music at some point over the three-day event.

Many of the musical entertainers from last year have indicated they want to come back. Two have already

signed contracts. The Happy Music Trio will play polka music at the entrance on the final day of the festival. And local favorite, Brett Allen Morgan, will return with his music.

The Shriners have already signed up to participate in the parade again this year, according to Joan Kozlowski, committee member. The Shriners, who operate a hospital for children, also have various units with members who operate all types of motorized vehicles — including motorcycles, race cars, bar stools as three-wheelers and others — and

are always a popular entertainment for those watching from the sidelines.

The annual Pumpkin Fest pageants are Oct. 3 at Conneaut Lake Middle School with contestants in seven categories: Tiny Prince and Tiny Princess for 4, 5 and 6 year olds; Little Prince and Little Princess for those 7, 8, 9 and 10 year olds; Junior Princess for girls ages 11, 12, 13 and 14; Junior Miss, for ages 15, 16, 17 and 18; and Miss Pumpkin Fest for girls ages 19, 20, 21 and 22.

Those named in the various categories reign during the Pumpkin Fest activities, which are open Oct. 9 from 2 to 8 p.m., Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Oct. 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. All activities — except the pageant and the parade — are held at Conneaut Lake Park.

Admission to the festival is free, but there is a parking fee.

MORE INFORMATION

Visit pumpkinfest.conneautlake.com. ■

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Thurston Classic lifts spirits, riders

By **LORRI DRUMM**

Meadville Tribune

Imagine a little boy who dreams of going on an adventure but he doesn't

have what he needs to turn that dream into reality.

What would he do?

He does what lots of little boys do. He uses his imagi-

nation and gets creative with what he does have.

Now imagine that idea becoming larger than life in the form of a hot air balloon.

"The Little Pirate," a balloon owned by Jeff Lansdown, makes its debut at the 27th annual 2015 Thurston Classic Hot Air Balloon Event this June.

If "The Little Pirate" could talk, he would tell you stories of his adventures to faraway lands.

"The balloon was built in Brazil in 2004 and has traveled all over the world," Lansdown said. The young

adventurer has twice visited Thailand and Japan and made stops in New Zealand and Taiwan.

Lansdown owns Smoky Mountain Balloon Adventures in Dandridge, Tenn. He purchased this distinctive balloon in 2007.

The balloon depicts a little boy in a barrel. The story goes that the little boy dreams of being a pirate and going on adventures. Since he doesn't have a boat, he uses a barrel. He dresses up in his best pirate apparel. The only missing accessory is a parrot. The boy decides to take his cat.

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After all, her name is Polly.

Lansdown has another commitment during this year's Thurston Classic, so he has hired Mark Macskimming from Harrisburg to pilot the event's newest addition.

Macskimming has been a hot air balloon pilot for 24 years and has attended the Thurston Classic 10 to 12 years. He attends 12 to 14 events each

year and describes the local event as his favorite.

"I always look forward to the unique, hometown community event," he said. He has a fondness for the history of the Thurston family connection to hot air ballooning. Samuel Sylvester Thurston purchased his first gas balloon in 1860 and took to the skies over Meadville 215 times.

When Macskimming arrives in Meadville this June, local family descendants Emily and Dave Thurston will be a part of his crew. Macskimming looks forward to reuniting with friends and welcomes their assistance in piloting the whimsical balloon that he simply described as "big."

Big balloons are fan favorites, but streamlined balloons often win the race.

Ted Watts has co-chaired the event since 1988. He has seen changes throughout his years in balloon shapes and styles. The racer style of balloon is gaining popularity.

"The racer is shaped more like a football than the older style balloon," Watts said. "Racer-style balloons can gain and lose altitude quicker. They are streamlined for maneuverability. In today's national and world competitions, about 95 to 99 percent are racers."

The 2015 Thurston Classic kicks off June 18 at 9:30 p.m. with the Night Glow. Beginning around dusk on a Thursday evening a group of balloons will inflate while they remain

anchored to the field. Like a sea of giant light bulbs, they will delight spectators with their luminosity.

"The Little Pirate" may not be part of that event, since only his head would glow. But rest assured — he will be watching.

Plan on arriving early and take your lawn chair or a blanket. Food, drink and entertainment will be provided.

Launches are scheduled to take place June 19 at 6:15 p.m., June 20 at 7 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and June 21 at 7 a.m. As an added challenge, balloon pilots try to drop bean bags on targets as they soar overhead.

The activity takes place at Allegheny College's Robertson Field, 185 Park Ave., located just north of the college campus.

The event is free and open to the public. It is coordinated by a committee of volunteers who depend on countless others to continue the Thurston family tradition in Meadville.

YOU CAN HELP

Volunteers rely on donations to continue the Thurston Classic Hot Air Balloon Event, which this year is June 18 to 21. You can contribute by sending your donation to the Thurston Classic Committee in care of Watts and Pepicelli PC, 916 Diamond Park, Meadville, Pa. 16335. More information:

Visit thurstonclassic.com. ■

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Thousands flock to Crawford Co. Fair

By KEITH GUSHARD
Meadville Tribune

Pennsylvania's largest agricultural fair marks its 70th anniversary this year with more than a week's worth of activities for all ages.

The Crawford County Fair is set for Aug. 22 through 29 with eight days of agricultural displays and exhibits, entertainment and fun at the fairgrounds just east of Meadville.

Annually attracting between 70,000 and 80,000 total paid daily admissions during its run, the fair's total attendance is estimated at

double the total paid daily admissions. That's because exhibitors, vendors and the public are allowed to enter on passes they've purchased and the passes aren't counted toward the daily paid admissions.

The fair transforms into the region's biggest "Main Street" as people come from not just Crawford County, but across northwestern and western Pennsylvania, neighboring Ohio, New York and beyond.

Diana Perry, a member of the Crawford County Fair Board and the nonprofit organization's treasurer,

refers to the fair as the county's annual reunion.

"A lot of people go just to see friends and relatives they've not seen all year," Perry said. "If you only see somebody once a year, often it's at the fairgrounds."

While livestock and other judging takes place throughout the days of fair week, evenings bring out large crowds. The fair board schedules top-name entertainment and other grandstand attractions in the evenings to bring in the public.

The fair always has a broad cross-section of enter-

tainment with everything from wrestling and circus shows to major concerts to truck and tractor pulls.

This year's fair, with opening day Aug. 22, features several popular events, topped off with a country music concert with Jake Owen. A farm and antique tractor pull is set in the morning in front of the grandstand while a professional wrestling show is in the Youth Show Arena.

The Jake Owen concert, which features Colt Ford as the opening act, begins at 7:30 p.m. at the grandstand.

The fair's agricultural



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heritage is in focus Aug. 23 as the annual Ag Hall of Fame and Ag Industry awards are scheduled at 2 p.m. while the Miss Crawford County Fair Pageant is set for 7 p.m. The pageant is open to young women ages 16 through 20 who reside in Crawford County who aren't a current title holder of another pageant. The winner is required to appear at various events at the fair throughout the week to help promote the fair.

The nights of Aug. 24 and 28 both feature a USA-East Regional truck and tractor pull at the grandstand. The program starts at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 24 and 7 p.m. Aug. 28. Country music also highlights two other nights of the fair.

On Aug. 25, at 7:30 p.m. there will be a free concert at the grandstand by country singer Jeannie Seely, a star of the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville and a native of Crawford County. The free concert also includes The Willis Clan as the opening act.

On Aug. 26 at 7:30 p.m. another country music concert is scheduled. The concert acts had not been named by the fair board as of the deadline for this article.

Tickets for both Jake Owen and Colt Ford, and the concert to be named, feature racetrack and grandstand seating options. Tickets currently are available online at crawfordcountyfairpa.com or startickets.com; or at the

Crawford County Courthouse, 903 Diamond Park, Meadville.

On Aug. 27, David Martin's Bullride Mania returns once again as the featured entertainment that evening. The performance, set for 7:30 p.m. at the grandstand, features bull riding and barrel racing.

The fair closes out its grandstand entertainment Aug. 29 with demolition derbies set at both 2 and 7 p.m. that day.

There also are a variety of other entertainment options.

An all-make car show is Aug. 23 at 10 a.m.

Traditional free viewing event at the fair — harness races — are scheduled for noon Aug. 24 through 27.

There also will be a horse pull at noon Aug. 28 at the

grandstand.

All the animals at the fair aren't in the livestock barns and pens, either.

The Zerbini Family Circus will return during fair week to perform free shows. The circus features aerial acts, juggling, balancing acts and animal acts.

There are literally hundreds of exhibits on the fairgrounds for people to see.

Livestock of all types are corralled at one end of the fairgrounds while at the other end are thousands of entries in such things as arts and crafts and photography to canned and baked goods to quilts.

There also are numerous special events including free educational forums and demonstrations throughout the fair schedule. ■

HARTSTOWN GOLF COURSE 2015 Season

SPECIALS

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

9 Holes Walk: \$7

9 Holes Ride: \$12

18 Holes Walk: \$13

18 Holes Ride \$18

RATES

	WEEKDAY	WEEKEND
9 Holes Walk:	\$9	\$9.50
9 Holes Ride:	\$14	\$14.50
18 Holes Walk:	\$17	\$18.00
18 Holes Ride:	\$24	\$25.00

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Hunting draws Crawford crowd

By **DAN WALK**
Meadville Tribune

Though the number of statewide deer harvests were down in 2014-15 for the first time in four years, hunting is a big boon in Crawford County and northwest Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania saw 303,973 deer harvested during the 2014-15 hunting seasons, according to Pennsylvania Game Commission harvest reports. Crawford County encompasses three Wildlife Management Units, 1A, 1B and 2F. 1A consists of southwest Crawford County, west-

ern Venango County and all of Mercer County, 1B includes most of Crawford County, all of Erie County and parts of Venango and Warren counties, and the southeastern tip of Crawford County is also part of WMU 2F. Those three units account for 42,500 of the state's deer harvests.

WMU 1B had some 5,800 antlered and 8,800 antlerless deer harvested in 2014-15, a drop from to 6,800 and 10,800, respectively, in 2013-14. WMU 1A saw 5,100 antlered and 10,800 antlerless deer shot in 2014-15 after the



previous season produced 6,400 and 13,900, respectively. There were nearly 12,000 deer harvests in 2F.

There is an abundance of wildlife to hunt throughout the area in addition to deer. Crawford County is known



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to have a good deal of water-fowl hunting and has Conneaut Lake, Canadohta Lake, Pymatuning Lake and Woodcock Lake, among others, to fish. The lakes are known for having a good number of muskies, bass and trout. Numerous groups hold both springtime fishing and ice fishing tournaments at

those lakes.

Since nearly all of the county is split into two units, it's important to know the differing rules depending on where you are hunting, fishing or trapping.

"You have to know where you're at all times and get your landowner permission," said John Crooks, a Crawford

County resident and Meadville Tribune outdoors writer who has been hunting for more than 50 years and has written for a number of outdoors publications. "Anywhere in the state when you're hunting you have to have landowner permission unless you're on a state game land" or national forest.

There are also about a dozen state gamelands in Crawford County.

Visit the Pennsylvania Game Commission's website at pgc.state.pa.us to learn all the rules and regulations within Crawford County's Wildlife Management Units and State Game Lands. ■

BINGO Directory

TUESDAYS

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Plenty of winter adventures on way

By **LORRI DRUMM**
Meadville Tribune

The Old Farmer's Almanac is predicting snow and cold temperatures for northwest Pennsylvania from November through February. This is not unusual or unwelcome news for local parks, towns and businesses as they offer fun activities regardless of what Mother Nature has in store.

Like clockwork, every year snow and ice transform Pymatuning Reservoir into a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. The largest lake in the commonwealth covers 17,088 acres. Pymatuning State Park offers ample areas for sledding, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. Ice fishing huts dot the frozen landscape with the most common catches being walleye, perch or crappie.

Adventurers can also enjoy iceboating, which is permitted everywhere on the lake.

Convenient access to the lake can be found near Linesville, Espyville and Jamestown.

Jamestown is the ideal setting for Winter Fun Days scheduled for Feb. 13 and 14.

The festival takes place at Pymatuning State Park at the Old Jamestown Beach, Jamestown. Winter anglers look forward to the ice fishing tournament sponsored by the Pymatuning Trailblazers Snowmobile Club.

Competition is fierce to capture the prize for the longest fish. Fire pits are conveniently located for warmth and conversation or just to take a break from snowshoeing. A frozen 5k run takes place during the festival also.

Thrill-seekers who require height and speed to satisfy their quest for fun can get their fix despite frosty temperatures. Bright red cheeks abound as tubers slide down the six 900 foot runs at AvalancheXpress, 15360 Middle Road in Meadville. Pass prices range from \$10 to \$25 and season passes are available.

This is the one time of year that you can have winter fun with the one and only Santa Claus. Two trips on Santa's Express are scheduled to depart from Perry Station, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville. Passengers can ride with Santa



through the Oil Creek Valley and enjoy cookies and hot chocolate when the train returns. Excursions are scheduled for Nov. 28 and Dec. 5. The calls for "All Aboard" are at 1 p.m. from Perry Street Station.

Snowmobiles, tubes, trains and iceboats all sound like fun ways to get around, but who wouldn't love a horse-drawn sleigh ride? Holly Hills Belgians offers two sizes of sleigh to accommodate an intimate gathering of up to four people or a group of up to 20. A typical ride through the



snowy countryside lasts 30 to 45 minutes. They are located at 19451 South Road, Spartansburg.

It's said that no two snowflakes are alike. There are plenty of reasons to get out and test this theory for yourself. ■



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Drake Well celebrates oil boom

By **EARL CORP**
Meadville Tribune

The staff at Drake Well Museum in the Titusville area invites the public to share in celebrating western Pennsylvania's oil boom town at the 150th anniversary of Pithole this summer.

"When you hear the story of Pithole and see the photos and the model, it makes one realize how quickly communities come and go," said Sue Beates, Drake Well Museum historian/curator.

Oil discoveries in January 1865 brought a large influx of people to the area who would become residents of Pithole. The town was laid out in May 1865, and by December it had an approximate population of 20,000. At its peak, Pithole had at least 54 hotels, three churches, the one of the state's largest post offices, a newspaper, a theater, a railroad, the world's first pipeline and a red-light district.

The town was at its peak for 500 days, Beates said. By 1866, oil discoveries in nearby communities and numerous fires drove residents away. The population dropped from 15,000 to 100 within seven years, Beates said.

Monthly activities scheduled at Pithole through the summer include Wildcatter's Day, an 1860s baseball game and lantern tours. All events are reflective of things that happened in Pithole. The Pithole events are on Saturdays and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from June to August.

"It's an opportunity to get a sense of what life was like in an oil boom town," Beates said.

Drake Well Museum, meanwhile, is a national historic landmark and the oil industry's

birthplace.

"It all started here," said Sarah Goodman, museum educator. "It's a great place to show the family oil is an integral part of their life. It's in everything they do."

The theme at Drake Well is "There's a drop of oil in your life every day."

The way the museum explores the theme is by increasing awareness of how fossil fuels play a role in everyday life and also by looking at what alternate energies are feasible. This is done through teaching contemporary issues regarding energy and using history to understand the country's reliance on oil.

"We now offer a wide variety of programming that piques everyone's interest — young and old," said Goodman. "There's a lot to see and do here. We're not just a museum — we're also a park."

What visitors will find there include a number of eco-friendly features that have been introduced to the museum's main exhibit building. Some of those features include energy-efficient windows; a sophisticated motion-activated lighting system; a floor made from recycled tires; and a geothermal heating and cooling system that utilizes 30 wells drilled 400 feet into the earth that pump heat into the building when it's cold out or pull heat out of the building when it's warm.

Outside on the grounds there are many exhibits with examples of antique oil field equipment and a replica of the famous oil well drilled by "Colonel" Edwin Drake in 1859. ■



SPECIAL EVENTS

• **JUNE 6** — Wildcatter Day at Pithole. Celebrate the opening of the Pithole visitation season and the 150th Anniversary of Pithole. Special performances by Men of Ivy, authors of the song "Pit-Hole City" and the Good For Nuthin String Band, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **JULY 13 to 17** — "It's All About Oil" Day Camp. Children entering grades four through six may participate in a hands-on history program and learn the ins and outs of working an oil lease, the environment and more. Registration is required.

• **JULY 26** — Vintage Baseball and Ice Cream Social. The Pittsburgh Franklins take on the Frosty Sons of Thunder in an 1860s rules baseball game. Enjoy an 1860s concert by the Indiana Brass Band from noon to 4 p.m.

• **AUG. 22** — Third Annual Drake Day Circus. Celebrate the birth of the modern petroleum industry and relive the excitement of an oil boom era circus from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the event is included with regular admission.

• **OCT. 2 and 3** — Pithole Lantern Tours. Pithole serves as the backdrop for an evening experience that brings oil histo-

ry to life. Visitors meet historical figures during a nighttime tour of the legendary oil boomtown, hear historical music, and enjoy seasonal refreshments and activities. Tours begin at 6:30 p.m.

SOMETHING MORE SATURDAYS

Enjoy unique hands-on activities and entertaining demonstrations not included in a typical visit to the museum from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **JUNE 13** — Music with the Elm Street Strummers

• **JULY 11** — Mobile Energy Education Training Unit (MEET-U)

• **AUG. 8** — Oil past and present. Discover progress in the exploration of oil.

YOU CAN GO

Drake Well Museum is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. at 202 Museum Lane, Titusville. Admission to the museum is \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens and \$5 for youth ages 3 to 11. Children younger than 3 are admitted for free. More information: Call (814) 827-2797.



Conneaut Lake busy year round

By JEAN SHANLEY
Meadville Tribune

As plans move forward for a major revitalization of Conneaut Lake, residents and visitors alike can still enjoy a wide variety of events in the town that has something special all year round.

Conneaut Lake is the state's largest natural lake and is known for its fishing. The lake also is a popular spot for boating, swimming and skiing as well as cruises on the lake each year. There's always fun in the sun on Fireman's Beach where people of all ages can soak in the rays on the beach — or in the water. Admission is

free other than a charge for parking vehicles.

While the lake is a natural attraction, Conneaut Lake has many other attractions.

The Conneaut Lake Area Historical Society Museum at 150 N. Third St. (just two blocks from Fireman's Beach) has exhibits ranging from woolly mammoth bones that are thousands of years old to an old speedboat. Both the bones and the speedboat were retrieved from the bottom of Conneaut Lake and are among the many display exhibits at the museum which is open from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays or by appointment.

Restaurants include national chain eateries as well as local specialties and range from fine dining with a view of the lake to fast food and traditional meals — all within a few minutes of the downtown area.

Ice House Park, with its many benches, provides the opportunity to relax and enjoy the beauty and spirit of the small town which offers so much.

Several churches provide a wide range of worship experiences.

Conneaut Cellars Winery not only offers fine wine to purchase, but also the opportunity to tour the winery and see how the wine is made.

Just three miles from the downtown area is the historic Conneaut Lake Park with its famous wooden Blue Streak rollercoaster, live pony rides and other attractions.

Golfing, bowling and other sports are available and there's even the Bark Park for those with dog to enjoy.

While summer is the busiest time for the borough, a new Christmas tree display with hundreds of lighted trees around the lake is attracting lots of visitors who see there is beauty all year round at the lake, which not only offers lots of things to see, but many things to do all year round. ■

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June 14th: Hunter's Safety Course.

From 8 am to 3 pm. Register online with the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

July 18th: Annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life Golf Outing
Will be held at Whispering Pines Golf Course. Pick up your registration form at the club or call to have one sent. Benefits the American Cancer Society, Relay For Life.

September 19th: Annual Waterfowl Festival

Retriever dog demos, raffles, trap shooting, food and crafts. Vendors needed for this event, please contact Mary at 814-683-4450 for more information.

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- The trail parallels the Conneaut Marsh and also runs along French Creek, home to nearly 70 species of fish and almost 30 species of mollusks.
- The trail's original right-of-way was donated by Calvin Ernst, owner of a neighboring business, Ernst Conservation Seeds.
- The trail is one of more than 80 former railroad lines in Pennsylvania that have been converted into popular hiking and biking trails, making it part of the Rails to Trails network.

By EARL CORP Meadville Tribune

Since 1997, as many as 60,000 visitors have enjoyed what Meadville area's Ernst Trail has to offer whether they're walking, jogging, biking or riding horses.

"It's a great way to get outside to walk or ride your bike through some pretty areas," French Creek Recreational Trails President Dick Eglinton said.

The seven miles of paved trailway winds through many biologically diverse areas through the French Creek Valley such as around hills, through marshes, alongside the creek or under a forest of thick pines.

Ernst Trail, which is maintained by volunteers, is open dawn to dusk year-round and follows a portion of the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad that was abandoned in the 1970s.

"A whole lot of people have put a lot

of work into it to get it where it's at today," Eglinton said.

An example of some of the work people did on the trail was the covered bridge located between Wilson Chutes Road and Bean's Auto.

"(The bridge is) kind of our signature thing," Eglinton said.

A two-mile extension was added to the trail in 2014. The extension was on the west end of the trail following the rail bed across Route 19, through a trailer court and left onto Bailey Road. The last 600 yards of the addition cuts through a field and around a pond, according to Eglinton.

"It's kind of pretty, a lot of people like it," Eglinton said.

There is a hemlock grove along the trail on Bailey Road.

"It's nice and cool there," Eglinton said.

The trail has four access points: Next to Bean's Auto on Conneaut Lake Road

(Route 322); on Mercer Pike near Wilson Chutes Road; on Krider Road near Perry Highway (Route 19); and the newest trailhead on Bailey Road near its intersection with South Watson Run Road. Eglinton said there are parking areas at all four access points.

Those wishing to help maintain the trail may adopt a portion of it.

Available in half-mile sections, those who adopt may mow grass, pick up branches and keep the trail litter-free. There are a number of sections available for adoption.

The FCRT hopes to connect the eastern end of the trail to Bicentennial Park in Meadville by winding the trail along French Creek through Kerrtown. The FCRT expects to expand the trail under Smock Bridge this year, Eglinton said.

Those wishing to volunteer or adopt a portion of the trail may contact the FCRT through its website, ernsttrail.org, or call Eglinton at 814-763-5002. ■

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VARIOUS DATES IN MAY

• 'Marriage is Murder,' Riverside Inn & Dinner Theatre, One Fountain Ave., Cambridge Springs. Information: Call (814) 398-4645 or visit theriversideinn.com.

MAY 21

• Heritage Lecture Series - 19th Century Mourning, Drake Well Museum, 202 Museum Lane, Titusville. Discover mourning fashion and practices during the Civil War. By Linda Gray. Information: Call (814) 827-2797 or visit drakewell.org

MAY 22

• 'Whatta Wedding,' Riverside Inn & Dinner Theatre, One Fountain Ave., Cambridge Springs. Information: Call (814)

398-4645 or visit theriversideinn.com.

• Conneaut Lake Park opening day, Conneaut Lake. Visit new-conneautlakepark.com for details regarding the park schedule, events, etc. Information: Call (814) 382-5115.

MAY 22 TO 24

• 20th Annual Townwide Yard Sale, Linesville, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Join in the fun and maybe find some treasures. Information: Visit linesville.org.

MAY 22 AND 29

• 'Movie Mayhem,' Riverside Inn & Dinner Theatre, One Fountain Ave., Cambridge Springs. Information: Call (814) 398-4645 or visit theriversideinn.com.

MAY 23 AND 24

• Wilhelm Winery "Start of Summer Wine Fest," 590 Georgetown Road, Hadley. Enjoy tastings, tours, food and fun for all, rain or shine. Free admission. Information: Call

(724) 253-3700 or visit wilhelmwinery.com.

VARIOUS DATES IN MAY AND JUNE

• 'I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change,' Riverside Inn & Dinner Theatre, One Fountain Ave., Cambridge Springs. Information: Call (814) 398-4645 or visit theriversideinn.com.

JUNE 6

• Pioneer Steam & Gas Engine Society Spring Antique Tractor Pull, society grounds, Route 198 (just off the Interstate 79 Saegertown exit). Information: Call (814) 663-1291 or visit pioneersteamandgas.com
 • Opening Day at Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville. Train departs at 1 p.m. for a three-hour round trip through "the valley that changed the world." Call (814) 676 1733 for reservations or visit octrr.org.

JUNE 7

• Celebrity Autographed Memorabilia Auction,

Meadville Sertoma Club, 14420 Baldwin Street Extension, Meadville. Crawford Area Scholarships Inc. was formed as a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation in 1999. Its goal is to help area students continue their educations by providing merit-based scholarship grants. Information: Call (814) 336-8554 or visit crawford-scholarships.org.

JUNE 12 AND 13

• Relay for Life of Titusville, Carter Field, Titusville. The public is welcome to participate in this festival fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Information: Call (814) 827-2941 or visit titusvillechamber.com.

JUNE 13 AND 14

• Bike MS, Allegheny College, Meadville. Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of BikeMS. Join the people who are dedicated to finding a cure. Register at BikeMS.org. Information: Call (800) 344-4867.



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JUNE 14

• One Day Museum at Perry Street Station, Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville. Visit the many booths that will feature a large display of local World War II memorabilia. This free display is sponsored by the Titusville Historical Society. Information: Call (814) 827-0928 or visit octr.org.

JUNE 18 TO 21

• Thurston Classic Hot Air Balloon Event, Allegheny College, Robertson Field, Meadville. The weekend festivities begin with the Night Glow on June 18. Also available are official souvenirs and food vendors. Information: Call (814) 336-4000 or visit thurstonclassic.com

VARIOUS DATES IN JUNE

• 'The Full Monty,' Academy

Theatre, 275 Chestnut St., Meadville. Information: Call (814) 337-8000 or visit theacademytheatre.org.

JUNE 20

• Blues Festival, Conneaut Cellars Winery, 12005 Conneaut Lake Road, Conneaut Lake. Pick up a chilled bottle of wine and then sit back and enjoy the sounds of two local bands. Tents will be provided for shade or protection from the rain. Noon to 6 p.m. Gate cover charge is \$7 for adults. Information: Call (814) 382-3999 or visit ccw-wine.com.

JUNE 20 AND 21

• Fourth Annual Train Show and Sale, Perry Street Station, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville. Vendors showcase their newest train cars, tracks, pictures, shirts, books and other items. No charge with the purchase of train tickets. Information: Call (814) 676-1733 or visit octr.org.
• Conneaut Lake Classic Boat Show, Ice House Park

Waterfront, Conneaut Lake. Special displays of antique Century racing boats, an original Century construction buck and other factory items, plus a vintage waterskiing display. June 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and June 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free and all are welcome. Information: Visit centuryclassicpowerboat.com/allegheeny/all0.htm.

JUNE 21

• 18th Annual Fly-In/Drive-In, Port Meadville Airport, 16306 Corporate Dr., Meadville. Old and new aircraft, classic and antique cars, motorcycles, remote controlled airplanes and more. Airplane and helicopter rides are available. Free admission. Breakfast and lunch are available for a fee. Information: Call (814) 333-2677 or visit 1194.eeachapter.org.
• Father's Day Special at OC&T, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville. Take Dad to ride on the OC&T for \$10 with the purchase of a full-price admission. Good for coach seat-

ing. Train departs at 1 p.m. Call (814) 676-1733 for reservations or visit octr.org.

JUNE 27 AND 28

• Pioneer Frolic Festival, Marina at Lake Wilhelm, Maurice K Goddard State Park, 684 Lake Wilhelm Road, Sandy Lake. Celebrating the lives of the early pioneers of Sandy Creek Valley, from 1750 to 1840. Period costumes, demonstrations, music, vendors, food and encampment set-up. Hours are June 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and June 28 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parking and admission are free. Information: Call (724) 253-4833 or visit stateparks.com/maurice_k_goddard_state_park_in_pennsylvania.html.

JULY 3 AND 4

• Salute To America, Riverside Inn & Dinner Theatre, One Fountain Ave., Cambridge Springs. Ignite a patriotic spirit at the star-spangled salute. Information: Call (814) 398-4645 or visit theiriversideinn.com.

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JULY 7 AND 8

• Great American Songbook, Riverside Inn & Dinner Theatre, One Fountain Ave., Cambridge Springs. Information: Call (814) 398-4645 or visit theriversideinn.com.

VARIOUS DATES IN JULY

• 'Peeved,' Riverside Inn & Dinner Theatre, One Fountain Ave., Cambridge Springs. Information: Call (814) 398-4645 or visit theriversideinn.com.

JULY 10 TO 12

• HOTAfest 2015, Titusville. The Heart of the Arts Folk Festival is for musicians and visual artists. It features hands-on workshops that celebrate bluegrass, Irish Celtic, gospel, Scottish, Civil War, folk and mountain genres, including visual arts and crafts. Information: Call (814) 827-2381.

JULY 13 TO 17

• 'It's All About the Oil' Day Camp, Drake Well Museum, 202 Museum Lane, Titusville. Children entering grades four through six may participate in this hands-on-history program and learn the ins and outs of working an oil lease, the environment and more. Registration required and fees apply. Information: Call (814) 827-2797 or visit drakewell.org.

JULY 17

• Wine Tasting & Speeder Rides, Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville. An event that's 6 to 9 p.m., including the opportunity to take a mini ride on one of the speeder cars (track repair cars). Information: Call (814) 676-1733 or visit octrr.org.

JULY 17 TO 19

• Pioneer Steam & Gas Engine Society Summer Show, Route 198 just west of Exit 154 off Interstate 79. The show features Allis-Chalmers and engines made in Iowa. Information: Call (814) 663-1291 or visit pio-

neerandgas.com

JULY 18 AND 19

• Festival of the Arts, Conneaut Lake Park, Conneaut Lake. Works of art, entertainment and food vendors. Information: Call (814) 853-5833 or visit conneaut-lake.com.

JULY 20

• 26th Annual Wesbury Chicken BBQ & Craft Fair, Wesbury, 31 N. Park Ave., Meadville. From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the event includes a family fun zone with games and train rides, outdoor and indoor entertainment, crafters and other vendors, and an antique and classic car cruise-in. Sunset Auxiliary holds its annual rummage, book and bake sale. There are chicken and rib dinners on sale. Information: Call (814) 332-9264 or visit wesbury.com/wesbury-foundation-events.php.

JULY 25

• Muddy and Messy 5k, Shadyside Campground, 11594 Harmonsburg Road, Conneaut

Lake. Muddy and Messy is an extreme and fun mud obstacle run set in the tranquility of Pennsylvanian woodlands. Slog through mud and pull yourself up hills during a 5k running adventure. Information: Visit muddyandmessy.com.

JULY 31 AND AUG. 1

• Thunder in the City Classic Car & Bike Show, downtown Meadville. The event features classic cars, bikes, bands, food, vendors and more. Information: Call (814) 337-8030 or visit meadvillethunder.com.

AUG. 1

• Movie Mayhem "The Final Take," OC & T Railroad, Perry Street Station, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville. Information: Call (814) 676-1733 or visit octrr.org.

AUG. 1 AND 2

• Kids Free Fishing Derby, Pymatuning Lake Association Pavilion at the Espyville Boat Launch. Registration times are Aug. 1 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Aug. 2 from 8 to 11 a.m. Limit is

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VARIOUS DATES IN AUGUST

• 'The Odd Couple - The Female Version,' Riverside Inn & Dinner Theatre, One Fountain Ave., Cambridge Springs. Information: Call (814) 398-4645 or visit theriversideinn.com.

AUG. 7 AND 8

• Titusville Oil Festival, downtown Titusville. Food and craft vendors, a Wine Walk, antique car show, kids' activities, beer festival, live music and fire-works. Information: Call (814) 827-2941 or visit titusvillechamber.com.

AUG. 8

• Conneautville's 15th Annual Conneaut Valley Canal Park Summer Music Festival, Route 18, Conneautville. Event features music, educational demonstrations of turn-of-the-century crafts, historical games, teepee tours and food. Information: Call (814) 587-3598.

• Speeder Excursions through the valley, Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville. Ride on one of the vintage track repair cars either 9 a.m. or 6 p.m. Reservations required, no one younger than 6 years of age. Information: Call (814) 676-1733 or visit octr.org.

AUG. 15 AND 16

• Music at the Marina at Lake Wilhelm, Maurice K Goddard State Park, 684 Lake Wilhelm Road, Sandy Lake. A variety of music styles; hot food and soft drinks available for purchase. Crafters also have items for sale. Hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission and parking are free. Donations are welcome and ben-

efit Friends of Goddard State Park. Information: Call (724) 253-4833 or visit stateparks.com/maurice_k_goddard_state_park_in_pennsylvania.html.

AUG. 21

• 'The Roaring '20s Speakeasy,' Riverside Inn & Dinner Theatre, One Fountain Ave., Cambridge Springs. A password is necessary to get into the room, where there will be dime dancers, mobsters and games of chance on which to gamble (play) money. After gaming, the room becomes a supper club complete with vaudevilian entertainment and period music. Information: Call (814) 398-4645 or visit theriversideinn.com.

AUG. 22

• Drake Day Circus, Drake Well Museum, 202 Museum Lane, Titusville. Relive the excitement of an oil boom era circus. Visitors will enjoy jugglers, fire eaters, acrobats, magicians, animals, 19th century games, artisan

demonstrations, re-enactors, music, food and more. Event included with regular admission fees. Special family admission rate of up to two adults and three children for \$20. Information: Call (814) 827-2797 or visit drakewell.org

AUG. 22 TO 29

• Crawford County Fair, Crawford County Fair Grounds, Meadville. The largest agricultural fair in Pennsylvania. The fair features plenty of amusement rides, displays, lots of good food, truck and tractor pulls, demolition derbies, agricultural and livestock entries and judging. The fair also features big name and local entertainers. Information: Call (814) 333-7400 or visit crawford-countyfairpa.com.

AUG. 29

• Murder Mystery Dinner Train Ride: "Murder in the Sixth Sense," OC & T Railroad, Perry Street Station, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville. Information: Call (814) 676-1733 or visit octr.org.



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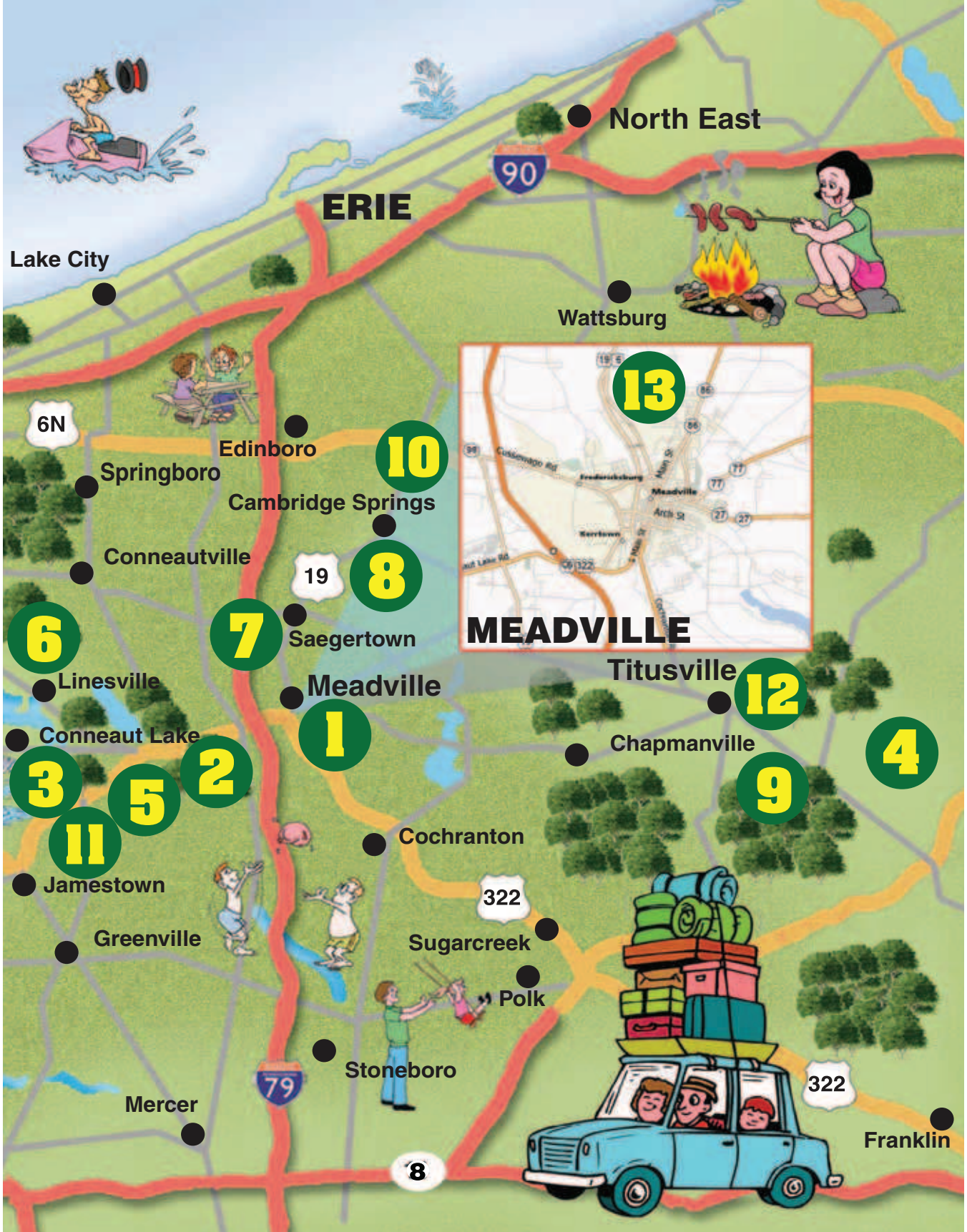
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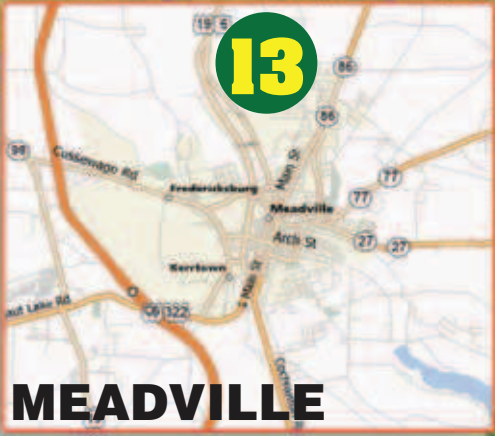




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| B. Ashtabula Towne Square | L. Saybrook Plaza | 8. Northwestern Rural Electric |
| C. Cherry Valley Furniture | 1. Armstrong Cable Services | 9. Oil Creek Railroad |
| D. Conneaut Dairy Queen | 2. Community Chevrolet | 10. Riverside Inn |
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| I. Harbor Merchants | 5. Homewood Furniture | 13. Wesbury |
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VARIOUS DATES IN SEPTEMBER

• 'I Do! I Do!' Riverside Inn & Dinner Theatre, One Fountain Ave., Cambridge Springs. Information: Call (814) 398-4645 or visit theriversideinn.com.
 • 'All That Jazz,' Riverside Inn & Dinner Theatre, One Fountain Ave., Cambridge Springs. An evening of jazz featuring some of the area's favorite singers and musicians. Information: Call (814) 398-4645 or visit theriversideinn.com

SEPT. 5 AND 6

• Wilhelm Winery "End of Summer Wine Fest," 590 Georgetown Road, Hadley. Enjoy tastings, tours, food and fun for all, rain or shine. Free admission. Information: Call (724) 253-3700 or visit wilhemwinery.com.

SEPT. 12

• Fourth Annual ICC Operation Wounded Vetz Rock n Blues Dice Run and Crawl, Italian Civic Club, 869 Water St., Meadville. The event includes the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2006 Color Guard flag presentation, a performance from the VFW Post 2006 Memorial Pipe Band, spaghetti dinner, live bands, special raffles and a pick-a-prize auction. Information: Call (814) 337-5422.

SEPT. 12 AND 26

• Medvale High School Mayhem "Class of 1985 30th Reunion," OC & T Railroad, Perry Street Station, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville. Information: Call (814) 676-1733 or visit octrr.org.

SEPT. 13

• Conneaut Cellars Winery Harvest Picnic, 12005 Conneaut Lake Road, Conneaut Lake. The 25th Annual Harvest Family Picnic includes wine samples, free food, face painting and balloons. Additional case discounts will be available all weekend. The picnic is from noon to 5 p.m. Information: Call (814) 382-3999 or visit ccw-wine.com.

SEPT. 17

• Heritage Lecture Series - Civil War Era Music, Drake Well Museum, 202 Museum Lane, Titusville. By Thomas Jolin. Performing on hammered dulcimer, button accordion, harmonica and banjo, Jolin shares 'Lincoln and Liberty,' 'Battle Cry of Freedom,' 'No More Auction Block' and more. Information: Call (814) 827-2797 or visit drakewell.org

SEPT. 19

• Fall Gas Up, Drake Well Museum, 202 Museum Lane, Titusville. The gas-up is sponsored by the Pioneer Steam and Gas Engine Society, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Displays include antique engines, farm and oil field equipment, cars, trucks and models. Regular admission fees apply. Information: Call (814) 827-2791 or visit drakewell.org.

SEPT. 26

• Murder Mystery Dinner "Class of 1985 30th Reunion," Perry Street Station, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville. Information: Call (814) 676-1733 or visit octrr.org.
 • Bethesda's Charity Mud Run, 15487 Route 86, Meadville. This is a family friendly event features a full 5k run and/or walk, and for those younger than 12 we offer a Mini Muddy course. Information: Call (814) 724-7510 or visit tougherthanyourmudder.com.

OCT. 2 AND 3, 9 AND 10

• Seventh Annual Spooktacular, Pymatuning State Park, Jamestown Campground Information: Call (724) 927-9493 or visit pymatuninglake.com.

VARIOUS DATES IN OCTOBER, NOVEMBER

• 26th Annual Medieval Feast, Riverside Inn & Dinner Theatre, One Fountain Ave., Cambridge Springs. Information: Call (814) 398-4645 or visit theriversideinn.com.

OCT. 9 TO 11

• 25th Annual Fall Pumpkin Fest, Conneaut Lake Park, Conneaut Lake. Family orientated festival packed full of rides, food, giant pumpkin drops, entertainment, artisans and crafters, a bluegrass and arts festival and more. Information: Call (814) 853-5833 or visit

pumpkinfest.conneautlake.com.

OCT. 10

• Pioneer Steam & Gas Engine Society Fall Harvest Show, Route 198 just west of exit 154 off Interstate 79. Featuring Case tractors and steam engines, as well as Hercules/economy engines. Plenty of tractors and equipment, some horses, mini-horses, llamas, goats and other animals. Many demonstrations and workings. Tractor and kiddie pulls. Plenty of festival and home-cooked food. Apple cider demonstrations and fall harvest. Information: Call (814) 663-1291 or visit pioneersteamandgas.com.

VARIOUS DATES IN OCTOBER, NOVEMBER

• 'Medvale High School Mayhem,' Riverside Inn & Dinner Theatre, One Fountain Ave., Cambridge Springs. Information: Call (814) 398-4645 or visit theriversideinn.com

OCT. 23

• 'Match Game Live!' Riverside Inn & Dinner Theatre, One Fountain Ave., Cambridge Springs. The iconic 1970s TV game show returns in its glory Information: Call (814) 398-4645 or visit theriversideinn.com.

OCT. 24

• "Train of Terror - The Final Stop," OC & T Railroad, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville. Information: Call (814) 676-1733 or visit octrr.org.

OCT. 31

• 49th Annual Halloween Parade, downtown Meadville. The Crawford Area Young Chamber of Commerce invites the public to take a turn support-

ing the community in Pennsylvania's largest nighttime parade by registering, sponsoring or coming downtown to support the event. Information: Call (814) 720-2891 or visit meadvillehalloweenparade.com.

NOV. 28 AND DEC. 5

• Santa Express, OC & T, Perry Street Station, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville. Join Santa and all his helpers for a trip through Oil Creek State Park. Information: Call (814) 676-1733 or visit octrr.org.

VARIOUS DATES IN NOVEMBER, DECEMBER

• 'A Taffeta Christmas,' Riverside Inn & Dinner Theatre, One Fountain Ave., Cambridge Springs. Information: Call (814) 398-4645 or visit theriversideinn.com.

DEC. 3 TO 5

• Home for the Holidays, downtown Titusville. Experience the wonder of the holidays in downtown Titusville with a live nativity, home tours, horse drawn covered wagon rides, shopping and dining specials, live entertainment, and the huge Holiday Light Display at Burgess Park. Information: Call (814) 827-9241 or visit titusvillechamber.com.

DEC. 11 AND 12

• 'Fezziwig's Christmas Party-A Christmas Carol,' Baldwin-Reynolds House Museum, 639 Terrace St., Meadville. The party includes a full dinner, music, and everyone from Scrooge to Bob Cratchit in attendance. Information: Call (814) 333-9882 or (814) 333-1258 or visit baldwinreynolds.org.



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MAY 22-SEPT. 12

Craft Show at Old Firehouse Winery, 5499 Lake Road E. Geneva-on-the-Lake. Contact information: 440-466-9300. Every Saturday in the summer on The Landing Festival Plaza, noon to 8 p.m.

MAY 23-SEPT. 12

Outdoor Flea Market and Craft Show, Geneva-on-the-Lake Visitors Bureau, 5536 Lake Road. Contact information: 440-466-8600 Every Saturday through Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MAY 23-25

Opening of the 146th Summer at Geneva-on-the-Lake. Contact information:

440-466-8600 or www.VisitGenevaontheLake.com

MAY 22- SEPT. 7

Conneaut Railroad Museum, 363 Depot St. Contact information: 440-599-7878.

MAY 22-24

Spring Dance Recital, Conneaut Arts Center, 1025 Buffalo St. Dancers on stage, everything from ballet to hip-hop. Contact information: 440-593-5888.

MAY 25

Memorial Day Parade, Saybrook Township, 7247 Center Road, starting at 8:30 a.m. Contact information: 440-969-1106

MAY 27-SEPT. 30

Tethered Hot Air Balloon Rides, Debonne Vineyards, 7840 Doty Road in Madison Township. Every other Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. Reservations only. Contact information: 440-466-3485.

MAY 28

Chalk the Walk, Downtown Geneva Pavilion, Geneva, chalk drawing on sidewalks for children and adults.

MAY 30

Tour de State Line, Conneaut Arts Center. Bike Tour beginning and ending at the Conneaut Arts Center with different lengths. Contact information:

440-593-5888

MAY-SEPTEMBER

Lighthouse Cruisers Cruise-Ins, Every Thursday evening, classic cars at Conneaut Township Park, 480 Lake Road Conneaut. Contact information: www.visitconneautohio.com.

MAY-SEPTEMBER

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JUNE 1-OCT. 15

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JUNE 9-AUG. 4

Lakefront Summer Concert Series, Geneva Township Park, 7 p.m. every Tuesday. Contact information: 440-466-8600.

JUNE 16, 23, 30

June Movie Nights, 9 p.m.,

Memorial Field-Eastwood Street, Geneva. Contact information: www.genevaohio.com

JUNE 17-24

June Brown Bag Lunches, noon Geneva Pavilion-East Main St., Geneva. Contact information: www.genevaohio.com.

JUNE 18-25

June Community Concerts, 7 p.m. Geneva Pavilion-West Main St., Geneva. Contact information: www.genevaohio.com.

JUNE 19-21

Native American Indian Powwow, Eastern Lenape Indian Nation, 4026 St. Route 322, Wayne Township. A weekend of Native American Indian traditions, ceremonies, music, dances, drums, history lessons, storytelling, food, artifacts. Open all day. Contact information: 440-992-7397

JUNE 20-21

28th Strawberry Festival-

Craft Bazaar, Jefferson Depot Village, 147 E. Jefferson St. Jefferson. Craft show, strawberry shortcake, quilt show, live entertainment, kids' corner free games, food, 19th century village building tours. Contact information: 440-812-1100.

JUNE 20

Crafts and Corks Crawl, Debonne Vineyards, 7840 Doty Road, Madison. Juried craft shows, live entertainment, free admission. Contact information: 440-466-3485.

JUNE 20-AUG. 26

Movies Under the Stars, 6006 Academy St., Kingsville, free admission, check for times. Contact information: 440-224-0239.

JUNE 21

Antique and Classic Car Show, Jefferson Depot Village. Contact information 614-507-5246.

JUNE 28

Fifth annual Bark at the

Bridge, Harpersfield Covered Bridge, 1-3:30 p.m. There will be a 1-mile dog walk at 1 p.m., Chinese auction, music, prizes, dog and children's games.

JUNE 28-AUG. 21

Summer Concerts, Conneaut Arts Center, 1025 Buffalo St. Free concerts begin 7 p.m. except August at 6:30 p.m. and D-Day Concert at 6 p.m. Contact information: 440-593-5888.

JUNE TBA

- Downtown Sock Hock, Main Street, Conneaut, Live music and cruise-in. Contact information: www.visitconneautohio.com.

- Bike MS: Escape to the Lake, Conneaut Township Park. A thousand cyclists riding to raise funds for MS research. Contact information: www.visitconneautohio.com.

- Jam Fest, Evergreen Lake Park, 703 Center Road, Conneaut. Contact information: 440-599-8802.

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FOUR SEASONS OF FUN

• Soap Box Derby, Broad Street Underpass, Conneaut. Qualifier in Conneaut in early June. Check website for date and time. Contact information: www.visitconneautohio.com.

JUNE-SEPTEMBER

Farmer's Market, 280 Park St., Conneaut, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. Contact information: www.visitconneautohio.com.

JULY 1-4

Conneaut Fourth Of July Festival, Lakeview Park, Conneaut. Rides, games, food, entertainment and fireworks at 10:15 p.m. Contact information: 440-862-3973.

JULY

July Community Concerts, 7 p.m. Every Thursday in July, Geneva Pavilion-West Main Street. Contact information:

www.genevaohio.com.

JULY 3-5

Ashtabula County Antique Engine Club's 34th annual show, 4026 St., Route 322, Wayne Township. Tractors, engines, antique cars, trucks, blacksmith, sawmill museums, school house, country store, crafts, displays, flea market, music, food, concerts. Tractor Pull at 6 p.m. Friday; concert at 6 p.m. Saturday; concert at 9 a.m. Sunday. Contact information: 440-576-5418.

JULY 3

Block Party, Geneva area. Event features music, food, games. Visit www.connect534.com for details.

JULY 4

Independence Day Fireworks, Geneva-on-the-Lake Kiwanis Club, 10 p.m. at the Golf Course or from The Strip. Contact information: 440-466-8600.

JULY 11-12

1890 "Early America LIVE" Festival, Jefferson Depot Village, opening at 11 a.m. Costumed interpreters bring back memories in Historic 19th Century Depot Village buildings. Early skills, games, school, circuit-rider pastor on horseback, fashions, herbs, food, gospel hymns, Dixieland band, blacksmith shop, tavern. Contact information: 440-812-1100

JULY 11-AUG. 16

Great Lake Medieval Faire, 3033 State Route 534, Rock Creek. Saturdays and Sundays, 13th century theme-park, juried crafts, artisans, rides, interactive games and food. From 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

JULY 14, 21, 28

July Movie Nights, 9 p.m. Memorial Field-Eastwood Street, Geneva Contact information: www.genevaohio.com.

JULY 15, 22, 29

July Brown Bag Lunches, noon at Geneva Pavilion-West

Main Street, Geneva. Contact information: www.genevaohio.com.

JULY 18

Ashtabula Lighthouse annual Fish Fry, sponsored by Ashtabula Lighthouse Restoration and Preservation Society, Lake Shore Park, Route 531, Ashtabula. Lighthouse tours from 2-7 p.m. Contact information: 440-224-0750

JULY 24-25

Downtown Geneva Sidewalk Sale, Downtown Geneva. Contact information: www.visitgenevaoh.com

JULY 25

• 5K Windmill Walk/Run, Conneaut Arts Center and Conneaut Human Resources Center, 1025 Buffalo St. Conneaut. Contact information: 440-593-5888 or 440-593-5273.

AUG. 4, 11, 18

August Movie Nights. 9 p.m.

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2015 Events



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24th Annual Flea Market
June 6 - 9am-4pm

Old Glory Day
July 4 - 1-4pm

35th Annual Arts Festival
August 2 - 10am-5pm

Wine Fest
August 6 - 10am-3pm
(Downtown Flea Market 10-1)



Chardon Square Association
P.O. Box 1063, Chardon, OH • 440-285-3519

FOUR SEASONS OF FUN

Memorial Field-Eastwood Street, Geneva. Contact information: www.genevaohio.com.

AUG. 5, 12, 19

August Brown Bag Lunches, noon, Geneva Pavilion-West Main Street, Geneva. Contact information: www.genevaohio.com.

AUGUST

August Community Concerts, 7 p.m. Thursdays, Geneva Pavilion-West Main Street, Geneva. Contact information: www.genevaohio.com.

AUG. 7-8

Vintage Ohio 2015, Ohio Wine Producers Association, 33 Tegam Way, Geneva. Summer wine and food festival with more than 30,000 wine and food lovers travel to the beautiful grounds of the Lake Metroparks Farmpark in Kirtland. Contact

information: 800-227-6972.

AUG. 11-16

Ashtabula County Fair, 127 N. Elm St. Jefferson. Fair displays, livestock and draft horses, tractor truck pulls, demo derby, harness racing and more. Contact information 440-576-7626.

AUG. 15

Classic Car Show, Debonne Vineyards, 7840 Doty Road, Madison, for cars 25 years or older, with awards given out. Event is 1-5 p.m. Contact Dave Payne at 440-997-7751.

AUG. 15

Bridges and Vines Bicycle Tour to support the United Way of Ashtabula County. Bicycle rides of 12, 25, 39 and 65 miles starting and ending in Ashtabula County wine country. Contact information: 440-998-4141

AUG. 21-22

D-Day Reenactment, Conneaut Township Park, 480 Lake Road, Conneaut. Hundreds of re-enactors storm Normandy beach with

authentic equipment — planes, boats and bombs. Weekend also features a Patriotic Concert, USO Dance and more. Contact information: (419) 350-6354

AUG. 21-22

Annual Bluegrass Festival, 4026 Route 322, Wayne Township at the Ashtabula County Antique Engine Club's Show Grounds. Bluegrass music and food. 6 p.m. to midnight Friday. Noon to midnight Saturday. Contact information: (330) 442-3377.

AUG. 29

Celtic Feis 2015, the Landing Lakefront Market Place, 5481 Lake Road E., Geneva-on-the-Lake. Adjacent to the Old Firehouse Winery, northeast Ohio's largest Scottish and Irish Festival, in its 27th year. Entertainment, music, food and merchandise. Free admission. Contact information: 440-466-9300

SEPT. 5-6

Labor Day Weekend Arts and Crafts Fair, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Ashtabula County Antique Engine Club, 4026 Route 322, Wayne Township, rain or shine. Contact information: 440-293-6997.

SEPT. 5-NOV. 1

Corn Maze Family Fun Days, Regal Vineyards 2678 Countyline Road, Geneva/Madison. Contact information: 440-812-4936.

SEPT. 9-13

Thunder on the Strip, Geneva-on-the-Lake. Contact information: 440-466-1768

SEPT. 11-13

• Sixth annual Amateur Rib Burn Off and Chili Cook Off, Conneaut Lakeview Park, Conneaut. Local ribbers, food vendors, crafters and entertainment daily. Contact information: 440-593-5273

• Austinburg Country Days, corners of Route 45 and Route 307, Austinburg. Food, entertainment, yard games and contests, live bands, Chinese auction, children's games, children's pet show, beer tent, crafters, car show, antique engine show. Contact information: www.AustinburgCountryDays.com

SEPT. 12-13

Seventh Annual Crafts in the Park, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lake Shore Park, Ashtabula. More than 100 juried crafters from Ohio and Pennsylvania, jewelry, beach glass, florals, maple syrup and jellies and jams. Contact information: 440-645-5740

SEPT. 13

Annual Car Show 9 a.m. at Ashtabula County Antique Engine Club, 4026 Route 322 Wayne Township. The Lakelands Region Chapter of the AACA, antique car and truck show, swap meet, crafts, music, food and more. Contact information: (330) 638-1823

SEPT. 18-20

13th annual Lakeshore Park Rib Burn Off, 1700 E. First St. Ashtabula. National and local ribbers compete for the title of best ribs along with many other concession foods. Live band entertainment. Contact Information: 440-964-3819.

SEPT. 19

18th annual Fall Show, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 4026 Route 322 Wayne Township. Displays, demonstrations, tractors, engines, antique cars and trucks, museums, garden tractor pulls, flea market. Contact information: 440-576-5418

SEPT. 19-27

Fall Fun Weekends, Ridgeview Farm, 5488 Kinsman, Middlefield. Contact information: 440-693-4000

SEPT. 26-27

Geneva Area Grape Jamboree. Celebrate the grape harvest at one of Ohio's largest outdoor festivals. Contact information: 440-466-5262

OCT. 1

October Scavenger Hunt. Contact information: www.genevaohio.com

OCT. 3

Mesopotamia Fall Heritage Day, 8719 Route 534, Mesopotamia. Craftsmanship from local Amish and Yankee artisans, Amish bake sale, quilting, traditional crafts, leather working. Contact information: 440-693-4295



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FOUR SEASONS OF FUN

OCT. 4 AND 11

Covered Bridge Trolley Tour and Cavatelli Dinner.

Educational tour to a select number of Ashtabula County's historic covered bridges. Contact information: 440-466-8466

OCT. 23-31

Fall Production, Conneaut Arts Center, 1025 Buffalo St., Conneaut. Contact information: 440-593-5888

OCT. 24

Ghoulfest, Downtown Geneva. Ghoulfest Parade, pumpkin contest, Haunted House, Games in the Bay, Trunk-or-Treat, volleyball and softball tournaments, non-perishable food collection and more. Contact information: www.genevaohio.com

NOV. 6-7

Holiday Art and Craft Market,

Conneaut Arts Center, 1025 Buffalo St., Conneaut. Vendors and crafters, Friday night Perch Dinner, Saturday lunch counter. Contact information: 440-593-5888

NOV. 7

Winegrowers of Grand River Valley Turkey Trot, 1-5 p.m. 5750 S. Madison Road. Contact information: 440-298-9838

NOV. 11

Veteran's Day Ceremony, Main Street, Conneaut Contact information: www.visitconneautohio.com.

NOV. 20

Enchanted Christmas Celebration and Parade, 5:30-8 p.m. Festivities start in Lance Cpl. Kevin M. Cornelius Park with entertainment in the Gazebo. "Lighting of the Trees" unveiling ceremony for the sixth annual tree competition. Downtown Ashtabula Christmas Parade featuring floats, bands, carolers, dance groups and Santa. Contact information: 440-812-6670

NOV. 27-DEC. 27

Ashtabula County's Lights on the Lake, 1700 E. First St., Ashtabula. Largest holiday lighting display on Lake Erie at Lakeshore Park. 6-9 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays; 6-8 p.m. on holidays. Contact information: 440-993-1051

NOV. 27

Christmas Parade and Lights of Love Ceremony, Broad Street-Main Street, Conneaut. Santa rides down Broad and Main in his sleigh and those lost are honored at Lights of Love Ceremony. Contact information: www.visitconneautohio.com

DEC. 4

Geneva Hometown Christmas Parade, Downtown Geneva. Parade at 7 p.m., window decorating contest, Christmas shopping, wagon rides, visit Santa at Geneva Rec Center. Contact information: www.visitgenevaoh.com.

DEC. 5

An Old-Fashioned Williamsburg

Christmas Celebration, 3-5 p.m. Jefferson Depot Village. Sleigh bell wagon rides, piñata, ice sculpture, early games, caroling, make an ornament, gingerbread house contest, Christmas stories at Historic 19th Century Jefferson Depot Village. Contact information: 440-812-1100

DEC. 5

• Reindeer Romp, Gingerbread Fantasy from 5-6 p.m. Candlelight Walk, Jefferson Depot Village. Candlelight Walk through historic 19th Century Depot Village, live Nativity in 1849 Church Barn, Gingerbread Fantasy in Depot, 1888 Victorian House. Contact information: 440-812-1100

DEC. 6

• Crafts Corks and Christmas, Grand River Cellars Winery and Restaurant, 5750 S. Madison Road. Two rooms filled with juried crafters, live music. Contact information: 440-298-9838.

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MAY-AUGUST

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MAY-MID-OCTOBER

9 a.m. to noon, every Saturday, Geauga Fresh Farmers Market, Route 306 and Bell Street, South Russell, Ohio. Visit www.geaugafarmersmarket.com

MAY 23-24

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Civil War Reenactment at Century Village Museum, Burton. Reenactors will be in authentic period dress. This year is the 30th annual reenactment and will feature Historic Artisans, artillery battles,

education programs and traditional music. Call 440-834-1492 or visit www.centuryvillagemuseum.org.

MAY 30

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every last Saturday of the month, Saturdays in the Country, Burton Park. Event includes crafters, artisans, collectables, a farmers market and an Amish bake sale.

JUNE 6

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Chardon Square Flea Market on historic Chardon Square.

JUNE 8-26

8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Strawberry season at Ridgeview Farm, 5488 Kinsman Road, Middlefield, Ohio. Call 440-693-4000 or visit www.RidgeviewFarm.com.

JUNE 10-30

Pick your own strawberries, 8765 Mulberry Road. Call 440-729-9809 or visit www.pattersonfarm.com.

JUNE 12-AUG. 16

4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Chardon Square Farmers Market and Concert.

JUNE 13

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Burton Antiques Market, Geauga County Fairgrounds. Largest one-day antique show in the country, rain or shine.

JUNE 14

9-11 a.m. at West Woods Nature Center, 9465 Kinsman Road, Caveman Crawl 5K Trail Run. Call 440-286-9516 or visit www.geaugaparkdistrict.org.

JUNE 17

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Burton Century Village, the Gardens Galore, Art and More Geauga Master Gardeners' garden tour and plant sale. Call 440-834-4656 or visit www.geauga.osu.edu.

JUNE 20

11 a.m. 10 p.m. Middlefield

Summer Fest, featuring parade, music, vendors and activities for all ages. Parade goes to Harrington Square.

JUNE 28

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Geauga County Fairgrounds, BMR Motorcycle Run, an escorted, 60-mile ride throughout Geauga County.

JULY 3-5

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mesopotamia Ox Roast and Antique Market at Mesopotamia Town Commons. Call 440-693-4295 or visit www.mesopofire.com.

JULY 4

1-4 p.m. Old Glory Day at the Historic Chardon Square. Event features a children's parade around the Square, games, music, face painting, balloon animals and a pie eating contest.

JULY 24-26

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Antique



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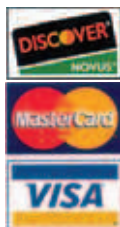


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FOUR SEASONS OF FUN

Power and Steam Show at Burton Century Village, featuring several hundred power-driven machines and steam driven engines.

JULY 25

10 a.m. to 8 p.m. fourth annual Zucchini Festival 2015 at Historic Chardon Square. Event includes unique zucchini items, festival treats as well as arts and craft vendors. Funds support effort to build therapeutic farming and art-based facility in Troy Township.

JULY 26

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. fourth annual Zucchini Festival 2015 at Historic Chardon Square

JULY 31

5 p.m. to 12 a.m. St. Mary Chardon Festival, at 401 North St., Chardon. Event features festival and homemade food, live music, rides, arcade games and fireworks.

Call 440-285-7051 or visit www.stmarychardon.org/index.htm

AUG. 1

3 p.m. to 12 a.m. St. Mary Chardon Festival

AUG. 2

• 1 p.m. to 11 p.m. St. Mary Chardon Festival
• 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Chardon Arts Festival on the Historic Chardon Square. Outdoor show is free to and will host more than 100 artists.
• 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 24th annual

Nature Arts Festival at the West Woods Nature Center in Geauga. Call 440-286-9516 or visit www.geaugaparkdistrict.org.

AUG. 15

12-8 p.m. Raccoon County Music Festival at Burton Century Village featuring polka, blues, country, bluegrass and other music styles.

AUG. 30 TO OCT. 31

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunrise Farm's Corn Stalk Maze. Call 440-834-1298 or visit www.sunrisefarmgifts.com.

SEPT. 3-6

8 a.m. to 11 p.m. The Great Geauga County Fair, Geauga County Fairgrounds. Ohio's oldest county fair. Visit www.geaugafair.com

SEPT. 16-30

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Patterson Family Fun Fest, 8765 Mulberry Road. Call 440-729-1964 or visit www.pattersonfarm.com.

SEPT. 19-27 AND OCT. 3-25

• 12-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Ma & Pa's Horse Drawn Hay Rides/Fall Harvest, 15161 Main Market Road, Burton. Call 440-548-5521 or visit www.maandpas.com.
• 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Fall Fun Weekends at Ridgeview Farm. Call 440-693-4000 or visit www.RidgeviewFarm.com

SEPT. 19

12-5 p.m. Chardon BrewFest at the Eltech Building, 100 Seventh Ave. Event features 21 breweries including local, statewide and sur-

rounding states. Call 440-273-3077 or visit www.chardon-brewfest.com.

SEPT. 20 AND 27

12-5 p.m. Sisters of Notre Dame Family BBQ/Boutique. Call 440-286-7101 or visit www.snd-chardon.org.

SEPT. 26

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Burton Antiques Market, Geauga County Fairgrounds. Largest one-day antique show in the country, rain or shine.

OCT. 1-NOV. 1

12 p.m. to 12 a.m. Patterson Family Fun Fest, 8765 Mulberry Road. Call 440-729-1964 or visit www.pattersonfarm.com.

OCT. 3-31

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Sunrise Farm's Fall Festival Weekends. Call 440-834-1298 or visit www.sunrisefarmgifts.com

OCT. 3-4

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 46th Huntsburg Pumpkin Festival, at the intersections of State Routes 322 and 528. Call 440-636-5197.

OCT. 10-11

• 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Otoberfest, Burton on the square. Event includes vendors, ox roast sandwiches, a beer tent and polka music. Call 800-526-5630.
• 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Apple Butter Festival, Burton Century Village Museum. Call 440-834-4656 or visit www.centuryvillagemuseum.org.

OCT. 25

2-6 p.m. HOWL-o-Ween at Cold

Nose Companions, Halloween party for family and social dogs. Call 855-286-3647 or visit www.coldnosecompanions.com.

NOV. 14-28

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Christmas in The Country, Passport Tour and Holiday Open House in Amish Country featuring 20 local businesses. Call 440-632-5343 or visit www.CountryArtsandJewelry.com

NOV. 27-29

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Country Hearth Christmas and Christmas in the Village: A Dickens of a Christmas at Burton Village. Holiday activities include Santa at the Burton Log Cabin. Call 440-834-4204.

DEC. 3

6:30-8 p.m. Chardon Square Christmas Lighting.

DEC. 4-31

12-10 p.m., Ma & Pa's Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides. Call 440-548-5521 or visit www.maandpas.com.

DEC. 12

9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Chardon Home for the Holidays. Area merchants will have sales or refreshments; Breakfast with Santa at Pilgrim Christian Church, Carriage Rides around the Square, Christmas lights and Christmas Tree Alley in the Park, and a Gingerbread House contest. Call 440-285-3519 or visit www.chardonsquareassociation.org.

DEC. 21

7:30-9:30 p.m. Winter Solstice Candlelight Walk 2015, The West Woods Nature Center. Visit www.geaugaparkdistrict.org. ■

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Smoke, sauce mark annual Rib Burn Off

By **JUSTIN DENNIS**
jdennis@starbeacon.com

ASHTABULA — There will be smoke on the water as the Lakeshore Park Annual Rib Burn Off fires up at 4 p.m. on Sept. 18 and continues through the weekend.

The free event, now in its 13th year, is the Ashtabula Township Park Commission's biggest, said Peggy Davis, activities coordinator, who wouldn't even hazard a guess at how much sauce-slathered, barbecued meat is consumed.

"We've even been drawing a lot of people from outside areas lately, too," she said. "I've talked to a few people that were from the downtown Youngstown area — they've been coming here for years."



The bash is cooking from 4-10 p.m. Friday, noon to 10 p.m. Saturday and noon to 8

p.m. Sunday in front of the park's main pavilion, the largest and oldest pavilion in


the country, Davis said.

Five local, state and national "ribbers" are set to compete for best ribs, best sauce and the people's choice: Paradise Ribs, BG's Main Event, Mojo's Rib Shack, Texas Pit BBQ and Armadillo BBQ, which took all three awards last year, for the "triple crown."


There are first, second and third place awards for best ribs, best sauce and the public vote. For best ribs, the top prize is \$500 cash, a trophy and bragging rights. Winners are decided Sunday, and Davis encourages all attendees to place their votes as soon as the event opens.

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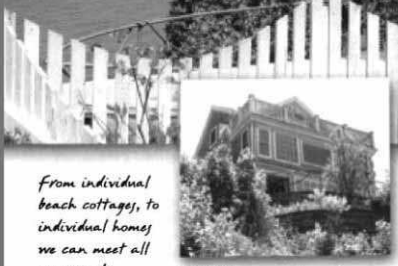


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picking, with Earthquakers taking the bandstand Friday night, Chaos in Paradise and Madison Avenue Band on Saturday, and Good Question and Aftermath on Sunday.

"We have bands playing all weekend long," Davis said — there's also a kids' zone. "It's a bunch of bouncy houses. They also usually have the rock climbing wall that the kids can do."

The park commission sponsors a beer tent and corn tent stocked with ears from local growers.

On Sunday, hot ribs are paired with hot rides, as the park's weekly car show rolls in.

"This one is pretty big during the rib burn off," she said. "On a good weekend, they've had upwards of 300 to 400 cars up here — if it's a good

weekend."

But, as with most outdoor events, the weather is the biggest variable.

"It's rain or shine — we just make do," Davis said. "We did good last year, then at the end Sunday evening it blew in at about 5 o'clock. Tents went flying. ... Right on the lake, it can be brutal with the wind."

It's Davis' third year at the helm of the event, she said. The park commission, which is the main sponsor, would like to add new bells and whistles like fireworks, but "it all depends on the money," she said. Most years, the event just breaks even, but that's not what the event is about, she said.

"It's our way of giving back to the community that supports us." ■

Ice Wine Festival celebrates region

By **DAVE DELUCA**

ddeluca@starbeacon.com

The Grand River Ice Wine Festival will celebrate its 13th year of wine, food and fun in March.

Ashtabula County, especially the Harpersfield and Madison Township area, is a world center for ice wine production. Every year, thousands of people from around the country descend on the Grand River Valley Wine Producing region there for a progressive, self-driving tour of local wineries.

Ice Wine is rare and difficult

to make. It can only be crafted when air temperatures are cold enough to freeze the grapes on the vine, usually around 18 degrees Fahrenheit or under. The grape juice's high sugar content and slightly tart flavor make it a unique dessert wine.

Because of the necessary climactic conditions, Germany and Canada are traditionally known as the world's leading ice wine centers, but the Ashtabula County area receives more and more recognition every year.

The Grand River Ice Wine Festival runs annually in March. Non-perishable foods

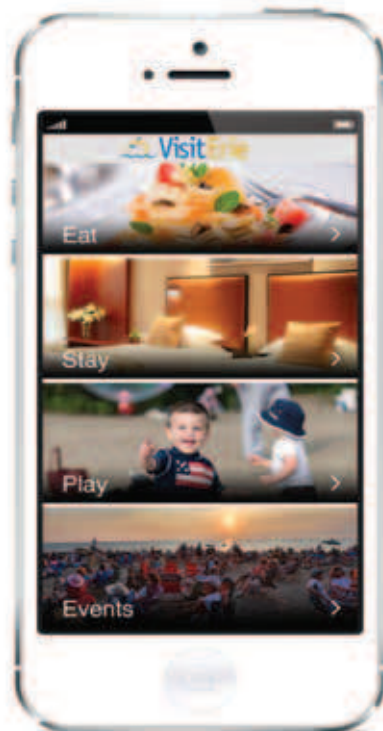
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are collected for local food banks from festival patrons at participating wineries.

Five wineries of the Grand River wine region host the festival. They include Debonne Vineyards, Ferrante Winery and Ristorante, Grand River Cellars Winery and Restaurant, Laurellos Vineyards and St. Joseph's Vineyards. All are within a 10-mile radius of each other in Harpersfield and Madison townships. They are all part of the Grand River Wine Growing Region.

Tony Debevc, Debonne Vineyards president, said those five original wineries host a progressive wine tasting, which includes an appetizer and wine sampling. They started the event 12 years ago specifically to celebrate the area's ice wine skills. Debonne



Vineyards is the largest estate vineyard in the state.

Al Pietrzyk, owner of St. Joseph's Vineyards, said, "The Ice Wine Festival is a chance for people to get out after a long winter and enjoy our

wines. Ice wine is very unique and can only be made in areas like ours."

Winemaker and co-owner of Harpersfield's Ferrante Winery and Ristorante Nick Ferrante said the festival is always

well-attended.

"In 2014, we were handling 1,000 people per day," he said. "It was just as big in 2015. People come out to try and buy our other wines, too. The food and wine are excellent and everyone has a great time."

Every year at the festival, the five original wineries of the Grand River Valley Wine Producing Region offer gourmet appetizers as well as wine samples.

Four other wineries in the region not directly associated with the original festival, Kosicek Vineyards on State Route 534, South River Winery on South River Road and Old Firehouse Winery and the Lakehouse Inn and Winery in Geneva-on-the-Lake offer ice wine samples during the festival. ■

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Quality fishing awaits in Lake Erie

By **MARK TODD**

mtodd@starbeacon.com

Hopes are high for a good fishing season in Lake Erie, according to information from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Opportunities will abound in the big lake, Jeff Tyson, Lake Erie fisheries program manager for the ODNR's Division of Wildlife, said in a statement posted on the agency's website.

"Similar to 2014, we expect fishing to be good again this year, especially when you consider the mix of species and sizes that are seasonally available to Ohio anglers on Lake Erie," Tyson said. "While fishing success will vary among species and seasons, the lake's population of wall-eye, yellow perch, black bass and steelhead are all stable, with a very broad distribution of sizes for each species."

Steelhead could lead the 2015 class, promising "another year of great fishing," according to the ODNR. The best time to pursue steelhead is between June and August between



Vermilion and Conneaut, where catches could average between 17 and 29 inches. Daily bag limit is five fish per person May 16-Aug. 31 and two fish between Sept. 1-May 15, 2016. A 12-inch minimum size limit is in effect throughout the year.

Fish caught around Conneaut could approach 29 inches in length, according to the ODNR.

Lake Erie steelhead thrive in five primary lake tribu-

taries, including two that flow through Ashtabula County: Conneaut Creek and the Grand River. Regular stocking of the waterways has helped maintain the lake's population. In 2013 and again last year, about 75,000 steelhead were added to Conneaut Creek. The Grand River saw 90,000 steelhead added to its waterway and another 108,000 in 2014, the agency reports.

Walleye is synonymous

with Lake Erie, and hatches dating back years ago will be up for grabs this year, according to the ODNR. Generally, the older the hatch the larger the fish, says the ODNR.

Yellow perch, another popular Lake Erie fish, will range in size from seven inches to more than a foot, depending on the hatch.

White bass and black bass can also be found in Lake Erie, while muskellunge — plentiful in nearby Pymatuning Lake — sometimes lurk in vegetated areas in bays, harbors and along shorelines, according to the ODNR.

A variety of factors — including water temperature, cloud cover, water clarity and wave action — can affect fishing success on Lake Erie, according to the agency.

Lake Erie fishing reports are available at wildohio.gov, or by calling 888-466-5347. The website also provides information on research and management programs, fisheries resources, fishing reports and maps. ■



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D-Day Conneaut builds a following

By **MARK TODD**

mtodd@starbeacon.com

CONNEAUT — By any standard, D-Day Conneaut 2014 was a resounding success, attracting an estimated 1,300 re-enactors and more than 25,000 spectators to Township Park.

A tough act to follow, but organizers are energized at the prospect of topping last year's extravaganza, said Lori McLaughlin, chief operating officer for D-Day Ohio, which stages the Conneaut event.

"There was a school of thought heading into the planning of (the 2014 version)," she said. "Will we hit a peak? I don't think that's going to happen."

Last year's event drew plenty of attention because of a couple of milestones: the 15th anniversary of the re-enactment and the 70th anniversary of the real invasion. The D-Day committee is counting on the publicity and positive word of mouth to keep the numbers healthy. Awareness of the event is already high, McLaughlin said.

"Everywhere I go in the county, D-Day comes up as a great example of an event that



can get bigger and bigger," she said. "It's very exciting."

Committee members have said that during trips to the far-flung corners of Ohio, people bring up the re-enactment when they hear their visitor hails from Conneaut, McLaughlin said.

D-Day Conneaut 2015 will be Aug. 21-22 at the lakefront park it has called home since its inception. Much has been retained, including battles and campsites open to inspection by the public.

Planning is still underway, but organizers say a few

crowd-pleasers will return this summer. The B-24 bomber that buzzes the beach will be back, along with the German 88mm gun that rattled molars when fired, McLaughlin said. "Everybody bring earplugs," she said, laughing.

Many of the community events during the weekend, including activities at Villa at the Lake, are on the schedule, McLaughlin said.

There will be a few changes. The Sherman tank provided by a Lima-based historical society the past few years won't be back, but it will be replaced by a Stuart tank, a smaller armored vehicle that saw service during WWII.

Also, the USO-style dance is leaving the American Legion Hall on Broad Street in favor of the Conneaut Human Resources Center. The size of the hall, along with a formidable flight of stairs, has made it impractical as a dance venue, McLaughlin said. A tent will be erected at the CHRC to help increase the capacity of that building.

Entertainment offerings are also under consideration at Township Park after the campsites are closed to the public.

"We want people to enjoy the park for the park," McLaughlin said.

Also, the event will have a tie-in with the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland, which is showing a new film, "D-Day: Normandy 1944" on its giant IMAX movie screen for several weeks. Re-enactors will be outside at the science museum theater to promote the Conneaut re-enactment, McLaughlin said.

"We'll have a table and banners there all summer," she said.

A small army of volunteers work ceaselessly to make D-Day Conneaut a success, McLaughlin said.

"It's a testament to the volunteers who each year try to make (the event) bigger and better," she said. ■

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Ashtabula honors fair tradition

By **SHELLEY TERRY**
sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — Now in its 169th year, the Ashtabula County Fair is packed with shows and activities aimed to please the young and the old during its six-day run, Aug. 11-16.

While the fair is known as a place for the agricultural community to show its goods and talents, there are many more things to enjoy, such as a demolition derby, truck and tractor pull, carnival rides, contests for children, animal shows, a frog jumping contest, a market livestock sale and meet-and-greets with famous country artists.

This year, Old Dominion, a



new country rock band from Nashville, is headlining the

entertainment. The group's five band members have

worked behind the scenes on many country songs heard on the radio today, such as Keith Urban, Jake Owen, Luke Bryan and The Band Perry. Now, they are creating and performing their own songs.

"They just signed a record deal and they are going on tour with Kenny Chesney," said Darla Vargo, fair board secretary. "We are excited about it."

Fair organizers are hoping for a big crowd to attend the concert at 8:30 p.m. Aug. 13 in front of the grandstand. Seating will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Tickets are \$7 per person and will go on sale at 10 a.m. July 7 at the fair secretary's office

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New on the back midway this year will be Swine Racing Pigs and Barnyard Review. They will perform three times a day. Swifty the Clown will stroll the midway making animal balloon creations. Children line up for his balloons, usually under the grandstand on the main midway.

Hundreds of 4-H'ers bring country to the fairgrounds with their animal projects. There are rabbits, chickens, pigs, goats, sheep, horses, steers and dairy cows on site. Animals shows and judging are a daily event, with a market animal auction taking place every year featuring hundreds of bidders buying the 4-H and Future Farmers of America livestock projects.

Saybrook Township veterinarian Cheryl Beinhardt loves the animals and that's why she has been the fair's veterinarian for almost 20 years. She checks the animals for exhibition and continues routine check-ups throughout the fair.

Something else special about the Ashtabula County Fair is the tradition of harness racing. The horses will run for the finish line on Aug. 13 in front of the grandstands.

Longtime fairboard member

Everett Helfer is in charge of what happens at the historic log cabin on the fairgrounds. This year, he's booked Abraham Lincoln impersonator, John King of Ashtabula. "We are excited about it," Helfer said. "He always does a good job and he's very knowledgeable."

Helfer also will have historic documents, including the "Ashtabula County Agricultural Society 1858-1917" journal and antiques on display.

Kids Day is always popular with families because children get in free, and there is an array of contests with prizes. This includes a bubble gun blowing contest, pizza eating contest, a water balloon toss and a coloring contest. New bicycles are given away at the end of the day to lucky ticket holders. Ride passes are \$4.

Tractor and truck pulls are scheduled for Aug. 16.

Other fair favorites, like fair food, the Holstein Club's milkshakes and cheese sandwiches, the Jefferson Grange's German-style roast beef dinner and the Plymouth Grange's homemade pies draw folks from all over. The roast beef dinners are so popular they sell about 50 pounds of roast beef to about 2,000



people each day, organizers said last year.

The Plymouth Grange has been serving hamburgers, hot dogs, chili and more for more than 10 years. Before Plymouth took over, the Austinburg Grange ran the stand. Breakfast, lunch and

dinner are served at both stands.

Vendors also sell pizza, hamburgers, french fries, steak on a stick, peanuts, candy apples, cotton candy, sausage sandwiches and corn dogs.

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On top of it all, the fair board is hoping for dry, sunny weather.

The fair board usually hires about 100 people to work at the gates, parking, ticket takers and directing traffic at the fairgrounds, 127 N. Elm St. in Jefferson.

Regular admission is \$7, children ages 4 years and younger get in free every day. A band to ride the rides is \$4. Check the fair schedule for specifics on Senior Citizens Day, Veterans Day and Kids Day, when the price is lower for those groups.

Here's information on other northeast Ohio fairs:

- The Lake County Fair will take place Aug. 18-23 at the Lake County Fairground in Painesville. It has been drawing residents for more than 90 years.

The six-day event features livestock, rides, food and live entertainment. This year's headline entertainment is "The Voice" winner, Craig Wayne Boyd, on Aug. 21.

- The Great Geauga County Fair, at the Geauga County Fairground in Burton over Labor Day weekend each year, has been going since 1823.

The five-day event, Sept. 3-7 this year, will feature livestock, live entertainment, two demolition derbies, a midway of rides and shows and lots of food. ■

Geneva Jamboree draws thousands

By **DAVE DELUCA**
ddeluca@starbeacon.com

The Geneva Grape Jamboree is the fifth largest festival in Ohio.

Every year during the last weekend in September, some 200,000 people from around the country flock to Geneva to celebrate the grape harvest.

Geneva is one of the major grape growing regions in the United States, and every year about 1500 acres of grapes are grown in the area, and most of those grapes are processed into juices, concentrates or wine, according

to the Jamboree website.

The first Geneva Grape Jamboree took place in 1963. Now, it takes place every year at the peak of the harvest during last days of fall on Sept. 26 and 27.

"The Jamboree was first held to celebrate the grape harvest. It's grown and grown and now is one of the state's largest festivals," Geneva Grape Jamboree President Dave Johnson said.

During the Jamboree, the intersection of Ohio Routes 20 and 534 — the heart of Geneva — is closed in both directions for a few blocks,

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tainment takes place, including rides, crafts, food and other concessions.

One of the attendees favorite pastimes is the grape stomping competition. Age groups from toddlers to adults compete, marching around barefoot with their feet and legs turning purple. All grandstand entertainment, including grape stomping, is free.

A "Miss Grapette" is crowned and featured in two parades each afternoon of the festival. The Miss Grapette Court, which serves as honorary event host, is chosen from local school girls earlier in the year.

Local church halls open their doors to sell grape pies, candies and other desserts. Last year over 1,000 grape pies sold out at one church

alone.

The list of things to do during the Jamboree is extensive. There are art and photo shows, craft demonstrations, a craft and vendor show, a baby contest, a softball tournament, a tractor pull, grape pie eating contests, car shows, a raffle and a 5 K "Run for the Grapes," among others.

There are plenty of wine tastings and grape juice and grapes from local farmers are on sale everywhere.

Nationally known music acts — as well as regional and local music groups — take the stage throughout the Jamboree. Featured acts in the 2015 festival will include music from Hotel California and Rick K and the All-Nighters. Other acts will be named as the Jamboree

approaches.

There's also plenty of side stage entertainment from Scraps the Clown and other street performers. This year, Madison Martial Arts will be putting on martial arts demonstrations at various places.

The Buckeye State National Peddler Pullers for children draws big crowds.

"Last year — thanks to the Geneva police and fire departments — we showed we can handle these enormous crowds," Johnson said. "This year, provided the weather is good, we're looking forward to another record breaking year. We try to improve the Jamboree every year and strive to be as family oriented as we can be."

while tourists visit food and juice booths, listen to music from sound stages and attend a host of activities.

The grandstand is where of much of the festival's enter-

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Geauga County has plenty to offer

There's plenty to do outside Ashtabula County this year. Geauga County is set to host festivals, exhibitions and concerts galore.

NORTH VS. SOUTH

Beginning Memorial Day weekend, the Century Village Museum grounds, 14653 E. Park St., Burton, will be embroiled in historic conflict as Civil War re-enactors set up camp for two days. Soldiers will march and maneuver across the battlefield. Cannons and gatling guns will fire during two afternoon skirmishes. Field doctors will man the triage.

There will even be a Civil War-era wedding ceremony.

It's the 30th annual reenactment for the museum, which

invites any and all re-enactors to choose a side.

"It's just kind of a unique, cool thing because the re-enactors are here all weekend, living," said Terri Kwasniewski, museum site manager. "Not only do (visitors) get to interact with them, but they also get to see how authentic we can make it."

That means authentic Civil War-era cooking, field hospitals, period music performances, educational programs and the museum's historic artisan vendors like blacksmiths, broom makers, potters, printers, quilters and more.

The Union and Confederacy will take the field from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 23 and May 24. Ticket prices are \$7 for adults,

\$4 for children ages 6 to 12 and members and children 5 and younger are free. Call (440) 834-1492 or visit CenturyVillageMuseum.org for more information.

"CAVEMAN CRAWL"

The Geauga Park District is going back to the Stone Age this summer, when it hosts the fifth "Caveman Crawl" 5K Trail Run beginning at 9 a.m. June 14 through the hilly, wooded terrain of The West Woods park, 9465 Kinsman Road, Novelty.

Runners and walkers are encouraged to wear their best animal hides to appear like cavemen. Though there will be adult and children's costume contests, dressing up is optional, said Teresa Runion, special

events coordinator for the district. Winning runners will also get an award.

"The natural tie-in and historical feature here is Ansel's Cave," she said. "It's a rock formation. There are historical stories of a hermit named Ansel Savage who supposedly lived in the cave."

Fees apply. Call the district at (440) 286-9516, email info@geaugaparkdistrict.org or visit GaugaparkDistrict.org for more information.

CAR AND BIKE SHOW

The Historic Chardon Square in downtown Chardon will go full throttle in late June for the sixth annual Car and Bike Show, hosted by the Chardon Area Chamber of Commerce. A variety of cars will be on

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display from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 28, set to a soundtrack of classic tunes from the 1950s and 1960s.

Call (440) 285-3519, email info@chardonchamber.com or visit ChardonChamber.com for more information.

THE POWER OF STEAM

Witness the Industrial Revolution in motion of steel and steam at the Century Village Museum, 14653 E. Park St., Burton, during the annual Antique Power and Steam Show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 24 through July 26.

The show features hundreds of steam-powered engines that led the industrial and agricultural revolutions.

"A lot of the (machines are) running," Kwasniewski said. "We have a parade on each day of the tractors. We have over 100 running and doing the

parade. It's kind of cool if you like that sort of thing."

Call (440) 834-3519, email info@geaugahistorical.org or visit CenturyVillageMuseum.org for more information.

ZUCCHINI PARTY

"Chop it, steam it, bake it, fry it — there really isn't much that can't be done to zucchini," say organizers of the fourth annual Zucchini Festival, happening from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. July 25 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 26 on Historic Chardon Square in downtown Chardon.

"What better way to honor the multi-faceted summer vegetable than to throw a party for it?"

The festival benefits a fundraising effort to build a therapeutic farming and art-based facility in Troy Township to serve emotionally impaired adults, organizers said. Visitors

can treat themselves to "unique" zucchini treats as well as standard festival fare.

Email joy@emeraldrose.org or visit EmeraldRose.org/News.html for more information.

PATRON OF THE ARTS

The Chardon Arts Festival, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 2 on Historic Chardon Square in downtown Chardon, is a free, outdoor juried art exhibition featuring over 100 local and out-of-state artists. Organizers estimate about 5,000 people attend each year for shopping and dining in a "park-like setting."

Visit ChardonSquareAssociation.org for more information.

ART IN THE PARK

The Geauga Park District's is set to host the 24th annual Nature Arts Festival from 10

a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 2 at The West Woods Nature Center, 9465 Kinsman Road, Novelty.

The artworks in display include wood carvings, paintings, photography, handcrafted jewelry and more in various price ranges. Families can enjoy live music and refreshments while working on art projects of their own or creating chalk art.

Call (440) 286-9516, email info@geaugaparkdistrict.org or visit GaugaParkDistrict.org for more information.

JAMMING IN GEAUGA

The Raccoon County Music Festival, eight full hours of polka, blues, country and bluegrass music from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 15 at Century Village Museum, 14653 E. Park St., Burton, is being touted by organizers as "the most unique festival in northeast Ohio."

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"Geauga" in the Seneca language means raccoon.

"Not only do we have the main stage (on the church green) but little groups set up throughout the grounds," Kwasniewski said. "As you're walking around the grounds, you can stop and hear other tinier groups."

A list of bands has yet to be finalized. The event typically draws about 1,000 visitors to the museum, Kwasniewski said, at which a handful of historic homes will be open for tour. As at most all other museum events, historic artisans like blacksmiths, broom makers, potters, printers, quilters and more will be vending their wares.

Call (440) 834-4656 or visit CenturyVillageMuseum.org for more information.

THE BIG ONE

Ohio's oldest county fair, the 193rd Great Geauga County Fair, kicks off from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sept. 3-6 at the Geauga County Fairgrounds, 14373 N. Cheshire St., Burton.

An entertainment schedule has yet to be set.

Visit GauguFair.com for more information.

HOWL-O-WEEN

Cold Nose Companions, 12531 GAR Highway, Chardon, has scheduled a howling Halloween for social dogs and their families from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 25.

Plenty of games, contests and activities for all human and canine participants will be available. Admission is a minimum \$5 donation per dog to the Geauga County Dog Shelter. No registration is required. Dogs must be leashed during the event.

Call 855-286-3647, email info@coldnosecompanions.com or visit ColdNoseCompanions.com for more information.

A DICKENS OF A CHRISTMAS

The Burton Chamber of Commerce takes Christmas back to the 19th century with a host of holiday activities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 27-29 at the Burton Log Cabin and Sugar Camp, 14590 E. Park St., Burton. Call 440-834-4202 or 800-526-5630, email info@burtonchamberofcommerce.org or visit BurtonChamberofCommerce.org for more information.

A MAGICAL WINTER

Explore the history of the winter solstice, its meaning for ancient cultures like the vikings, Romans and druids and how the tradition shaped the

modern observance during the Geauga Park District's Winter Solstice Candlelight Walk, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Dec. 21 at the Geauga Park District's West Woods Nature Center, 9465 Kinsman Road, Novelty.

"It's comprised of different outdoor stations where we highlight some of the traditions throughout history of the winter solstice," said Teresa Runion, special events coordinator for the district. "They'll talk about different aspects such as the Christmas tree, the Yule log, having fruit on trees.

"It's become a holiday tradition for many people — they come out every year."

Email info@geaugaparkdistrict.com or visit GauguParkDistrict.com for more information. ■



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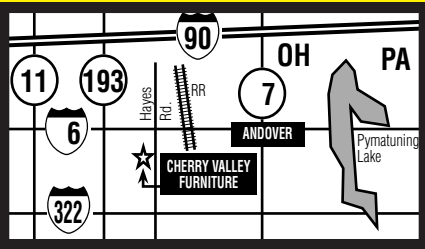
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