



FAIR

at the

WESTERN MICHIGAN FAIR • MASON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS



AUGUST 5-9



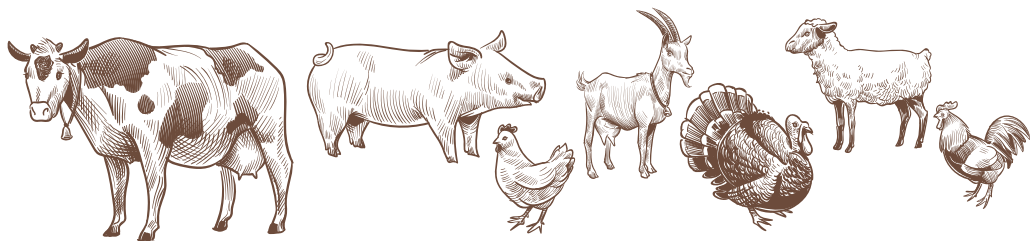
The West Michigan Livestock Council Invites you to the 2025 Youth Livestock Auction at the Western Michigan Fair

Saturday, August 9 • Beginning at 11:00 am

Located in the Show/Sale Barn #11

Beef...Sheep...Swine...Goats...Chickens...Turkeys will be sold

Everyone is invited and welcomed
to support area youth who have
raised top quality animals which will
help further their education



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 BUYERS!

Acres Co-op
Adams Construction
At the Peak Roofing
Bates Maple Syrup
Blarney Castle
Bob Peters
Bob Reams
Borgman Tree Service
Brackett Snowplowing
Brett & Beth Saxton
Callesen Wealth Management
Cameron Bros.
Captain Chuck's
Keystone Cooperative
Change Parts
Char Etchison
Christy Anderson
Clean Cut Lawncare
Cooper Woodworks
Corewell Health
Country Equine
Rep.Curt Vanderwall
Daryl & Ashley Jabrocki
Dr. Lew Squires
Dreamweaver Lures
Ed Pylman
Fred & Sharon Walters
Gamble Farm Properties
Gillison's Variety & Fabrication
Grand Haven Custom Molding
Greenstone Farm Credit Services
Greg Thurow



Griswold Family Dentistry
Gustafson's Well Drilling
Hackert Orchards
Hang'em High Hops
Hardman Construction
Hart Animal Clinic
Heirloom Construction
J&L Transport
Jacob Tiles
Jacob & Sara Seng
Jean Long
Jensen Family
Jesse Petersen Farm
JLH Lawncare
Joel Englebrecht
John & Karen Lammi
John & Theresa Shoop
John Shafer & Son

Kathy Bromley
Ken & Donna Miszewski
Ken Adams Excavating
Kusebuski Electric
Kurt Tiles
LaBranz Asparagus Farm
Lane Stotler Farm Bureau
Insurance
Larsen Farms
Larsen's Landscaping
Larson's Ace Hardware
Larson's Excavating
Lela's Kettle Corn
Lemire Janitorial
Ludington Beverage
Ludington Dairy Queen
Magee Insurance
Majeske Trucking



Marissa Sayles
Mary Johnson
Matt & Sarah Wood
Mauer Equine Sports Care
Meijer
Mel's Cottage Cleaners
Melinda Eberbach
Merskin & Merskin
Metalworks
Mike & Jody Teague
Mike & Trisha Palethorpe
Napa
New Life Land Management
Nick Johnson
Nick & Samantha Genter
Northside Market
Outback Photography
Overmyer Acres



Padnos
PB& J Farms
P&M Farms
Pere Marquette Winery
Personal Plumbing
Petersen & Sons
Pine Haven Farms
Quickway
Ranch Productions
Robert & Amanda Shoup
Ruth Babbins
Safe Harbor Credit Union
Sanders
Scott & Becky Tyndall
Second Chance Ranch
Shane & Melissa Ruboyanians
Shea Farms
Shelby State Bank

Sheriff Kim Cole
Shock Farm
Smith & Eddy Insurance
Springdale Farms
St. Johns Healthcare
Steven Roach
Storybook Ranch
Sweet Yo's
Ten 31 Stop
The Market
The Meat Shop
Thurrow Farms
Tiles Farms Trucking
Tom & Patricia Ezdebski
Tony Jabrocki
Total Acres
Treetop Meadows
Trent Thurrow
Tricia Keith
Tridonn Construction
Turf Care Mole Man
Visscher Construction
Wade Porter
Washaw Constructions
Waters Edge Customs
Watson's
Weldon Creek Farms
Wes Morton Family
West Shore Bank
WMOM
Wood Genetics
Wyman Funeral Home

For more information please view the WMLC Facebook page or call or text Jolene Babbins at 231-233-4176

Meet your 2025 Western Michigan Fair Association Board of Directors



Brandon Quillan
President



John Lammi
1st Vice President



John Cregg
2nd Vice President



Sheri Howe
Secretary



Deby Gustafson
Treasurer



Tyler Martz
Executive Director



Scott Merz
Executive Director



Amanda Adair



Angel Austin



Dennis Cregg



Linda Hackert



Daryl Jabrocki



Brittany Smith



Megan Samuels



Andy Quillan

Photos courtesy of Rob Alway, Mason County Press



DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Harness Racing Returns to Western Michigan Fair with an extra day of racing

BY LOIS TOMASZEWSKI
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Harness racing will return in full stride to the Mason County Fairgrounds this summer as part of the Western Michigan Fair, and competitors have more than bragging rights to race for.

The Western Michigan Fair Association has secured three days of harness racing during the 2025 fair, with events scheduled from Sunday, Aug. 3, through Tuesday, Aug. 5, culminating in the prestigious Spartan Futurity on Monday, Aug. 4, at 6 p.m., and the Michigan Colt Stakes at noon Tuesday, Aug. 5.

Western Michigan Fair Association

spokesperson Marcia Hansen said the decision to add a third-day of racing - on Sunday - was not traditional, but the change will add more opportunities for people to watch and enjoy this long-standing and popular event.

Thanks to increased funding from the state, this year's combined purse for all races is projected at \$120,000—a dramatic rise from the \$45,000 awarded just a few years ago.

"The Spartan Futurity is a coveted set of races for Michigan-bred or Michigan-owned horses," said Hansen in a previous interview. "There's money attached to the races, and it's getting even

more so since the legislature has loosened up some funding for the Michigan harness racing program."

The Michigan Legislature approved funding to revive the harness racing industry following a period of decline that began over a decade ago. That downturn led to economic fallout across related sectors, including feed suppliers, veterinarians, and breeders.

"After reevaluating it, the legislature has increased funding, hoping to bring people back to Michigan," Hansen said.

The funding was distributed through the Michigan Department of Agriculture's fairs division and directed to the

Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association (MHHA), which oversees events like the Spartan Futurity and selected Ludington as the event's host.

Founded in 1947, the MHHA is the only recognized standardbred organization in the state, representing more than 500 owners, trainers, drivers, and breeders. The association supports nearly 200 races annually across county fair tracks and at Northville Downs.

In recognition of its dedication and recovery efforts, the Western Michigan Fair Association was honored in January 2024 with the MHHA's Fair Track Appreciation Award. The award followed



DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO

an especially challenging fair season in which heavy rain forced the cancellation and postponement of several events. The WMFA worked quickly to restore the track and rescheduled the races for the fall.

That restoration effort was supported by Sargent Sand Co., Schultz Excavating, and the Mason County Road Commission, with labor and material donations making track repairs possible. In addition, the fair association provided hay and supplies for horsemen who returned to race in the rescheduled events.

"We bent over backwards to get the track back in shape," Hansen said. "That, in my opinion, is one of the reasons why we got the Spartan Futurity and the Colt Stakes."

Veteran horse owner and trainer Todd Hacker, who regularly races at Mason County and other Michigan fairs, also praised the Ludington facility and its

role in the sport's resurgence.

"They've got a beautiful facility. It's spotless. Our horsemen really love to come there and race," Hacker said in a previous interview. "They strive as a group to please everyone. They go above and beyond."

He emphasized the role of the county fair circuit as a developmental stepping stone for the next generation of competitive racers.

"The industry seems to be full-fledged, game-on," Hacker said. "Compared to where it was 10 years ago, it's awesome."

Racing begins Sunday, Aug. 3, with an overnight card at 4:30 p.m., followed by the Green Division races for two- and three-year-old Michigan-bred horses on Monday afternoon, and the Spartan Futurity that evening. The Colt Stakes will round out the harness racing schedule on Tuesday, Aug. 5, at 1 p.m.

Harness Racing Schedule Western Michigan Fair 2025

Location: Mason County Fairgrounds, Ludington
Admission: Included with fair entry (\$5; free for ages 5 and under)

SUNDAY, AUG. 3

4:30 p.m. – *Overnight Races*

- Early warm-up event
- Smaller purses; competitive local entries

MONDAY, AUG. 4

Afternoon (time TBA) – *Green Division Races*

- Michigan-bred 2- and 3-year-old trotters and pacers
- Entry-level competition with developing talent

6:00 p.m. – *Spartan Futurity*

- Premier state-bred stakes race
- One of Michigan's richest harness events
- Purse: part of \$120,000 combined total

TUESDAY, AUG. 5

12:00 p.m. – *Michigan Colt Stakes*

- Featured juvenile stakes for colts and fillies
- Showcases the next generation of Michigan harness racers

published by
**SHORELINE
MEDIA**
LUDINGTON DAILY NEWS
OCEANA'S HERALD-JOURNAL
WHITE LAKE BEACON

Ludington Daily News
202 N Rath Ave., P.O. Box 340, Ludington, MI 49431
(231) 845-5181 • (231) 843-4011 fax

Oceana's Herald-Journal
123 State Street, PO Box 190, Hart, MI 49420
(231) 873-5602 • (231) 873-4775 fax

White Lake Beacon
PO Box 98, Whitehall, MI 49461
(231) 894-5356 • (231) 873-4775 fax

Publisher: Mike Hrycko

Sales: Shelley Kovar, Sara McClane, Monica Evans

Graphics: Judy Lytle, Julie Eilers, Madelyn Kerbyson

News: Lois Tomaszewski, Shanna Avery, Alexis Settler, Cristina Juska, Larry Launstein Jr.

Circulation: Jeriann Steiger

© Copyright 2025 Shoreline Media
www.shorelinemedia.net



MADE IN LUDINGTON, MICHIGAN



Longtime volunteers talk about successes

BY DAVID L. BARBER
SPECIAL TO THE DAILY NEWS

MANISTEE – For several decades – generations, really – Marcia Hansen has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with those who hold the Western Michigan Fair on their shoulders: the volunteers, and those who support and take part in 4-H.

Now in the childhood of her 80s, the longtime area resident has served one role or another with the Ludington-based fair and, through it all, has been a guiding light for those who take part in 4-H.

“You name it, it gets done (by our volunteers), whether it is during the week of fair when just cleaning and tidying up needs to be done, or in the days and weeks before and after – it certainly keeps me busy,” said Marcia, who these days serves as volunteerism communications coordinator for the fair and also as chairperson for the sponsorship committee.

“We try to have everything in fairly decent shape, but because we have many activities during the shoulder seasons that surround fair week – before and after the fair – everything needs to have a little more spit and polish, and volunteers are very helpful in doing that, in making our buildings presentable. And then during fair, they’re monitoring the buildings, there’s so much work in getting the displays set up, taking the entries, working with the judges, and of course at the end of the fair there’s always more clean-up, making sure everybody gets their exhibits back, closing up some of the buildings at the end of the season. There’s gardening – we have numerous gardens and planters – and we always appreciate help in getting them tidied up.

“Our volunteers are all ages. A lot of the kids who bring animals to the fair have workbees where they prepare their

stalls and cages for whatever type of animal they’re bringing. They’re expected to get those buildings presentable so that their animals have a place to be put. You’ll see little guys bring chickens and rabbits and they’re running around and scrubbing their cages, and you see the older teenagers setting up their show rings in preparation for presenting their exhibits.”

Marcia has been a strong supporter of 4-H programs, all her life.

“I would have to say one of the main emphasis (is for the kids to have fun),” she said, but our statement of purpose is to promote, and educate, about agriculture. Fairs now are regarded as one of the best sources of educating the public about where our food and fiber come from.

“Less than five percent of our population now makes a living by farming, and so a lot of our kids – even our local kids – no longer have grandparents who are still farming. But it’s not just the kids (who are

learning), it’s anyone who isn’t up close and personal with the farming environment. That’s what is near and dear to my heart because I was born and raised on a dairy farm and that’s one of the reasons why I stay so connected with the fair is because I can see the value in that.”

Marcia served as a 4-H program coordinator for 23 years locally and though she said she has “slowed a bit,” she keeps going because she enjoys it so much.

“I can just feel how it feels to the kids who participate in that program, in their caring for their animal – the responsibilities – and there’s a lot to be said about that,” she said. “I will say that it’s not the same as when I retired. In Mason County, since I retired almost 25 years ago, I’ve seen a lot of change. When I left the 4-H program we had maybe about 600 kids in clubs and I can’t say that we have that now, but there’s still a program – a strong animal market program, which

still teaches kids a lot about those life skills on how to take care of a living, breathing creature, and there’s a lot to be said about that.

“In this day and age I just feel like that it’s still just so important that we stress good sportsmanship. We have quite a campground where families would come and camp and what adults will say, ‘oh, it was not necessarily about the ribbon, it was sitting around in family units and having a meal together.’ And if a kid was having a not-so-good day, there was somebody there with an arm around him or her telling them ‘you know, next time it will be better.’ Those are the things and kids and adults remember – it’s not all about getting the blue ribbon. 4-H has taught the kids, but it’s also taught the families.”

Longtime fair volunteer Darlene Fuhrman said much of what the volunteers do might not be seen by the public.

“So many of the tasks that volunteers do to have a successful fair are not seen by the public,” said Darlene. “It involves contacting judges, finding people to monitor the exhibit buildings, ordering ribbons

and trophies, providing input into the fair book on various classes, and cleaning and organizing the building to be ready for the first day of the fair.

“Without volunteers, things would not go smoothly. The need for volunteers during fair week is helping people enter their items, organizing the items by class and department, having clerks helping the judges by marking down the placings of items, putting out the ribbons on the items that are placed, and monitoring the building. Many hours by many volunteers make the fair week a success.”

She also spoke about the successes of 4-H.

“4-H is a great program that taught me as a child the value of making an item or working and showing an animal that led to the success of accomplishment at the fair,” said Darlene. “It was based on that experience as a child that I became a 4-H leader for many years. During that time, many hours were spent volunteering by leading a craft club and a livestock club.

“When my daughters aged out of the 4-H program, I became involved in the adult exhibit area as the Superintendent of the Domestic Arts Building. My



sisters, Debra Weaver and Linda Ellison also know about volunteering as they are always available to help during the week as well as two former 4-H co-leaders

Leann Saxton and Carrie Jorissen. Volunteering is a big part of our lives as we give back to the community that we live in.”



FILER CREDIT UNION

SAVE | BORROW | INVEST | BUSINESS




JOIN TODAY



MEMBER FOCUSED
COMMUNITY BASED
FINANCIAL WELLNESS

FILERCU.COM

Bear Lake | Ludington | Manistee





Midway by T.J. Schmidt & Company. Midway Wristbands are available daily: \$30 general, \$25 on Wednesday for Kid's Day



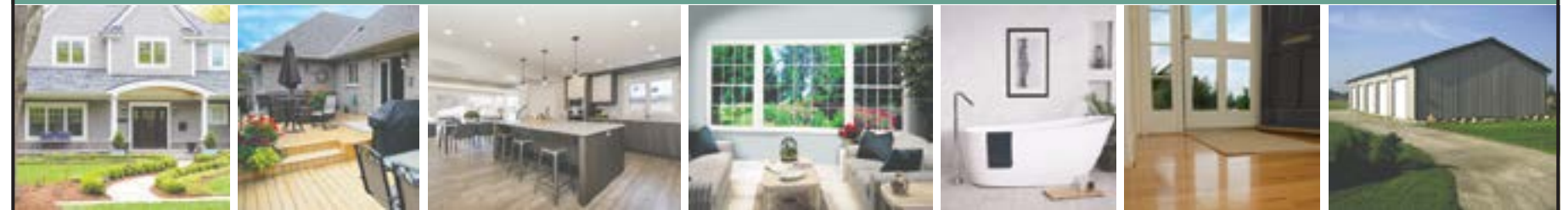
HAM • BACON • SAUSAGE • BEER • WINE • LIQUOR



TNT will present the Mid Season Championship Demolition Derby (Grandstand) at 6 pm on Saturday, August 9. Admission \$15, Pit Passes \$25

CARTER
Lumber

SERVING PROFESSIONAL BUILDERS SINCE 1932



Fasteners & adhesives From Foundation to Finish—Carter's Got You Covered!

Your all-in-one home improvement store for lumber & building materials

Windows & Doors | Siding | Trim & Molding | Insulation | Pole Barns & Garage Packages
Tools & Hardware | Paint & Stains | Kitchen & Bath Design | Electrical & Plumbing Supplies
Engineered Wood Products | Concrete & Masonry Supplies

2323 West US Hwy. 10, Ludington, MI | 231-757-9000 | carterlumber.com





Check out these special exhibitions at the fair

Two unique performers will bring interactive, family-friendly entertainment to the 2025 Western Michigan Fair — and both are appearing free of charge throughout fair week.

Hot Glass Academy, a mobile glass-blowing studio based in Americus, Georgia, will offer live demonstrations daily in the Youth Craft Building. Professional glass artists will work with molten glass in a full-scale portable hot shop, showing fairgoers how raw materials are gathered, shaped and transformed into functional art using traditional tools and furnaces. The exhibit is both educational and visually captivating, appealing to families, art enthusiasts and

curious onlookers.

Also performing throughout the fairgrounds is Brian Koenig, better known

and interactive stunts—all performed with disposable cups. His roaming act is designed to surprise and engage audiences of all ages with playful tricks and high-energy humor.

Both acts are included with fair admission and will run daily during regular fair hours.

Here are some of the other highlights visitors to the fair can partake in:

Great Lakes Fireorks choreographed to music - one day only, August 5 at 10 p.m.

Western Michigan Old Engine Club will have their equipment on display throughout the fair dates



STOW & GO...

Your Storage Neighbor Since the 1980s

Your Storage Solution is

LARSON'S SELF STORAGE

Variety of Unit Sizes to Fit All Your Storage Needs
Convenient Location, Easy Access 365 Days A Year

Office: 263 N. Jebavy Dr., Ludington **231-845-7242**

2025 Western Michigan Fair – Full Schedule of Events

Livestock & Animal Shows

- Sunday, Aug. 3
 - 10 a.m.–1 p.m. – Small and large animal check-in
- Monday, Aug. 4
 - 3 p.m. – Sheep Show
 - 5 p.m. – Goat Show
- Tuesday, Aug. 5
 - 9 a.m. – Swine Show
 - 12 p.m. – Exhibit Buildings

- Open
 - 12 p.m. – Horse Show
- Wednesday, Aug. 6
 - 8 a.m. – Horse Show
 - 10 a.m. – Beef Show
 - 1:30 p.m. – Rabbit Show
- Thursday, Aug. 7
 - 9 a.m. – Poultry Show
 - 10 a.m. – Dairy Show
 - 12 p.m. – Dog Show
- Friday, Aug. 8
 - 10 a.m. – Fun Equestrian Games
- Saturday, Aug. 9
 - 11 a.m. – Livestock Auction

Harness Racing

- Sunday, Aug. 3 – 4:30 p.m.
 - Overnight Michigan Sire Stakes races
- Monday, Aug. 4 – 4:30 p.m.
 - Green Division races (2- & 3-year-old trotters & pacers)
- Tuesday, Aug. 5 – 1:00 p.m.
 - Michigan-bred Mixed Stakes & Colt Stakes races

Midway & Family Activities

- Midway Hours:
 - Tuesday–Friday: 3–11 p.m.
 - Wednesday (Kid's Day): 12–5 p.m. and 5–11 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 6
 - 5 p.m. – Kid's Bike Drawing
- Thursday, Aug. 7
 - 3 p.m. – “Read for Rides”

Grandstand & Evening Entertainment

- Tuesday, Aug. 5
 - 7 p.m. – West MI Pullers Tractor & Truck Pull (\$10)
 - 10 p.m. – Fireworks (free)
- Wednesday, Aug. 6
 - 7:30 p.m. – TNT Bump & Run Racing (\$10; Pit \$20)
- Thursday, Aug. 7
 - 7 p.m. – Super Kicker Rodeo (\$15)
- Friday, Aug. 8
 - 5 p.m. – Kids Pedal Pull
 - 7 p.m. – SJO Super Cross Racing (\$10; Pit \$15)
- Saturday, Aug. 9
 - 6 p.m. – TNT Mid-Season Demolition Derby (\$15; Pit \$25)

Special Competitions & Fitness Events

- Saturday, Aug. 9
 - 8:00 a.m. – Barnyard Boogie 5K Run/Walk
 - 9:00 a.m. – BARN Brawl Youth Wrestling Tournament

Admission & Wristbands

- Gate Admission:
 - \$5 (ages 6+); Free for ages 5 and under
- Senior Day:
 - Thursday, Aug. 7 – Free for ages 60+
- Midway Wristbands:
 - \$30 general
 - \$25 on Wednesday Kid's Day



Mason County's

Oakview

MEDICAL CARE FACILITY

1001 Diana Street
Ludington, MI 49431 • 231-845-5185
www.oakviewmcf.com

Oakview Medical Care Facility strives to create a home-like environment that upholds each resident's quality of life. We offer a skilled medical staff, pleasant surroundings, carefully prepared meals, engaging social activities, a variety of rehabilitative therapies, a family support center and much more.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

“Barn Brawl” at the Fair promises high level wrestling matches

BY GREG GIELCZYK
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

The “Barn Brawl” is making its return at the Western Michigan Fair for a 16th straight year courtesy of the Western Michigan Fair Association and the Mason County Central Wrestling Club.

And it promises to be just as much of a draw as it’s ever been, with exciting matches at every level.

In fact, if it were to grow any larger it would present organizer, and MCC wrestling coach Kendel Trim with an overflow he wouldn’t be able to handle.

“We’re at capacity right now,” Trim said.

Early registration is encouraged, but Trim said that most wait until the last minute to sign up.

“I don’t really try hard to get a lot of people in. Right now, we’re pretty close

to capacity every year.

“If I kind of pushed it more, and tried to get more kids in, I’d have to start turning people away.

“We’re limited on space. We can’t really get another barn. I have a hard enough time getting the one I have. So, we just have the space and just kind of have the time that we have.”

Many of the wrestlers have been coming to the Barn Brawl for over 10 years, but there certainly are always those attending it for the first time.

So a lot of the names are familiar. “We have people that come back again and again,” said Trim. “A lot of them are people that wrestle all summer long, so it’s a very high-level tournament.

“So, you have really good wrestling there. People just really like it. We usually don’t have any problems with it.

“People kind of know each other, be-



cause they do come back year after year. It’s a pretty good time.”

The wrestlers are divided into four grade divisions – fifth and sixth, seventh and eighth, freshman and sophomores and juniors and seniors.

Younger wrestlers compete in the morning session which starts at 9 a.m., and finishes around 11:30, when the middle school and high school wrestlers hit the mats.

Each wrestler is required to pay a \$25 entry fee, postmarked by Aug. 1.

Trim said that the tournament draws between 175 and 200 wrestlers, which he added is probably the maximum number they can handle.

Bracket winners at the Barn Brawl receive a custom made wooden medal that is stained and branded with a hot iron.

“That’s kind of always the coveted prize, to get their hands on one of those,” Trim said. “Because it is (for) No. 1, and is really tough to win.

“We’ve had quite a few of our kids

chasing after those. That was kind of one the things, to try to create where our kids don’t have to travel all over to get good competition. They can get it in their own back yard.

“It lets them know where they’re at, and reminds them of all of the kids out there. If they’ve been working over the summer, they can see where they’ve progressed.

“We do lot of work in the spring and over the summer, so this is your first time to take a look at that, and see where it’s gotten you.”

Besides local wrestlers, many come from Clare and Reed City, while a few have traveled from Indiana for the event.

Many more make the trip from downstate, with their families, and populate the hotels and motels in the area, as well as visit the beach and some fishing.

“It varies from year to year,” Trim added. “We get people from all over, and have had some really, really good wrestlers in that barn.



“It’s a pretty good tournament to come and watch. You come and watch those little kids in the morning, and they’re really good. They’ve been wrestling all summer and they’re ready to go.

“But, then in the afternoon you get the

older kids, and you get some really, really quality kids. We’ve seen state championship level matches in that barn. It’s pretty fun.”

Last year the Fair Board instituted an entry fee of \$5 for spectators.





319 Oak Street, Freeport, Mi 49325

Contact 616-765-5103
or 800-860-wood
to set up an evaluation

- Buyers of standing timber
- We specialize in selective harvests, timber stand improvements
- Bonded and insured

HAVE A GREAT TIME AT THE 2025 FAIR!

IT'S YOUR CAR. IT'S YOUR CHOICE





Don't let insurance dictate where you go for body shop work

From dings to collisions, trust our expert team for top-quality repairs.

1742 W. US 10, Scottville
231.613.4111



Drive with confidence!

High Spirits, Hometown Roots

Step right up to Hempire Collective — your locally owned, veteran-operated cannabis dispensary serving up good vibes and great products, fair and square.



Whether you're here for the rides or the relief, we've got just what you need to keep things smooth and easy.

Fair week or any week... swing by and elevate your experience.

130 S. Main St., Scottville, MI
(231) 261-1919
<https://www.thehempirecollective.com/dispensary-scottville>
Veteran Owned
Sunday: 10 AM – 8 PM
Monday – Saturday: 9 AM – 9 PM



For use by individuals 21 years of age or older only. Keep out of reach of children. It is illegal to drive a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana. National Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222.



3351 W US 10, Ludington, MI 49431 | 231-845-1221
Monday - Friday 7:30am - 5:30pm, Saturday 8:00am - 2:00pm

WE ARE HERE TO KEEP YOUR OPERATION RUNNING!

BATTERIES • FILTERS

MECHANICS TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

CUSTOM HYDRAULIC HOSE ASSEMBLIES

MADE WHILE YOU WAIT!



New 4-H Woodworkers debut at this year's fair

New club carries on the Ivan Anthony Legacy

BY STEVE BEGNOCHE

Ivan Anthony's lifelong work with 4-H is being honored through efforts funded by memorial donations to Mason County 4-H made in his memory following his death June 17, 2024.

Growing up on an Eden Township farm, Anthony was involved in 4-H throughout his childhood and as an adult. He became a club leader at age 18 to ensure his brother could have a 4-H experience. Anthony later served in district and state 4-H roles and for decades as leader of the Summit Woodchoppers Club.

In 2002, Anthony was inducted into the inaugural 4-H Emerald Clover Society, an honor bestowed "based on

evidence of three or more years of 4-H youth membership, professional and business achievement, leadership in community service and philanthropy, contributions to or impact on American society, and significant leadership and achievement as a 4-H member."

In thinking about how to best use the memorial contributions people made in Anthony's honor, Lori Cargill, 4-H Program Coordinator; Mason and Lake counties, said, "Woodworking was a topic that came to the top, for sure. We're trying to recognize that and lean into that. It was very clear to us, what a wonderful legacy he had."

Cargill explained Mason County 4-H serves the community through several

"modes" in addition to traditional club experiences.

"As staff we offer community partnerships with local organizations," she said, noting organizations such as Mason County District Library and Ludington Area Center for the Arts (LACA). "With their support and facilities, we offer programs with them. There are also after school programs."

Wood projects are being featured, thanks to the Anthony memorials.

In June, Mason County 4-H offered two woodworking day camps at LACA as part of the center's Art Venture programs.

"We worked on skill-building with hammers, drills, and miter boxes with a

saw. Participants made a variety of different projects each day," Cargill said. Woodworking basics such as measure twice, cut once and how tools are used were emphasized.

They had good turnout, she said. The camp for the 5-to-9-year-olds was filled. A second camp targeted 10-to-14-year-olds.

In Scottville, the library is hosting Thrifty Thursday programs on the third Thursday of June, July and August with a target age group of 12-and under. Projects are fun and take about an hour.

"The programs we've offered this summer have really been focused on artistic expression," Cargill said.

For instance, building off a previous



4-H marionette project, participants in one program this summer took scraps of wood, connected them with eyebolts and used strings to make puppets put into action by pulling the strings.

"We had some really creative ones," Cargill said.

Another project involved making flowers out of wood biscuits - oval shaped flat pieces of woods woodworkers use when joining boards in larger projects. The biscuits made perfect flower petals and were attached to a wood round stem. Later, they were told to use their imagination to make something out of the flower assemblies. Being children, they turned the flowers on

their side and connected them and soon dinosaur skeletons took shape. "We had some really neat dinosaur creations," she said

Cargill said the programs and projects have been well received both by the children and, at the library by the adults. "Parents usually stay and are involved in the project having fun with the kid," Cargill said of the Thrifty Thursdays.

More is yet to come.

Mason County 4-H is planning an Acres of Adventure Special Interest (SPIN) Club short-term program to learn about 4-H during the week of the West Michigan Fair at the Mason County Fairgrounds. It will be for non-exhibitors to

learn what the fair and 4-H are about including what the four "H"s (head-heart-hands-health) represent.

In addition, Chuck May who helps deliver STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programming for Mason County 4-H through after-school programs such as Tech Wizards will incorporate woodworking in some of those efforts, Cargill said.

She said Mason County 4-H is interested in finding volunteers "to promote the legacy of wood craft" in Mason County.

"Bringing this project to life introduced me to several of Ivan's family members," Cargill said. "They have been very supportive and cheerleaders of the

project and very grateful we have continued to offer something that is part of their family tradition."

"We were very touched that the 4-H program chose to use the memorial donations to continue my father's legacy as a teacher of woodworking," Nancy Fife, daughter of Ivan and Betty Anthony, said. "I had the pleasure of meeting with Lori Cargill and took her through my father's shop. We were able to donate further, wood and findings to help with their projects. I think my father would be very pleased and I hope this can become an annual event."

Many of the 4-hers woodworking projects are on display at this year's fair.

A Fair Deal for All Your Waste Needs!

Family-Owned and operated for Over 35 Years

Waste Reductions is your trusted choice for residential and commercial waste services — local, reliable, and built on service that lasts

Call 231-843-9129 today or stop by our Transfer Station: 5848 N. Stiles Rd., Ludington • Office: 119 S. Main St., Scottville

WASTE REDUCTION SYSTEMS, LLC

wastereductionsystemsllc@gmail.com

Everything you need ... and more!

- Lawn • Home • Farm • Garden
- Home Improvement
- Patio • Landscaping
- Paint • Grills
- Fertilizers • Mowers • Blowers

231-873-2216 | 4 Lincoln St, HART, MI 231-845-7318 | 5840 W US-10, LUDINGTON, MI

Come check out one of the area's Favorite Restaurants!

Breakfast • Lunch Dinner • Cocktails

Open Daily 9 - 9
(Closed on Monday's)
438 S. Hancock St., Pentwater
(231) 869-3160



Ludington Lock & Key

SINCE 1982

"Security for Your Peace of Mind"

Kirk E. Myers - Owner
502 N. William Street
P.O. Box 404, Ludington, MI 49431

Phone: 231-843-3754 / 1-877-372-1100
Fax: 231-425-3241
Email: locknkey@chartermi.net





EASY LIVING FLOORING

Jerome and Lynn Knizacky
Owners

Large Selection of: Carpet • Vinyl
Ceramic Tile • Hardwood Flooring
Area Rugs • Remnants

5405 W. Wallace
(behind Just Bargains)
Ludington • 843-1826

Meet West Michigan Fair Association's newest board member, Amanda Adair

Fair season is soon approaching, and West Michigan Fair Association's newest board member, Amanda Adair, is excited to help get the gears in motion for a year of competition, judging and great festival fun.

"I am very excited to be able to help the tradition of the Western Michigan Fair continue on for years to come," Adair said.

Adair is no stranger to the West Michigan Fair. Prior to being elected to the board of directors, she has been very active the past three years helping during fair week whenever possible, from working in the cash office with the board's treasurer to selling grandstand tickets for events, parking, event security, and "cleaning up trash in the evening when storms have rolled in."

Being from metro Detroit, Adair moved to the Free Soil area when she was 12, after going back to the metro Detroit area, she decided in 2010 to move back to Ma-

son County to bring up her family, buying her grandparent

S retirement dream home on 22 acres in the Manistee National Forest at the north end of the county.

Raising a 4H family, Adair is looking forward to helping other families keep traditions alive with their own 4H's. Adair's younger son has been in 4H the past five years showing pigs, and her older son used to show horses and took up archery. He now does demo derbies and Bump and Runs.

In addition to her family's involvement at the fair, she loves how the community comes together.

"I love the community feel of camping at the fair, watching all the kids come together and help each other and just enjoy life outside of the normal routine of life," she said. "Last year I watched my son and a bunch of his friends take a fake bull

head and stick it in a straw bale and the girls were teaching them how to rope. I just snapped some pictures and sat there and smiled. The group of friends we camp around come together and share the tasks of cooking and helping with all the kids, it's just a really nice time."

Adair is looking forward to being a part of making the fair a continued successful event for all.

"Not many realize the amount of time and dedication it takes from the board of directors to make sure fair happens, and everything goes smoothly. It has been a huge eye opener for me to get involved, and I am so excited to be a part of this journey. This year our fair theme is Stars and Stripes and Summer nights, we are aiming to show our veterans the appreciation they deserve and that has been super exciting to be a part of something so near and dear to my heart," she said.



Amanda Adair
MASON COUNTY PRESS PHOTO

LARGEST SELECTION IN TOWN!

WE'VE GOT THE BEER YOU LOVE!



Open Daily
9 am - 12 midnight

5946 W US-10, Ludington, (231) 425-4355

Liquor • Beer • Wine • Lotto • Cigarettes
Groceries • Ice • Cold Beverages • Chips • Candy
Bill Pay Center • Juul Pods E-cigarettes
CBD Products • Large Tobacco Selection

Open Daily
8 am - 12 midnight



423 S. James St., Ludington, (231) 845-5510

Dusty's

Auto Body & Detail, Inc.

"Where The Detail Makes The Difference"



INSURANCE WORK WELCOME • FREE ESTIMATES

Making A Difference Since 1988

135 S. Jebavy Drive, Ludington | 231-845-1367

Jeff Dust
Owner



ASPHALT PAVING & SUPPLY COMPANY

FROM PARKING LOTS TO HIGHWAYS

Rieth-Riley is a full service asphalt paving company handling all sizes of projects, ranging from small patch projects to major highway reconstruction

PRODUCTS
ASPHALT SUPPLY • AGGREGATE SUPPLY • RECYCLED MATERIALS

SERVICES
ASPHALT PAVING • CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION AND PAVING
SITE PREPARATION & EXCAVATOR



100% Employee Owned

LUDINGTON • 5621 W. 1ST ST. • 231-845-7031



SAFEHARBORCU.ORG (231) 843-2323

Good Luck! 
to all Western Michigan Fair Participants!

 We're cheering you on
and proud to support this
amazing community
tradition.

NCUA 5511 US 10, LUDINGTON MI



TODD & BRAD REED
PHOTOGRAPHY
AND RACHEL GAUDETTE
TODDANDBRADREED.COM

Good luck to
all participants at the
Western Michigan Fair!

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE RENTALS! Explore the Silver Lake Sand Dunes with us and enjoy the views of Lake Michigan!

 **JOIN US FOR OUR GUIDED SUNSET TOURS** Register by 6 pm the day of your tour
231-923-2455

1931 N. 24th Ave., Mears, MI 49436 | silverbackoffroad.com

In the Market for Something Fresh? Celebrating 65 Years of Family Tradition

Fresh Produce
Homemade Bakery,
Fudge & More

 **ORCHARD MARKET**
BAKERY
PRODUCE
CREAMERY

8400 N. US 31, FREE SOIL • (231) 464-5534 • www.orchardmarket.us



MOBILE CRISIS

Help for you on the phone or in person
24/7/365.

Serving adults, children, and families in
Lake, Mason, and Oceana counties.

Call us if you or someone you know is
suicidal, emotionally overwhelmed,
having trouble coping, or is in crisis.



CONTACT US:
 **1-800-992-2061**

Good Luck & Have Fun at the 86th West Michigan Fair



TRUST OUR PROFESSIONALS WITH:

- Alignments
- Brakes
- Tires
- Oil Changes
- Tuneups
- Heating & A/C
- Steering & Suspension
- Engine Repair & Replacement
- Automatic Transmission Replacement



702 S. James St., Ludington, MI **231-425-3526**

Open Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm

TWO LOCATIONS TO PROUDLY SERVE YOU



LAKE SHORE MOTORS

Sales & Service

FRESH INVENTORY, FAIR PRICES, AND NO FLUFF – JUST HONEST DEALS FROM FOLKS WITH 25+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Auto Sales | • Oil Changes | • Engine Repair & Replacement |
| • Alignments | • Tuneups | • Automatic Transmission Replacement |
| • Brakes | • Heating & AC | |
| • Tires | • Steering & Suspension | |



4413 W. US Hwy. 10, Ludington, MI

231-292-5768

Open Monday - Friday 10 am - 6 pm