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July-August Features
Next Issue August 31

June 29, 2022
Supplement to the Iosco County News-Herald and Oscoda Press
Iosco County Fair hits 78th rendition, ‘Family Fun for All Ages’

by John Morris

HALLE – The Iosco County Agricultural Society is offering “Family Fun for All Ages” for the 78th rendition of the Iosco County Fair.

The Iosco County Fair opens Monday, July 25, at the fairgrounds in Hale and continues through Saturday, July 30. And this year entrance gate admission is free on days when weather permits. Hale Assembly of God, Happy Acres Real Estate, Wilson Trucking & Excavating and Wilson & Sons Septic Cleaning, Scofield Real Estate, Rigg Land Surveying and TCA Insurance, and Hale Area FISH.

The fair gates will open at 4 p.m. Monday, July 25. Highlighted events include a Flag Dedication Ceremony at 4 p.m. at the fair office and Heavyweight Draft Horse Pulls at 7 p.m. at the Exhibition Grandstand.

Tuesday, July 26 is designated as “Armed Forces Appreciation Day” at the fair with the Midway opening that day at 4 p.m. Other highlighted events are Side by Side and Mega Truck Races presented by Michigan Mud Jam at 7 p.m. at the Exhibition Grandstand and musical entertainment by Alabaster Sun, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Entertainment Tent.

“Senior Citizen Recognition Day” is Wednesday, July 27. One highlight of this day is that the Midway rides for free, when it opens at 2 p.m., with a paid grandchild. Night of Destruction – Featuring Auto Soccer is the highlighted event that day at 7 p.m. at the Exhibition Grandstand.

The Livestock Arena is hosting highlighted events at the fair on Thursday, July 28, “Agricultural Day,” with Jr. Barnyard Olympics.

FAMILY TRADITION – Now five generations in, the Urias Family Daredevils have been captivating crowds with their “Globe of Death” routine, for nearly 100 years. Performing in a space with a diameter of only 16 feet, three motorcyclists cruised around the brave Jodie Urias, who was all smiles while standing in the center of the globe during the Iosco County Fair in Hale last year. Reaching speeds of up to 50 miles per hour, the cyclists were at times within mere inches of each other – and Urias – during the impressive feat.

At 11 a.m., Barnyard Olympics at the Entertainment Tent and the band Atomic Sound provides musical entertainment from 7 to 9:30 p.m. also in the Entertainment Tent.

“The Education Day” ends the fair on Saturday, July 30. Games in the Exhibition Grandstand will host Flying Star Rodeo Productions Pro Rodeo at 7 p.m.

Welcome to Iosco County

Iosco County is home to beautiful sparkling Tawas Bay, where sailboats, fishing craft and jet ski enjoy nature’s gift of Lake Huron. It’s home to Oscoda, where salmon and trout fishermen, canoeists and powerboaters take advantage of the local lakes and the famous majestic AuSable River.

And it’s home to the western reaches of the county, which host the heart of the Huron National Forest with its pristine woods, rivers, lakes and streams.

Summer is short but sweet in Iosco County and its residents make the best of it. Here you’ll find festivals, events and celebrations all summer long with restaurants, taverns, lodging, marinas, golf courses and shopping opportunities that you’ll never find at home.

So enjoy yourself. The hospitality’s on us.

2022 Summer Tourist Guide

Editor - John Morris
A publication of the Iosco County News-Herald and Oscoda Press
Editor’s note: This is the second of three summer publications. The remaining one will be published prior to Labor Day.

Michigan Mud Jam is slated by Ryan Herzog

HALLE – Soggs may have its hogs, but Hale has its monsters.

The annual Michigan Mud Jam will take place between Aug. 16-21 this year in the Iosco County Fairgrounds.

Of course, the main feature – mud, is never in short supply.
Thousands of gallons of water gush out on a pristine mud pit with whatever absurd contraptions brave attendees think of on the year leading up to this event.

This year we go back to the roots, with shiny coats of paint and massive engines that completely rip through the muck. Other look like they were cobbled together by spares from the local court yard.

It doesn’t matter though, they all get covered in a thick coat of brown mud – the messier the bet ter.

Even if you’re a spectator, you better not be shy about getting a little mud on you. At the very least, everything standing still gets covered in a thin layer of dust, plus a few splashes of mud. That is just a rule of Mud Jam.

For more information and schedule, visit michiganmudjam.com.

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2A - Wednesday, June 29, 2022
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LOCAL NEWS

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So enjoy yourself. The hospitality’s on us.
Grueling canoe marathon set for July 30-31

by John Morris

OSCODA — The Consumers Energy AuSable River Canoe Marathon will be hard pressed to repeat last year’s record-breaking finish.

First-time winners Jorden Wakeley, 31, of Grayling and Matt Meersman, 44, of South Bend, Ind., claimed the lead about two hours into the race then dominated the waters from there, winning the marathon in a record time of 13:54:09.

That timing record has stood since 1994. The 2020 race was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The last weekend in July marks the 74th year for what’s been called the most grueling and challenging canoe race in the world: the AuSable River Canoe Marathon.

Paddlers in this year’s race, set for July 30-31, will cover 120 miles of the AuSable’s twists and turns from Grayling to Oscoda’s Finish Line Park after a grueling 14-to-19 hour suffered.

Every year, the canoe marathon draws tens of thousands of visitors and race fans to the banks of the mighty AuSable to watch and cheer on their favorite teams, some of them keeping track from their cars; with canoes in hand, to begin in the streets of downtown Grayling, where they ran four blocks; with canoes in hand, to put in the water near the Old AuSable Fly Shop. Teams raced non-stop from there, portaging over six dams until they reached the finish line at Oscoda’s Finish Line Park after a grueling 14-to-19 hour suffered.

The first canoe to arrive at the finish, after a grueling 14-to-19 hour suffered, is an extremely notable accomplishment in itself. Typically more than 90 two-person teams compete in the canoe marathon.

The second place team last year of Wes Dean, 26, of Grayling and Weston Willoughby, a former Grayling resident and now of Traverse City, finished with a time of 17:13:25. This was also Killingbeck’s 10th career finish; giving him the coveted Iron Paddler award.

The marathon also has been called the toughest spectator sport in the world, and for good reason. Many race fans will stay awake until the last canoe completes the 120-mile course. That can take up to 20 hours to complete.

The teams will compete for more than $50,000 in prize money, but even more gratifying than the winnings is the enormous sense of pride the winning teams take away with them. Just finishing the race is an extremely notable accomplishment itself.

The lone canoe with a pair of local paddlers was Keith Wujahn, 57, of Tawas City and Jerry Killingbeck, 52, of East Tawas. Their steady paddling led them to a 67th place finish in a time of 17:13:25. This was also Killingbeck’s 10th career finish; giving him the coveted Iron Paddler award.

For more information on the race, contact the Oscoda-AuSable Chamber of Commerce or go to the marathon’s web site at www.ausablecanemarathon.org.

Marathon winners — Jorden Wakeley, 31, of Grayling and Matt Meersman, 44, South Bend, Ind., dominated the Consumers Energy AuSable River Canoe Marathon, winning a record time of 13:54:09. Both are first time winners of the event.

Night Racing — A group of five canoes are seen from underneath McMasters Bridge during the early hours of last year during the AuSable River Canoe Marathon.

Photo by Ben Murphy

Marathon Winners — Jorden Wakeley, 31, of Grayling and Matt Meersman, 44, South Bend, Ind., dominated the Consumers Energy AuSable River Canoe Marathon, winning a record time of 13:54:09. Both are first time winners of the event.

Photo by Ben Murphy

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Feeling the blues? The cure is in East Tawas this summer with the 20th annual ‘Blues by the Bay’

by John Morris

EAST TAWAS – A blues/soul musician from Kansas City, Mo., is this year’s headliner for the 20th annual Blues by the Bay music festival.

The festival, set for Aug. 26-28 under the big top at Harbor Park in East Tawas, is put on annually by the Tawas Bay Blues Society.

Danielle Nicole Band is the main act, and will hit the blues stage at about 8 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27. Having music passed down from her parents, Nicole recently received her fifth Blues Music Award – most notably her third for the category of bass instrumentalist.

Blues by the Bay begins at 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26 with the band Brendon Linsley followed at 8 p.m. with The Jimmys. Metro Detroit-area musician Brendon Linsley has been billed as a young guitar phenom who has been playing Blues at open jams since 2013. The Jimmys, a blues group from Madison, Wis., are said to be a powerhouse Blues festival band and a fan favorite.

Other bands performing on Saturday, Aug. 27 include Detroit bluesman Lester Hamblen Brown at noon, Nicky T and the Snake Charmers at 2 p.m., Harper and the Midwest Kind at 4 and Paul Nelson Band at 6.

Brown, a Flint native, is a Detroit blues legend, while Detroit’s Nicky T and the Snake Charmers are a stone-cold blues band with a contemporary edge. Award-winning Australian singer/songwriter Peter D. Harper is returning to the Tawas blues stage, and Nelson is an American modern Grammy award-winning blues/rock guitarist, producer, and songwriter.

Rounding out the festival on Sunday, Aug. 28 are Sweet Willie Tea at 1 p.m. and Motor City Josh & The Big 3 at 3 p.m.

Sweet Willie Tea is a one-man blues band featuring Michigan guitarist Bill Toll; and Motor City Josh is a Detroit veteran blues journeyman.

Admission to Blues by the Bay is a $35 souvenir button, good for all three days of the festival. Food and drinks are available. While some picnic tables are available on the festival grounds, most people attending the festival bring their own chairs.

For more information, visit www.bluesbythebaytawas.org.
LOCAL NEWS

Summerfest opens 2022 rendition in Tawas
by John Morris

TAWAS CITY – Tawas Bay is making its 15th annual rendition in July.

EAST TAWAS – The three-day Tawas Bay Summerfest kicks off its 15th annual rendition in July.

Set for July 8-10, Summerfest starts on Friday, July 8 with events at Tawas City’s Shoreline Park. Those events include Bouncy Houses from noon to 8 p.m., a Cornhole Tournament will be held from 3 to 9 p.m. and live music with FLIPSIDE is set for 6 to 10 p.m.

Activities on Saturday, July 9 begin with the Light up the Bay 5K that starts at 9 a.m. on Newman Street in downtown East Tawas.

There has been a change this year for the Car Cruise, which takes to the streets at 6 p.m., line-up is from 5 to 6 p.m. at Dean Arbor Ford along M-55, Tawas City.

Here’s the route for this year’s Summerfest Car Cruise: Exit Dean Arbor Ford, Across to Victoria Lane, Right into Lakeview Manor, Left onto Fifth Avenue, Left onto North Street, Park on Street, onto sidewalk, Left onto Whittemore Street, Left onto US-23 North, Right onto Tawas Beach Road, through Tawas Point State Park, exit onto Tawas Beach Road, go Straight through light onto Elliott Road, Left onto Lincoln Street, Right onto Wadsworth Street, Left onto North Tawas Lake Road, through Tawas Village, Right onto North Tawas Lake Road, Left on Warren Avenue, Straight onto Maple Drive, Left onto West Tawas Lake Road, Right onto Newman Street.

A Street Dance will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. on Newman Street featuring No Baloney.

Summerfest wraps up on Sunday, July 10 with a Breakfast Fly-In at the Iosco County Airport from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The popular Car Show on Newman Street starts at 8 a.m. and concludes with the awards ceremony at 3 p.m.

For more information, visit tawassummerfest.com.

61st annual Waterfront Fine Art Show is Aug. 6-7
by John Morris

TAWAS CITY – Tawas Bay is the picturesque backdrop Aug. 6-7 for one of Michigan’s most prestigious and longest running fine art shows.

Dozens of artisans will exhibit their works during the 61st annual Tawas Bay Waterfront Fine Art Show. The show is held at Tawas City’s Shoreline Park and is being put on by the Tawas Bay Arts Council and Gallery.

Artists in the juried show are required to make application and send in color photographs or slides of their work for scrutiny by a selection committee. The committee looks at the quality of each work, type of display to be used and the number of participants showing the same medium before deciding if the artist should be allowed in the show.

This festival includes all handcrafted media: graphic arts, oil painting, acrylic painting, pottery, sculpture, wood carving, jewelry, painting on 3-dimensional items, baskets and more. This is an artist-friendly juried fine arts show and sale with awards.

Don’t miss the music, demonstrations and sand castle building on the beach.

Show hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 6 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 7.

For more information, visit wfwartshow.com.

Summerfest Car Cruise.

Photo by John Morris

61st annual Waterfront Fine Art Show.

Photo by John Morris
LOCAL NEWS

County officials remind residents to be cautious with fireworks

by Ryan Herzog

OSCODA – Fireworks are as central a tradition to fourth of July as is gift giving on Christmas.

Even though they can be a blast, they can also carry some risk, as they are explosives that have the potential to cause injury when handled improperly.

Chief Bill Deckett of the East Tawas Fire Department (ETFD) said his fire department has a history of going out on fireworks calls. Around this time, he says he sees more fireworks injuries than fires caused by fireworks.

Bottle rockets are especially problematic, he says. “We have a large area of wild-land urban interface, where you have houses in close proximity to state or federal forest. We’ve had cases over the years where they started the woods on fire. You could not only burn down the woods you could burn down the house next to the forest.”

The fact that bottle rockets and other projectile fireworks travel makes them impossible to control once they’re lit. Their trajectories are unpredictable at best and at worst, deadly.

“One time, we had a call where a person was shooting fireworks over the lake. Well, a boat came across the water and a firework came down at the right angle and caught it on fire.”

In addition to watching for fireworks on the lake, boaters should also keep their eyes on the water, as drivers dazzled by pretty lights have collided with one another. Always practice situational awareness in any situation when operating a motor vehicle.

Officer Dunny Gallahar of the Oscoda Police Department also says the type of fireworks they get the most calls on are bottle rockets and trajectory fireworks.

“They are the ones people complain and call the most about. They can cause injury or harm when errant,” he says.

Bottle rockets and mortar are the most visible and “in your face” fireworks, is the closest specialty medical center that can treat those cases are two hours away. Those who play with fire are urged to practice extreme caution to avoid having to take that long trip to Hurley Medical Center.

Chief Deckett says he doesn’t even touch fireworks as they aren’t really safe.

Paramedic Bruning says another thing to keep in mind is if one of his patients were to experience burns from accelerants or fireworks, is the closest specialty medical center that can treat those cases are two hours away. Those who play with fire are urged to practice extreme caution to avoid having to take that long trip to Hurley Medical Center.

Another thing to be considered is some veterans who experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

“It is some veterans who experience PTSD on the fourth of July because of the loud noises. Many dogs are sensitive to the noise and go into hiding to get away.”

Animal control sees an increase in runaways around the fourth of July because of the loud noises. “Another thing to be considered is some veterans who experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.”

See FIREWORKS, Page 7A

LIGHTING UP THE SKY – Fireworks of all types and colors were launched over Lake Huron at the Oscoda Park, from the beach’s pier, in recognition of Independence Day 2021.

Photo by Jason Ogden

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1/2 Mile North of Family Fare US-23 in Oscoda
LOCAL NEWS

Bike Night returns to downtown Oscoda

by Manuela Kress

Oscoda-AuSable Chamber of Commerce

June 23rd - Aug. 17th
Oscoda Civic Center presents “Movies at the Pier”
(Wednesdays 9 p.m.)
June 30th - Aug. 19th
Rotary of Oscoda “Concerts on the Beach”
(Thursday 7 p.m.)
June-August
Bike Night Office Lounge & Grill (Thursday 6 p.m.)
July 1st - Aug. 31st
Paul Bunyan Challenge Races
(custservic3@3disciplines.com)
July 4th
“A Hats Off to Broadway 3”
11 a.m. Fourth of July Parade SE-23
24-Furrow Field south to Mill St.
5 p.m. Community Picnic
Oscoda Beach Park at water park
Duck fireworks
July 15th - 17th
Shoreline Players Theater
Shoreline Players Theater
July 15th - 17th
Hats Off to Broadway 3
July 15th - 17th
Country Music Tribute - American Legion 7 p.m.
July 22nd - 23rd
Shoreline Players Theater
July 23rd - 29th
Shoreline Players Theater
July 26th
Dash for the Cash Canoe Race
July 30th - 31st
Oscoda VFW Faslane Fun Fest
(Celebrate300.com (362-6900
Oscoda County Fair
August 6th
Oscoda River International Canoe Race
August 7th
Oscoda Car and Crafts Show - Veterans Park
August 13th - 14th
AuGres Resort Car Show - City Park
August 17th - 18th
Cruisin’ West Coast Cruise-In - Festival Park
August 22nd - 23rd
AuGres County Fair - Festival Park
August 25th - 26th
AuGres Resort Car Show - Veterans Park
August 27th - 28th
Oscoda County Fair - Festival Park

Date to be announced:
Battle for the Paddle Scholarship Golf Challenge

BY MANUELA KRESS

Although it was uncertain if the weather would cooperate, Bike Night returned to The Office Bar and Grill on Dwight Street in downtown Oscoda on Thursday, June 9. The inaugural event for the season featured a wide variety of motorcycles that were parked on the closed-off street.

Randy Hause attended Bike Night with his son, who works at Kalitta. Hause left Madison, Wis., on his 2017 Can Am Spyder at 7 a.m. to participate in the Paul Bunyan Challenge Races and US-23 Restorations Car Show.

Bradyn Morrish, who received his first guitar at the age of 10, wielded the crowd with his guitar playing as he moved through the audience. One of the attendees referred to Morrish as a child prodigy, who now plays in a number of local bands.

Shaw was in charge of picking the winning motorcycle. He chose a black Harley Davidson with a custom paint job that included an intricate gold and red design. The owner of the motorcycle received a gift certificate to The Office.

Bike Night will take place on Thursdays starting at 6 p.m. during the months of June, July and August. According to Marc Harger, the new owner of The Office, live bands will be performing on June 23 (Weekend Warriors Band), July 7 (The Daville Bros. Band), July 21 (No Baloney), Aug. 4 (Weekend Warriors) and Aug. 18 (No Baloney).

A DJ will be spinning tunes on June 16, June 30, July 14, July 28, Aug. 11 and Aug. 25.

The Office offers food, drinks and outside seating during Bike Night.

Bike Night started in 2008 as a way of bringing motorcycle enthusiasts together to the downtown area.

ENJOYING THE EVENT — Attendees enjoy the cool, sunny weather while listening to classic rock played by the band No Baloney.

FIREWORKS

Continued from Page 6A

(PTSD) hearing the shells and fireworks go off in their local area.

“It reminds them of a chopper or some rough times and it fires them up,” said Stuart Smith of the American Legion at the Hale VFW post 422. “There’s nothing the veterans can do about it and some veterans it affects and some it doesn’t.”

If there’s a veteran in the area who experiences trauma at the sound of loud blasts, it’s best to consider moving to another location or making arrangements to launch fireworks when they’re not in the area.

The band formed 13 years ago and began playing at the Ashbaile Inn. Shaw said he is the only original member, however, he thinks the band currently has the best combination of musicians that it has ever had.

Andy’s Meat Sticks (Reg. & Peppercheese)
Andy’s Smoked Meats:
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Half Fryer • Pulled Pork
Smoked Shanks

Andy’s Smoked Meats:
Turkey Breast • Double Smoked Bacon
Half Fryer • Pulled Pork
Smoked Shanks

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Andy’s Smoked Meats:
Turkey Breast • Double Smoked Bacon
Half Fryer • Pulled Pork
Smoked Shanks
Fly into Tawas for the Wurtsmith Air Museum Fly-In and Pancake Breakfast from last year. This year’s two-day Fly-in and Breakfast is set for Aug. 20-21 at the Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport. Last year’s event drew in 44 planes from the Upper Peninsula, Grand Rapids, Flint, Saginaw and other local airports. The Oscoda Rotary Club served up over 300 adult breakfasts and the Rotary topped its game by adding blueberry and chocolate chip pancakes to the options, which was a hit with the breakfast goers.

All Lakes Block Party returns for second year

by John Morris

SAND LAKE – A new event from last year is returning this year at a new date.

The second annual All Lakes Block Party will be held this year July 1-3 on the Sand Lake Heights Men’s Association property, located at 4059 Indian Lake Rd.

Activities on Friday, July 1 start with an ICODA Senior Lunch at noon followed by a Euchre Tournament. Bingo for Adults is at 6 p.m., a Brown Bag Auction gets underway at 8:30 p.m. and an Outdoor Family Movie, on a 25-foot screen, starts at dusk.

A Parade begins events on Saturday, July 2 begin with the Parade at 10 a.m. with the Family Midway set for noon to 3 p.m. A Craft Show will be held all day and the Women’s Fast Food Service Window is from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. A Corn Hole Tournament will be held at 2 p.m. and music by FLiPSiDE is from 7 to 11 p.m.

Please Show Off Your Toys – an event for classic cars, golf carts, tractors, etc., and a Craft Show, will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 3. Women’s Fast Food Service Window is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and music by Half Deck also will be held during that time.

It’s Summertime in Tawas

All Summer
Saturdays:
8-1 Farm Market
Gateway Park, Tawas City
Mondays:
Tawas Community Band Concerts
East Tawas City Park
Tuesdays:
7-8:30 Live Street Dance
Newman St., East Tawas

July
4: Independence Day Parade 11am
Fireworks over the Bay, dusk
8-10: Summerfest (www.tawassummerfest.com)
9: Light Up the Bay 5k
23: Friends of Tawas Point Golf Scramble
22-31: I Love Lacy- Tawas Bay Players

August
6: Tawas Uncork’d Wine, Ale and Food Festival
5-7: Orphan Train- WE Players, Inc.
6-7: Tawas Bay Waterfront Fine Arts Festival
11-18: East Tawas Sidewalk Sales
26-28: Blues By the Bay

September
3-4: Labor Day Arts & Crafts show
29: Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing