

81st WESTERN MICHIGAN FAIR • MASON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

FAIR

at the



AUGUST 6-10,
2019



LUDINGTON DAILY NEWS  THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2019











81ST ANNUAL FAIR

2019

AUGUST 6-10, 2019

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 4
DOG SHOW - 3:00 PM
HARNESS RACING - 4 PM

MONDAY, AUGUST 5
POULTRY & BEEF SHOW 9 AM
HARNESS RACING - 4 PM
SHEEP SHOW - 3 PM
JUDGING - 6 PM

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6
SWINE SHOW - 9 AM
HORSE SHOW - 10 AM
GOAT SHOW - 3 PM
MIDWAY OPENS - 3 PM
WSB FAMILY BUCK NIGHT - 5 PM
TRACTOR & TRUCK PULL - 7 PM
FIREWORKS - DUSK

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7
RABBIT/DAIRY/HORSE SHOWS - 9 AM
KID'S DAY - NOON TO 5 PM
BIKE DRAWING - 5:00 PM
EXTREME RODEO - 7 PM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8
LIVESTOCK AUCTION - 3 PM
GARDEN TRACTOR PULL - 7 PM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9
PEDAL PULL FOR KIDS - 5 PM
SJO SUPERCROSS - 7 PM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10
STAMPEDE FUN RUN/WALK - 8:30 AM
YOUTH WRESTLING - 9 AM
HAY BALE TOSS CONTEST - 3 PM
DEMO DERBY - 6:30 PM

New barns to officially debut at annual fair

BY SARAH CLINKSCALES
DAILY NEWS INTERN

Two new barns were built at the Mason County Fairgrounds during the winter months and will finally have their official debut and ribbon cutting during the annual Western Michigan Fair.

The ribbon cutting will be at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6.

The barns will be filled with a variety of animals during the fair, including chickens, goats, sheep, rabbits, steers and horses.

The materials of the original barns built in 1936 were repurposed to find new life in other projects all over the state of Michigan. Western Michigan Fair Communication Coordinator Hansen said that barely any material ended up in a landfill.

During the renovations, Hansen said the members of the Western Michigan Fair Association Board of Directors agreed that the work is necessary to keep the fairgrounds alive and vital, and to preserve the environment that attendees and exhibitors have come to expect from the fair.

"The Western Michigan Fair Association board recognized that there were things



that needed to be done," Hansen said, noting that the Michigan Quarter Horse Association was instrumental in bringing the ideas for improvements to fruition.

Having new, up-to-date barns was essential to keep the fair up to standards and alive and thriving, she said.

"Those two barns — No. 13 and 14 —

were dandy in the day they were built and have served us well, but now we have new groups that come and utilize the fairgrounds, and they're no longer adequate. For people like the Michigan Quarter Horse Association, there wasn't any place to put their gear or their feed, because they were out in the open."

The Mason County Board of Commissioners approved a maximum loan of \$167,000 to the fair association on Dec. 11, 2018 for a capital improvement project at the Mason County Fairgrounds that included replacing the two pole barns.

The new barns open up new avenues for competitions, fairs and conferences, such as the Harbor Classic Horse Show and equipment for goat and sheep pens. Hansen said she's excited for new possibilities that will be available to them due to the new space and equipment.

The additional space allowed for the Western Michigan Fair Association to invest in new 4-foot by 6-foot enclosures for goats and sheep. The goat and sheep exhibits are presented by the 4-H Youth Club.

"We're proud and pleased to provide the best environment for the animals," Hansen said.

Using the proper enclosures ensures animals' well-being and creates a beautiful display, Hansen said.

"We've completed the project and we hope fairgoers appreciate it," Hansen said. "Hopefully the new barns will be there for many more years."

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A page from history

DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Pictured is the July 24, 1936 section two front page from the Ludington Daily News for the first Western Michigan Fair.

Helicopter rides available at fair

BY SARAH CLINKSCALES
DAILY NEWS INTERN

Anyone who's been interested in having a bird's-eye-view of Mason County will have the chance of a lifetime to take a helicopter ride during the Western Michigan Fair. State-of-the-art Robinson R44 helicopters will be zipping through the air all week during the fair.

The helicopter rides are offered by the Carolina Helicopters company and will be located at the west side of the infield.

"The Total Helicopter Experience" includes a 2-mile aerial tour. Tickets for a flight are \$20. The helicopter can carry three passengers per flight for families to enjoy the experience together. Rides will be available Tuesday, Aug. 6, through Saturday, Aug. 10.

Danny Matthews, the pilot, has had a long career in aviation. He's a commercial-rated helicopter pilot with 25 years of piloting experience, and his family has been offering aerial tours since 2010.

The fair association hopes that offering helicopter rides will appeal to everyone's interests.

"Our goal is to have something at the fair for everyone," Western Michigan Fair Association board member Connie Wade said. "What a memory, to remember going to the fair with mom and dad and riding a helicopter."

The fair brings a different variety of people in because it has a wide range of activities for different interests. Keeping the fair new and interesting each year is important to the board, according to Western Michigan Fair Communication Coordinator Marcia Hansen.

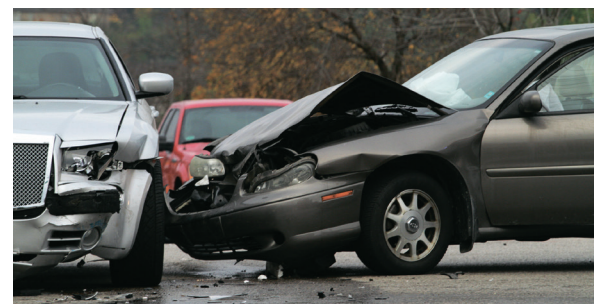
"You have to have something different for every level of interest. Having something that's totally different will attract new people and make it an exciting place," Hansen said. "If we don't continually have new and exciting things it becomes the same old-same old."

"Not everyone is as interested in the animals, but someone might really want to go on a helicopter ride and come to the fair just for the helicopter," Wade added.

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DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTOS

A pick-up kicks into the next gear at the annual Michigan Tractor and Truck Pullers event.

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McCormick SAWMILL

McCormick Sawmill would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers on the fire that we had at our mill. This has been a very hard time for us all. At this time we are making plans on the rebuilding of McCormick Sawmill. We would also like to let everyone know that we are continuing to purchase standing hardwood timber, veneer logs and cut logs in Lake, Mason, Manistee, Missaukee, Osceola, Clare, Gladwin, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, Midland, Muskegon and surrounding Counties. Once again, we would like to thank everyone for all of the support you have given us.

Thank You,

Paul Kamps, owner of McCormick Sawmill and the McCormick Sawmill Employees



2019 Western Michigan Fair Schedule

Tuesday, Aug. 6

Opening Day Dollar Day

Fair entrance \$1. All rides \$1 each.

11 a.m. Gates Open

3 p.m. Midway Opens

4 p.m. Hayloft Entertainment tent

5 p.m. West Shore Bank Family Buck

Night First 500 children through the gate receive \$1 bill.

7 p.m. Michigan Tractor and Truck Pullers

Grandstand event, admission \$10

Dusk Fireworks to Music

11 p.m. — Midway closes



Wednesday, Aug. 7

Kids Day

ALL DAY Unlimited Ride Wristbands for \$15.00 if purchased between the hours of noon-5pm. Bands purchased after 5pm are \$22.00

11 a.m. Gates Open

Noon Midway Opens

Noon-5 p.m. Kids Day Activities

5 p.m. Bike Drawing /Backpack Giveaway

5:30 p.m. Western Michigan Fair 2019

Homemaker Announced

6 p.m. Marek's Music Makers at Hayloft Entertainment Tent.

7 p.m. Extreme Rodeo

Grandstand event, admission \$12

11 p.m. — Midway closes

Thursday, Aug. 8

Heroes Celebration Day

Veterans and senior citizens admitted free.

Noon-2 p.m. Special Kids Day

(Children eligible for this special event will be by invitation only and given an ID badge through the West Shore ESD.)

1 p.m. Gates Open

3 p.m. Midway Opens

Ride wristbands \$22

3 p.m. Livestock Auction

4 p.m. Hayloft Entertainment Tent

4-11 p.m. Read for Rides

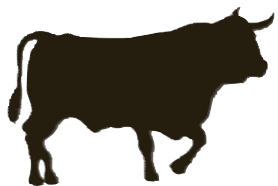
Ticket Holders

7 p.m. Garden Tractor Pull

Grandstand event. Free to fairgoers.

7:30 p.m. Sizzling Summer Sing-off Finale

11 p.m. — Midway closes



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2019 Western Michigan Fair Schedule

Friday, Aug. 9

Fantastic Friday

Fair entrance \$3. Ages 5 & younger free.

10 a.m. Grand Slam Sweepstakes

11 a.m. Gates Open

3 p.m. Midway Opens

4 p.m. Hayloft Entertainment Tent

5 p.m. Pedal Pull for Kids in Show/Sale Barn

7 p.m. SJO Supercross

Grandstand event, admission \$10.

Pit passes cost \$13.

11 p.m. – Midway closes



Saturday, Aug. 10

Fair Finale

8:30 a.m. 6th Annual Stampede 5K Fun Run/Walk

9 a.m. Barn Brawl youth wrestling

9 a.m. Horse Costume

10 a.m. Fun Equestrian Games

11 a.m. Gates Open

12 p.m. Midway Opens

2 p.m. Hayloft Entertainment Tent

3 p.m. Hay Bale Toss Contest (Beef and Dairy Show Ring - free to fairgoers)

6:30 p.m. Night of Destruction Demolition Derby Grandstand event, admission \$15.

Pit passes cost \$20.

11 p.m. Midway closes

Please note – No animals permitted on midway, with the exception of Service Dogs.



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New simulator at fair shows effects of impaired driving

BY SARAH CLINKSCALES
DAILY NEWS INTERNS

Western Michigan Fairgoers can expect to see farm animals large and small, cotton candy, popcorn, and games, but might be surprised to see an impaired driving simulator.

The Save A Life simulator will be a new attraction this year at the Western Michigan Fair. The car simulator, similar to the kind you might see at an arcade, allows users to experience what it's like to drive distracted or impaired.

Western Michigan Fair Communication Coordinator Marcia Hansen said it's an opportunity to educate fairgoers about impaired and distracted driving.

"With the wide range of age groups, it's a perfect opportunity to talk about this topic; it's touched the lives of many people," Hansen said.

The simulator cost \$12,500. Hansen said that the Western Michigan Fair Association Board of Directors did receive financial contributions from community members to offset some of the price of the simulator.

"It was costly but free to fairgoers, so hopefully they

take this opportunity," Hansen said.

"People are used to seeing animals, eating fair food and having fun, but there's a serious side of life... and we want to educate people," she said.

The Save A Life Tour aims to educate people of all ages about the dangers of distracted or impaired driving. The company is based out of Grand Rapids.

According to their website, The Save A Life Tour has traveled around the world to show firsthand the consequences of unsafe driving practices and choices. It has been presented to students at more than 1,500 different colleges and universities and more than 600 different high schools across the country.

"It's a lot of money, but

how do you put a price on a life?" said Connie Wade, a Western Michigan Fair Association board member. "There's so many teens and adults with the bad habit and it can kill people. It's affected a lot of people in our community."

The Save A Life Tour utilizes several methods for educating and demonstrating the effects and consequences that are direct results of distracted driving. Methods of education are a speaking presentation, visual presentation and interactive demonstration.

"Our fair board is progressive in their thinking that it's not just cows and cooking, it's a lot of other things, and we need to bring in things that are pertinent, and this topic touches so many people's lives," Hansen said.



THE DAILY NEWS—LUDINGTON, MICHIGAN

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1936

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Original advertisement

DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Pictured is the original July 24, 1936 newspaper ad in the Ludington Daily News for the inaugural Western Michigan Fair. The 2019 fair begins Aug. 6 and marks the 81th anniversary. The fair was not held for two years during World War II.

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DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Fairgoers enjoy one of the many rides at the Western Michigan Fair in Ludington, which has drawn crowds since it started in 1936.

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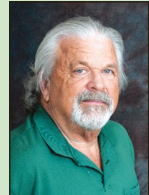
Roger L. Hansen



Linda Hackert



Kathy Pleiness



Rod Baker



John Shoop



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Joni Lee



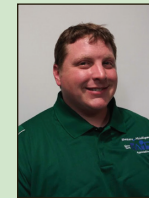
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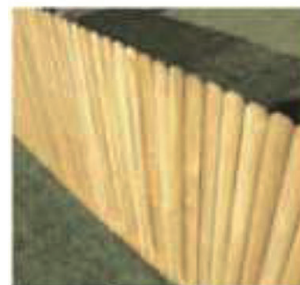
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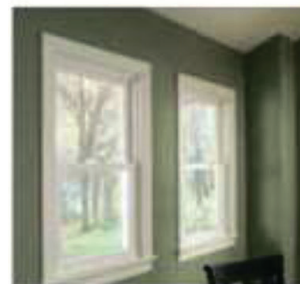
Fencing



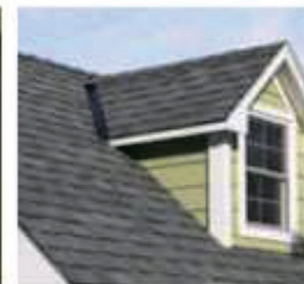
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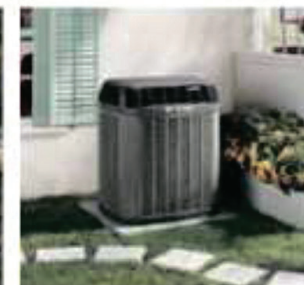
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