

2019 Northeast Ohio and
Northwest Pennsylvania



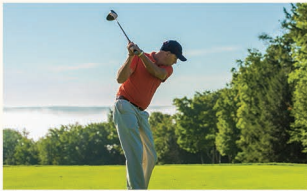
*Four
Seasons
of Fun*

Visitor and
Recreation Guide





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Contact information

The Meadville Tribune (800) 879-0006
 Ashtabula Star Beacon (800) 554-6768

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Stories and photographs for this edition were produced by staff members and freelance writers of The Meadville Tribune and the Ashtabula Star Beacon

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Fun and food

Festivals, fairs fill up the summer months

The first day of summer may be June 21, but that's just the beginning for a whole host of festivals and fairs throughout Crawford County to chase away the blues and bring on the fun.

Taking advantage of the longest day of the year, the Meadville Area Recreation Complex holds a Summer Solstice Garden Party at 7 p.m. June 21 at its community gardens. The free event includes a potluck dinner, live music (it's also Make Music Day), lawn games and a campfire.

The sweet smells of summer strawberries are back the next day at the 52nd Saegertown Strawberry Festival, which is from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 22 at St. Bernadette's Church in Saegertown.

The Canadohta Lake Area Business Association brings several events to Bloomfield Township, celebrating independence a little later on July 6. The fourth annual Firecracker 5K & 10K Run/Walk returns 8 a.m. to noon that day, starting and ending at the Canadohta Roller Rink.

From noon to 2, there will be a free bike, golf cart and pet parade, open to public participation. The parade route begins on Lakeview Drive from Elmwood Beach to the Frog Pond in Bloomfield Township. At 3, the Canadohta Boat Parade celebrates its theme "Music Through

BY TYLER DAGUE

Meadville Tribune

the Decades" with decorated boats on the lake. The community caps off its celebration with fireworks at 10.

Luckily for those who haven't had enough lakeside fun, Conneaut Lake hosts its Festival of the Arts and Crafts at 10 a.m.

The first day of summer may be June 21, but that's just the beginning for a whole host of festivals and fairs throughout Crawford County.

July 6 through 5 p.m. July 7 at the boardwalk outside the Hotel Conneaut. Vendors will be on hand selling pottery, fabric and metal art and handmade jewelry.

Townville brings on the charm July 12 and 13 for the 50th anniversary of Old Home Days at Maplewood Elementary School.

The Celebrate Springboro Festival adds fun to the northwest corner of Crawford County on July 20 and 21.

The events keep rolling in July as the Cambridge Springs Fireman's Carnival returns July 23-27.

Thunder in the City, the Meadville-Western Crawford County

Chamber of Commerce's classic car and bike show, will rev up the weekend, beginning at 5 p.m. Aug. 2 and 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Aug. 3. The event showcases performances from area bands. The event includes a dunk tank, a corn hole tournament, vendors a RoboBOTS demonstration, classic car awards and more in downtown Meadville.

The Cochranon Community Fair returns Aug. 5-10 with a new theme for 2019: "Growing Our Future." In addition to a horse pull, a garden tractor pull and a pedal tractor pull for kids, the fair will also have a woodsman contest. The annual parade, which usually shows off 90 to 120 units, is the night of Aug. 7, and each night of the fair features live entertainment.

The biggest event of the summer is the Crawford County Fair, which is Aug. 17-24 at the fairgrounds in West Mead Township. The event features many entertainment options such as pig races, ninja athletes in action, a demolition derby, a wild west show, extreme sports stunts, a rodeo show, a truck and tractor pull and more. Kane Brown headlines the country concert Aug. 21, and the Newsboys headline the Christian concert Aug. 22. ■

TYLER DAGUE can be reached at 724-6370 or by email at tdague@meadvilletribune.com.

In the swing

Golf opportunities abound in Crawford County

Whether you're looking for a nine-hole course or a challenging 18-hole course, there's a golf course for all handicaps in Crawford County.

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Par 72. 6,276 yards.

CROSS CREEK RESORT

3815 State Route 8,
Titusville, Pa. 16354
(800) 461-3173
crosscreekresort.com
Course details: North Course
(back tees) — Par 70.
6,467 yards.
South Course
(back tees) — Par 36.
3,137 yards.

HAILWOOD GOLF COURSE

562 Park Ave.,
Meadville, Pa. 16335
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facebook.com/
hailwoodgolfcourse
Course details (back tees):
Par 35. 2,701 yards.

HARTSTOWN GOLF COURSE

6054 Route 322,
Hartstown, Pa. 16131
(724) 932-3017

facebook.com/pages/
Hartstown-Golf-
Course/119425268107640
Course details (back tees):
Par 36. 3,320 yards.

ISLAND GREEN GOLF COURSE

27815 Deckards Road,
Cochranon, Pa. 16314
(814) 425-7704
facebook.com/
DeckardsIslandGreen
Course details (back tees):
Par 35. 2,725 yards.

MT. HOPE GOLF COURSE

29790 Route 27,
Guys Mills, Pa. 16327
(814) 789-2475
mthopegc.com
Course details (back tees):
Par 72. 6,807 yards.

OAKLAND BEACH GOLF CLUB

11866 Oakland Beach Road,
Conneaut Lake, Pa. 16316
(814) 382-5665
oaklandbeach.com
Course details (back tees):
Par 71. 6,783 yards.

PLEASANT ACRES GOLF COURSE

240 Tower Road,
Jamestown, Pa. 16134
(724) 932-5907
facebook.com/pleasantacresgolf
Course details (back tees):
Par 72. 6,351 yards.

RIVERSIDE GOLF CLUB

21217 Route 19,
Cambridge Springs, Pa. 16403
(814) 398-4692
riversidegolfclub.com
Course details (back tees):
Par 71. 6,334 yards.

THE COUNTRY CLUB

15955 Route 86,
Meadville, Pa. 16335
(814) 724-7423
meadvillecc.com
Course details (back tees):
Par 72. 6,808 yards.

VENANGO

VALLEY INN & GOLF COURSE
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Course details (back tees):
Par 71. 6,202 yards.

WALNUT CREEK GOLF COURSE

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Course details (back tees):
Par 36. 2,852 yards.

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Course details (back tees):
Par 72. 6,227 yards.

A lot of hot air

Thurston Classic ready to soar over Meadville again

Meadville is no Roswell, New Mexico, but the skies above Tool City have been home to some strange sightings over the years: the Flying Purple People Eater, Pegleg Pete the Pirate Parrot, Claw'D the Crazy Crab and even an elephant named Pea-Nut.

The not-quite-extraterrestrial creatures have all been drawn to Crawford County by the Thurston Classic — and they've all been full of hot air. The balloon rally, first launched during Meadville's bicentennial in 1988, consistently brings 20 to 30 balloons to a four-day rally that ends on Father's Day. Held at Allegheny College's Robertson Athletic Complex, the event also brings in thousands of visitors and is from June 13 to 16 this year.

Each year, organizers arrange for one unique balloon to play a featured role in the event.

"We were trying to find something a little different for our latest special shape," said Ted Watts, who has helped to organize the event since its conception.

For 2019, the not-so-little something different will be Rocket, the Flying Squirrel, an 82,000-cubic-foot balloon inspired by Rocket "Rocky" J. Squirrel of the classic 1960s cartoon "The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show." The balloon features

BY MIKE CROWLEY

Meadville Tribune

You can go

This year's Thurston Classic is June 13 to 16 at Allegheny College's Robertson Athletic Complex, 204 Park Ave., Meadville. Admission is free; donations are appreciated. All events are subject to cancellation due to inclement weather.

buck teeth, aviator's helmet and goggles.

Rocket will be brought to Meadville by John Cavin, who in 2010 brought his Flying Purple People Eater balloon, inspired by the 1958 hit song of the same name.

Cavin, 76, has felt ballooning's call for more than half his life. His Cartoon Hot Air Balloons business has a stable of 10 character-based balloons.

"It's a way of life," he said of the pursuit. "You get into it kind of as a sport, then you try to stay in it as long as you can."

As always, the classic begins with the crowd-favorite Joyce Stevens Memorial Night Glow, when a half-dozen or more balloons, tethered close to the ground, fire their burners to illuminate the hot air in the inflated envelopes — the "balloon" part

of each balloon — above them. A part of nearly every balloon festival since they were first conceived in the late 1970s, the sight of illuminated balloons seen at night glows could be compared to Christmas luminaries on a giant scale.

Over the following three days, the festival continues with a sponsors' flight at 6 p.m. June 14. Early in the morning the next day, pilots scour the Meadville area for launch sites that offer favorable winds as they attempt to fly directly over Robertson Field and drop bean bags on targets.

In the evening, balloons launch from Robertson Field and fly toward an unknown target chosen by the balloonmeister. Each pilot tosses a bean bag toward the target. The event wraps up bright and early Sunday with the third race at around 7 a.m. Launch sites are once again determined by the pilots before they make one last attempt to fly over Robertson Field and hit the target with their bean bags.

The festival is free and open to the public. Donations are not only appreciated, according to organizers, they are needed to keep the event — well, to keep it flying. ■

MIKE CROWLEY can be reached at 724-6370 or by email at mcrowley@meadvilletribune.com.



The annual Classic Wooden Boat Show takes place July 13 and 14 at Ice House Park.

Updates complete

Conneaut Lake ready for more activity

New businesses, special events and a new update to Fireman's Beach and Water Street from First Street to Second Street await visitors to Conneaut Lake this spring and summer.

The more than \$3 million revitalization project is complete, and committee members are excited about the changes to the borough.

New businesses located within the first block of town include a new microbrewery, an ATM for PNC Bank, a new travel agency as well as a new restaurant, Kettle Lake Kitchen on the corner of Water and Second streets.

At the corner of Fourth and Water streets, the K Gallery, a

BY JEAN SHANLEY

Special to the Tribune

new restaurant, also is open.

In the meantime, special events are planned to entice visitors to the borough where boating, fishing and swimming have been popular for decades.

Plans already announced are an appearance by the 28th Infantry Division Band on June 30 to start the Fourth of July holiday weekend. The appearance, sponsored by the Conneaut Lake Community Development Committee, will be free and open to the public at Ice House Park on the edge of town.

The Music at Sunset concert series also is being planned for

the season at Ice House Park.

The Conneaut Lake Area Business Association also has three special events set for the spring and summer.

The first is the second annual "Color Me Conneaut Lake" a 5K run/walk. It starts at 8 a.m. June 15 at Fireman's Beach. A participant fee of \$30 includes a T-shirt and color pack. More information is available by emailing colormeconneautlakerun@gmail.com.

Also on June 15 is Arts and Crafts from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Conneaut Cellars Winery, 12005 Conneaut Lake Road. It features a variety of arts and crafts and

SEE **UPDATES**, 8

UPDATES: Conneaut Lake ready for more activity

FROM PAGE 7

winery available by the case at a discount. For more information, call 720-2917.

The third is the Festival of the Arts and Crafts on July 6 and 7 at Conneaut Lake Park on the boardwalk of Hotel Conneaut. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Applications are available at conneautlake.com under the events tab.

The annual Classic Wooden Boat Show, a classic car cruise-in

and a Paddlefest are all scheduled for the weekend of July 13 and 14. The boat show is held at Ice House Park on July 13 and 14 and is open to the public free of charge.

The car cruise and Paddlefest are both sponsored by Conneaut Lake Area Historical Society. The cruise-in is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 13 at the museum grounds, 150 N. Third St. The museum also is open that day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Paddlefest, a kay-

ak race from Fireman's Beach up around Wolf Island and back, starts at 9 a.m. July 14. Both are open to spectators free of charge.

Downtown commercial businesses also have special events planned throughout the summer to highlight all the lake has to offer. Included is a monthly "Saturdays Shop and Sip" at various downtown area businesses. The first Saturday of each month is set for this special event, which includes refreshments, snacks and a gift drawing at each location. Participating businesses will have fliers in their windows.

With its renovations, Fireman's Beach is expected to have increased traffic this summer. A playground and picnic shelter also are in the works for Fireman's Beach.

Mayor John O'Grady is excited about all of the changes to the town and the potential for more activity in the area.

The only thing left to do in the revitalization project, which includes new street lighting, sidewalks and other improvements, is

completing the removal of the overhead utility lines and installing them underground, O'Grady said.

Bill Eldridge, who heads the Conneaut Lake Community Development Committee, which chaired the revitalization project, is thrilled with the work done, adding there are now 32 new floating docks.

A new promenade between Ice House Park and Fireman's Beach also is among the improvements and will allow biking, walking and skating in the area.

Eldridge expects the new streetscape and beach facilities will attract new investments and visitors to the lake.

The Conneaut Lake Area Historical Society Museum will have new displays this year, including model airplanes from the World War II era, an exhibit about the orphan trains and the connection to Conneaut Lake, the model car collections from the late George Rutherford and Indian artifacts donated by John Wellington Jr., who has collected the artifacts for many years. Other displays also have been updated. ■

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Conneaut Lake Park features rides for all ages.

Creating memories

Conneaut Lake Park returns for another season

A fun, family-friendly atmosphere awaits at Conneaut Lake Park amusement park on the shores of Conneaut Lake.

Steeped in nostalgia, the amusement park has been creating memories for more than a century, offering rides, a beach, a water park and more such as a stroll on its lakefront boardwalk.

BY KEITH GUSHARD
Meadville Tribune

It's known for its fabled Blue Streak wooden roller coaster, which first began operating in 1938.

The Blue Streak, the 17th oldest wooden roller coaster in United States, is one of two shallow coasters designed by Ed Vettel that's still operating. While it

has an out-and-back loop design, the track is 2,900 feet long with a 77-foot high first hill with two camel-back hills and then a series of short hills after a quick turnaround.

There are 11 other rides in the park, including a restored carousel that dates from 1910 and the Tumble Bug, a five-car,

SEE **MEMORIES**, 11

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MEMORIES: Conneaut Lake Park returns

FROM PAGE 9

short-track, looping roller coaster-style ride from 1925 that's not too steep, extremely fast or flashy like modern coasters.

The newest attraction this year is the addition of another nostalgic ride — a Ferris wheel along the midway near the lake. The wheel has been refurbished and will be in use this season.

"We're really excited to have it," said Jim Becker, executive director of Trustees of Conneaut Lake Park. Trustees is the nonprofit corporation that oversees the amusement park's operations.

The park boasts a Kiddieland with 12 rides for the young ones plus a pony track, too.

There have been some major upgrades for Kiddieland for the 2019 season with new roofs put

over its rides and the creation of a new party pavilion in Kiddieland with the assistance of a \$2,500 grant from the Meadville Rotary Club.

"It's a true gathering point for kids that can be rented out for parties," Becker said of the pavilion that will hold about 25 kids.

There also have been other upgrades such as new artwork along the train ride's loop for visual attractions.

Connie Otter, the park's vintage mascot, is coming back for the 2019 season as well with help from Edinboro University's Center for Branding and Strategic Communication and the NWPA Innovation Beehive Network, which focuses on facilitating economic development in the region. The center also has designed four vintage

posters highlighting the Blue Streak rollercoaster, Splash City waterpark, Camperland and the Hotel Conneaut.

The waterpark has Cliffhanger Falls Waterslide, Connie Otter's Kiddie Cove splash park and pool and the lazy river water loop. The waterpark is getting outfitted with new lockers this year for convenience of guests.

Plus the park will operate a new marina this year and an expansion of camping sites at its Camperland campground.

"It is a good feeling," Becker said of the park's continued attraction of fans old and new. "The public has been genuinely patient with the rebuild and rebirth of the park." ■

KEITH GUSHARD can be reached at 724-6370 or by email at kgushard@meadvilletribune.com.

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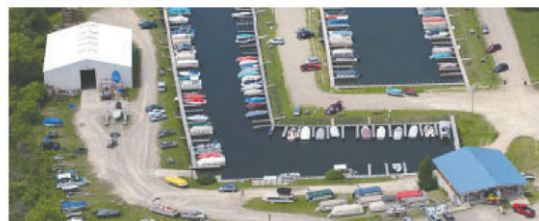
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Pymatuning Lake is a popular fishing destination that's known for its walleye and where ducks walk on carp.

Casting call

Many hot spots for fishing in Crawford County

If you're coming to Crawford County or the surrounding area, make sure to bring your fishing gear.

The waterways of northwestern Pennsylvania are a fishing-rich area for anglers.

The area is known statewide and nationally as a fishing destination.

Here's a look at some of the popular spots:

FRENCH CREEK

· Known for: Bass, walleye, musky, carp, panfish, suckers

CUSSEWAGO CREEK

· Known for: Musky

CONNEAUT LAKE

· Known for: Northern pike, musky, perch, crappies, bluegills, bass

CONNEAUT MARSH

· Known for: Northern pike, bullheads, catfish, bluegills

PYMATUNING LAKE

· Walleye, northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass, carp, catfish.

It's also home of the spillway, the place where ducks walk on carp.

SUGAR LAKE

· Known for: Musky, northern

pike, largemouth bass, panfish, bluegills, crappie, perch

WOODCOCK LAKE

· Known for: Musky, walleye

CANADOHTA LAKE

· Known for: Musky, northern pike, walleye

CLEAR LAKE

· Known for: Northern pike, bass, panfish

EDINBORO LAKE

· Known for: Musky, walleye, northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass, crappie, bluegills ■



Fairgoers enjoy the rides along the midway.

Eight days of events

Kane Brown headlines this year's county fair

With more than a week's worth of activities, the annual Crawford County Fair is Pennsylvania's largest agricultural fair.

Eight days of agricultural displays and exhibits plus top notch entertainment and family fun are set this year for Aug. 17 through 24 at the fairgrounds just east of Meadville. Country music star Kane Brown headlines at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 21, and Christian music group Newsboys is the featured act at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 22.

New for 2019 is a roll back of general admission ticket prices

BY KEITH GUSHARD

Meadville Tribune

to \$5 for ages 5 and older plus on Monday and Tuesday of fair week those age 65 and older are admitted free until 5 p.m.

The fair draws not only Crawford County residents but those from western Pennsylvania plus Ohio, New York and other states as well.

There are around 60,000 to 70,000 total paid daily admissions each year, but the fair's total attendance is estimated at double that total since exhibitors, vendors and the public who purchase passes aren't counted

toward the daily paid admissions.

The fair always has a broad cross-section of entertainment. This year will feature a couple of new attractions on the grounds — Swifty Swine Racing Pigs and the Ninja Experience. Plus, the Rhinestone Roper show and the BladeSports Knife Cutting competition return.

This year's fair features a wrestling show, a farm and antique tractor pull plus two truck and tractor pulls at the grandstand.

The annual Agricultural Hall of Fame and Industry Awards are

SEE **EVENTS**, 14

EVENTS: Kane Brown headlines this year's fair

FROM PAGE 13

set for Aug. 18 along with harness racing, the BladeSports competi-

tion, and the Rafter Z Rodeo Co. performs at 7:30 p.m. in the grandstand.

Harness racing con-

tinues Aug. 19, and the Dialed Action Extreme Sports stunt show performs that evening at the grandstand.

The Chuck Burns Memorial Six-Horse Hitch Classic Series horse show is a free show at the grandstand the

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night of Aug. 20.

Kane Brown hits the grandstand stage with opening act Seaforth at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 21.

Newsboys are on the stage at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 22 with opening act Mac

Powell and The Family Reunion.

Another USA-East sanctioned truck and tractor pull is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 23.

The fair closes its

grandstand entertainment Aug. 24 with demolition derbies at 2 and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets currently are available online at crawfordcountyfairpa.com or startickets.com; or

at the Crawford County Courthouse, 903 Diamond Park, Meadville. ■

KEITH GUSHARD can be reached at 724-6370 or by email at kgushard@meadvilletribune.com.



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Visitors to Pymatuning State Park can rent a boat, canoe or even a motor at marinas at Jamestown, Espyville and Linesville in Pennsylvania.

Year-round fun

Pymatuning one of Pennsylvania's most popular parks

Always one of Pennsylvania's most popular state parks, Pymatuning State Park has activities year-round for outdoor enthusiasts which attracts more than 3 million visitors annually.

Situated in western Crawford County along the Pennsylvania-Ohio border, Pymatuning ranks second only to Presque Isle State Park along Lake Erie in terms of visitors.

The largest lake in Pennsylvania, Pymatuning Lake covers 17,088 acres with about

BY KEITH GUSHARD

Meadville Tribune

75 percent of it in Crawford County and the other 25 percent in Ashtabula County, Ohio, where Ohio has a state park as well.

In the past few years, Pennsylvania has invested around \$13 million in the park — including \$10 million in dam repairs, a \$3.1 million overhaul and upgrade the Linesville marina plus campsite, cabin and paving improvements.

The lake has a 20-horsepower motor restriction for boaters. Visitors also may rent a boat, canoe or even a motor at marinas at Jamestown, Espyville and Linesville in Pennsylvania while there is a boat concession and rental area at the Birches area on the Ohio side.

There are four swimming beaches in Pennsylvania open Memorial Day through Labor Day. There are three beaches in the Jamestown area and one

SEE **FUN**, 18

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FUN: Pymatuning one of state's most popular parks

FROM PAGE 16

is at Linesville with bathhouses, restrooms, food concessions and/or vending machines. Likewise, on the Ohio side of the lake, there is a swimming beach as well as facilities just south of the causeway.

Camping enthusiasts can enjoy two camping areas in Pennsylvania open from mid-April

through mid-October each year at Linesville and Jamestown with modern facilities plus there is a camping area at the south end of Ohio's Pymatuning State Park.

All campgrounds are near swimming, boating, fishing and hiking and have a sanitary dump station.

For those who would rather camp indoors, Pymatuning State Park

in Pennsylvania has 25 modern cabins available — 20 in the Jamestown area and five in the Linesville area.

On the Ohio side, there are a few more options — eight preferred cabins with air conditioning, 26 standard cabins available year-round and 31 basic cabins that are available May 1 to Nov. 1.

In Pennsylvania, the Linesville-area cabins all meet Americans with Disabilities Act 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 take their own linens, towels, cookware and tableware.

In Ohio, the cabins all have a furnished living room, kitchen, bathroom with shower and come with cable TV, linens, towels and cooking/eating utensils. Three of the preferred cabins in Ohio meet ADA standards.

Reservations for camping or cabins at Pymatuning State Park in Pennsylvania may be made by calling, toll-free, (888) PA-PARKS or (888) 727-2757 or by visiting dncr.pa.gov.

Reservations for camping or cabins at Pymatuning State Park in Ohio may be made by calling, toll-free, (866) 644-6727 or by visiting parks.ohiodnr.gov. ■

KEITH GUSHARD can be reached at 724-6370 or by email at kgushard@meadvilletribune.com.

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Voodoo Brewery's Good Vibes Festival returns in July.

Plenty on tap

Breweries, wineries offer thirst-quenching stops

Crawford County has been known for scenic get-aways and the tool and die trade, but it seems beer and wine connoisseurs have growing reasons to keep coming back. At least one new brewery is scheduled to hit Cambridge Springs this year.

Built on the site of the historic Riverside Inn, which was destroyed by a fire in May 2017, the Riverside Brewing Co. plans to open this summer with food, entertainment and plenty of beer. The brewery, owned by

BY TYLER DAGUE

Meadville Tribune

Deanna and Jason Howles, shares a love of all things maple with the other family business, the Howles Maple Farm in Richmond Township.

According to Riverside General Manager Jeremy Ball, the food will have a farm-to-table emphasis as well as offering sustainably sourced and healthier options.

"We have a full restaurant," Ball said. "We've hired an exec-

utive chef and a chef de cuisine. It's going to be more than just your average pub fare."

Also coming back this year is the Growler Hour on Thursdays until mid-August outside the Riverside as construction continues, starting 5 to 9 p.m. May 23 with band 50 Miles to Empty, food and, of course, beer selections.

Ball also said the facility was built from a completely reconstructed barn in Cochranon

SEE **TAP**, 20

TAP: Breweries, wineries offer thirst-quenching stops

FROM PAGE 19

that was dismantled, numbered and restored on the Riverside site.

Slightly southwest in Cambridge Township, Sprague Farm & Brew Works is the third in Kissell's count. Sprague claims to be the only brewery in Pennsylvania brewing Estate beers, brews with ingredients sourced right from the farm. In any case, they're likely the only brewery in Crawford County considering adding an ax throwing league. While details are still being considered, Sprague had its first public meeting on the growing pastime in April — it garnered 30 attendees.

Also in the township, Cambridge Cellars offers a distinctly ancient selection: meads. Of course, without

the honey bee, there would be no mead or honey-wine. The winery hosts its Honey Bee Day celebration noon to 6 p.m. Aug. 3 with vendors and mead tastings.

In Meadville, Voodoo Brewery's Good Vibes Festival was a certified hit in 2018, selling more than 700 tickets and garnering the support of 100 volunteers. Voodoo CEO Matteo Rachocki said the event was making a comeback on July 13.

"The premise of the event was no brewery within 150 square miles because you can go to any festival all summer long and see the same 15 or 25 breweries," Rachocki said. "What we're trying to do is get beers that are not as attainable for our customers and try to make them extremely attainable for one day.

We had what I would call a very successful year-one event."

On a 140-acre farm next to Pymatuning Lake in South Shenango Township, Lago Winery and Mortals Key Brewing Co. call a little bit of history home. When Doug and Connie Shannon purchased the property in 2006, it took them five years to renovate the dairy barn and house to accept the 30,000-plus visitors to the more than 200-year-old farm.

The two locations regularly feature live music from area groups for visitors to enjoy while sipping their favorite drink. Concerts happen throughout the summer, mostly on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Be sure to look out for date announcements when Lago Winery hosts its annual hot air balloon event at the end of July.

Conneaut Cellars Winery, approaching its 40th anniversary, has a selection of wines from regionally-grown vineyards that you can't find anywhere else. Located in Sadsbury Township right across from its namesake lake, the winery hosts its annual Harvest Family

Picnic, which includes wine tasting, free food, balloons and face painting from noon to 4 p.m. Sept. 8.

Davenport Fruit Farm Cidery and Winery, located in East Mead Township, had its grand opening in November 2018, offering a selection of hard ciders and wines. The farm, now operated by the Boswell family of Cochranon, boasts more than 1,300 fruit trees, spanning 14 acres. The farm grows cortland, honey crisp, McIntosh, northern spy and red fuji apples and red bartlett pears and frequently hosts live musicians.

TimberCreek Tap & Table came to Vernon Township in 2011, handcrafting all their beers on site. But they offer far more than libations. TimberCreek has a wide selection of locally raised burgers and wild caught seafood that elevates the traditional brewery dining experience. Visitors can also arrange group tours of the brewing facilities. ■

TYLER DAGUE can be reached at 724-6370 or by email at tdague@meadvilletribune.com.

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Pymatuning Lake is a great area to spot bald eagles.



Up in the sky

Crawford County offers year-round bird watching areas

Crawford County has an abundance of bird watching areas available to visit year-round — from state parks and wildlife refuges to lakes and streams

BY SHANNON ROAE
Meadville Tribune

the lake in the Linesville area during the warmer months. Look in tree-lined fields for

The most important tip that one can offer in birdwatching is patience. Take your time, keep quiet and be observant. Birdwatching can be a very relaxing hobby that offers beautiful scenery and a chance to meet new people and make friends.

and even the bird feeder in your own backyard.

Take your binoculars and head to the Pymatuning Lake area where bald eagles can be seen on the ice near the dam in Jamestown in the winter months and move to the northern end of

the great birds perched and searching for prey.

The Linesville State Fish Hatchery is a good place to spot cliff swallows that have made their homes on the facility.

SEE **LOOK**, 22



The pileated woodpecker is a very large woodpecker with a long neck and a triangular crest that sweeps off the back of the head.

LOOK: Crawford County offers bird watching

FROM PAGE 21

The Linesville spillway is home to much more than just carp. Gulls, geese and many types of other waterfowl can be seen from the parking areas, including loons, mer-

gansers, cormorants and northern shovelers — just to name a few.

The Erie Wildlife Refuge Sugar Lake Division, which is located 10 miles east of Meadville, and the Seneca Division, which is about 10 miles to the north of

the Sugar Lake Division, is home to a dense population of wood ducks and can be seen in the shallow ponds and marshes that scatter the area. The refuge offers five hiking trails where woodland birds can be seen and heard

in the forest. Blinds are located near the water that let you get a closer look at the waterfowl.

Putting a basic bird feeder in your yard can bring birds flocking to your home. Place the feeder near a window with seed and watch

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Sat. Vigil: 4:30pm St. Agatha, 353 Pine St.
Sun. 8am St. Agatha, 353 Pine St.
Sun., 7 & 11am St. Mary of Grace, 1085 Water
Sun., 9:30am St. Brigid, 383 Arch St.
Call for weekday Schedule

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251 S. Franklin Street • Cochranton, PA 16314
Office: (814) 789-2022

Weekend Mass Schedule: Saturday(May-Oct.) - 5:00pm
Sunday - 8:30am

Old Fashioned
Strawberry Social
Saturday, June 29th, 2019 4:00 - 7:00pm

as different birds gather year-round such as sparrows, starlings, cardinals and blue jays.

Offering suet cake will expand the variety of species slightly by bringing in woodpeck-

ers, titmice and nut-hatches. Hummingbird feeders can be placed outside in the spring to attract the tiny, buzzing bird to your yard.

The most import-

ant tip that one can offer in birdwatching is patience. Take your time, keep quiet and be observant. Bird-watching can be a very relaxing hobby that offers beautiful scenery

and a chance to meet new people and make friends. ■

SHANNON ROAE can be reached at 724-6370 or by email at photography@meadvilletribune.com.

Crawford County has an abundance of bird watching areas available to visit year-round – from state parks and wildlife refuges to lakes and streams and even the bird feeder in your own backyard.



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Bigger and better

New entertainers added to Pumpkin Fest lineup

Plans are underway for the 29th annual Conneaut Lake Fall Pumpkin Fest.

This year's event is from 2 to 7 p.m. Oct. 11, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 12 and 10 to 5 Oct. 13

Some things will remain the same — the times, many vendors and many special events, such as the ever-popular giant pumpkin drop.

This year's festival will also have some new things, including vendors and crafters, as well as new entertainers.

"It's great fun for everyone," said Rebecca Leonard, chairman of the event, which is sponsored by Conneaut Lake Area Business Association. Admission continues to be free, and there's a \$5 parking fee, of which is split with a high school group whose members help people park.

BY JANE SMITH

Special to the Tribune

The main festival site is at Conneaut Lake Park, which will have limited rides in operation with tickets for sale at the park.

The festival includes raffles with many prizes donated by area businesses and others. Funds from the raffle are used for scholarships for area graduating students.

The parade is at 10 a.m. Oct. 12 in downtown Conneaut Lake. Pat McGee is the parade chairman. There is no fee to participate in the parade, and it is open to all. Plaques are presented to the top five units, as well as participation plaques for others.

To apply to participate in the parade, call McGee at 671-6885.

Another special event is the annual pageant to crown new

royalty. It is Oct. 5 at Conneaut Lake Middle School. McGee and Betty Murray are co-directors.

The pageant includes different categories for different age levels. Previously, age levels were divided and the royalty were crowned at different times — some in the morning and others in the evening.

This year's pageant will be done all at one time — with the time to be announced. Once the pageant starts, royalty will be crowned consecutively.

There is no fee to participate in the pageant.

The festival was started as an event to bring people to the area when Conneaut Lake Park was closed. It continues to bring thousands of people to the area where they can enjoy the scenery and find gift items, food and entertainment. ■



The Pumpkin Fest parade is set for Oct. 12 in downtown Conneaut Lake.



Winterfest in Meadville is the third Saturday in February.

Cabin fever relief

Three February festivals celebrate the cold

The symptoms are familiar to those who have experienced February in northwestern Pennsylvania: furtive glances to the nearest window, fidgety feet, the overwhelming desire to head outside despite the often frigid temperatures.

When cabin fever sets in after a long winter, it can lay anyone low, even those who have spent a lifetime in Crawford County and normally love the four-season weather.

BY MIKE CROWLEY

Meadville Tribune

Luckily, treatments are available.

What is it you want to do? Bowl with the penguins? Slide down a frozen slope? Swim with the ice fishers? All that and more can be found on February weekends in Crawford County. Even better, it all comes at a reasonable price: free.

At the beginning of the month is the Winter Fun Day,

organized by members of the Pymatuning Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club and in recent years held on the first Saturday of the month. Plenty of family-friendly activities take place throughout the day at the park's Shelter 4 and Beach 2, 2660 Williamsfield Road. In addition to vendors, displays and demonstrations beginning that begin in the morning, free snowmobile rides for kids will

SEE **RELIEF**, 26

RELIEF: Three festivals celebrate the cold

FROM PAGE 25

take place in the afternoon.

The event will also feature an ice fishing tournament, but that will cost you: \$20 if you register in advance, \$25 if you register at the tournament. And if you want to go swimming, join the fun at the Polar Bear Plunge to benefit the American Cancer Society. A minimum donation of \$25 is required to immerse yourself in the cool, refreshing Pyma-

tuning waters.

Next up on this cold weather tour of the county's eastern half is Winterfest in Meadville, held on the third Saturday of the month. Activities are spread all over and around Diamond Park, both inside and out, for those who want to get outside but don't want to have to stay there if it gets too cold. Games for kids, horse-and-wagon rides for families, hot chocolate, walking tacos and snacks for those who need

them — it's all free, provided by a team of volunteers from nonprofits, churches and businesses in the Meadville area.

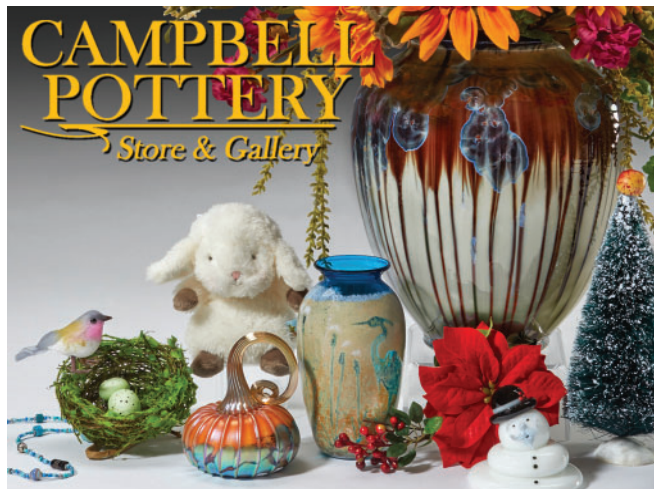
The latest version included frozen bowling with ice globes and penguin-themed bowling pins — "pin"-guins. Organizers and participants both agreed that the icy balls made by freezing water balloons were an improvement over the frozen turkeys that were used the previous year, but there's no telling what visitors will roll down the alley next year.

Still up for more winter weather fun? On the fourth Saturday of February, take a spin out to Ice House Park and surrounding environs at Conneaut Lake for the Ice House Festival to see chainsaw artists carve massive blocks

of ice into marvelous sculptures before your eyes. They also make interactive ice structures each year, too — a throne for those with dreams of being an ice princess or prince to try on for size and a short slide for the youngsters to plunge down.

As with Winterfest, plenty of indoor activities are available nearby as well. For those who need to warm up, the most appealing is likely to be the annual chili cookoff competition. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children younger than 12, but feeling chili during late February in Crawford County? Priceless. ■

MIKE CROWLEY can be reached at 724-6370 or by email at mcrowley@meadvilletribune.com.



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CRAWFORD COUNTY

MAY

- 24-26:** Town-wide yard sale, Linesville.
25: Opening day at Conneaut Lake Park, 12382 Center Ave.
25: 19th annual Start of Summer Wine Fest, Wilhelm Winery, 590 Georgetown Road, Hadley.
26: Blessing of the Boats, Canadohta Lake.

JUNE

- 1:** Shop and Sip, downtown businesses, Conneaut Lake.
1: Pioneer Steam & Gas Engine Society spring antique tractor pull, Pioneer Steam & Gas Engine Society grounds, 16601 Route 198, Saegertown.
1: Vintage RV Rally and Car Show, Meadville KOA Campground, 25164 Route 27.
6-8: Cambridge Springs Music Festival, downtown Cambridge Springs.
8: Wildcatter Day at Pithole, Pithole Vistors Center, 14118 Pithole Road.
8: Rib & Music Festival, Meadville Area Recreation Complex, 800 Thurston Road, Meadville.
8: Second Saturday Community Market, Meadville Market House, 910 Market St., Meadville.
8: An Evening Of Opera and Art Songs with Diane Kalinowski, Unitarian Universalist Church, 346 Chestnut St., Meadville.
9: Second Sundays at Conneaut Lake Park, Conneaut Lake Park, 12382 Center Ave.
13-16: 31st annual Thurston Classic Hot Air Balloon Event, Allegheny College Sports Complex, 204 Park Ave., Meadville.
14-16: "Mamma Mia!," Academy Theatre, 275 Chestnut St., Meadville.
15: Art festival, Conneaut Cellars Winery And Distillery, 12005 Conneaut Lake Road, Conneaut Lake.
16: Father's Day at The Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad, Perry Street Station, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville.
21: Summer Solstice Garden Party, Meadville Area Recreation Complex, 800 Thurston Road, Meadville.
21-23: "Mamma Mia!," Academy Theatre, 275 Chestnut St., Meadville.
23: Kids Day Out, Conneaut Lake

- Park, 12382 Center Ave.
28-30: "Mamma Mia!," Academy Theatre, 275 Chestnut St., Meadville.
29: Murder Mystery Dinner Theater: Millionaire Mayhem - Your Money or Your Life. Perry Street Station, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville.
29: Pymatuning State Park fireworks, Pymatuning State Park, 2660 Williamsfield Road, Jamestown.

JULY

- 6:** Shop and Sip, downtown businesses, Conneaut Lake.
6: Canadohta Lake water battle; bike, golf cart and pet parade; boat parade and fireworks at Canadohta Lake, Canadohta Lake.
6: Fourth annual Firecracker 5K and 10K run/walk, Canadohta Roller Rink, 36046 Lake Road, Canadohta Lake.
11-25: Discovery Days, Drake Well Museum, 202 Museum Lane, Titusville.
13: Second Saturday Community Market, Meadville Market House, 910 Market St., Meadville.
13-14: 23rd annual Conneaut Lake Antique and Classic Boat Show, Ice House Park waterfront, Conneaut Lake.
14: Second Sundays at Conneaut Lake Park, 12382 Center Ave.
13-14: French Creek Heritage Event: Pontiac's Rebellion, Cochranton Fairgrounds.
13: Meet-U BBQ, Drake Well Museum, 202 Museum Lane, Titusville.
13: Classic Car Cruise, 150 Ninth St., Conneaut Lake.
13: Good Vibes Beer Fest, Voodoo Brewery, 834 Bessemer St., Meadville.
14: Conneaut Lake Paddlefest, Fireman's Beach, North Second Street, Conneaut Lake.
14: Trail Blazer 15K run and 5K run/walk, Ernst Conservation Seeds, 9006 Mercer Pike, Meadville.
19-21: 52nd annual Pioneer Steam & Gas Engine Society Show, Pioneer Steam & Gas Engine Society grounds, 16601 Route 198, Saegertown.
20: Cardboard boat regatta, Canadohta Lake.
27: Murder Mystery Dinner Theater: Medical Mayhem - Dead on Arrival.

Perry Street Station, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville.

- 27:** Kayak dice run, Canadohta Lake.
28: Eleanor Davies Croquet Classic and Garden Party, Baldwin Reynolds House, 639 Terrace St., Meadville.

AUGUST

- 2-3:** 11th annual Thunder in the City, car and motorcycle show, downtown Meadville.
3: Summer celebration day; kids fun day and fishing contest, Canadohta Lake.
3: Shop and Sip, downtown businesses, Conneaut Lake.
3: Artifact and relic show, St. Philip Catholic Church Social Hall, 401 S. Mercer St., Linesville.
4: Drake Well marathon and half marathon, Drake Well Museum, 202 Museum Lane, Titusville.
4-10: Fourth annual Hillbilly Flyin', Merrys Pymatuning Airport, 15372 Airport Road, Linesville.
5-10: 91st annual Cochranton Community Fair, Cochranton.
9-11: Theater At The Baldwin: The Importance of Being Earnest, Baldwin Reynolds House, 639 Terrace St., Meadville.
10: Second Saturday Community Market, Meadville Market House, 910 Market St., Meadville.
10: Speeder Rides, Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville.
11: Second Sundays at Conneaut Lake Park, Conneaut Lake Park, 12382 Center Ave.
16-18: CanaDoo Wop Weekend Festival, Canadohta Lake.
17-24: Crawford County Fair, Crawford County Fairgrounds, 13291 Dickson Road, Meadville.
23: Light Up The Lake at Canadohta, Canadohta Lake.
24: Murder Mystery Dinner Theater: Millionaire Mayhem - Your Money or Your Life. Perry Street Station, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville.
31: ReMARCable Family Festival, Meadville Area Recreation Complex, 800 Thurston Road, Meadville.
31: Murder Mystery Dinner Theater: Mid-Evil Faire Mayhem - Ail Affaire To Remember. Perry Street Station, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville.

SEPTEMBER

- 2:** Customer Appreciation Day at Conneaut Lake Park, 12382 Center Ave.
- 7:** Shop and Sip, downtown businesses, Conneaut Lake.
- 8:** 29th annual Harvest Picnic, Conneaut Cellars Winery and Distillery, 12005 Conneaut Lake Road, Conneaut Lake.
- 14:** Second Saturday Community Market, Meadville Market House, 910 Market St., Meadville.
- 14:** Murder Mystery Dinner Theater: Millionaire Mayhem – Your Money or Your Life. Perry Street Station, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville.
- 20-29:** Ghost Lake, Conneaut Lake Park, 12382 Center Ave.
- 21:** Murder Mystery Dinner Theater: Medical Mayhem – Dead on Arrival. Perry Street Station, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville.
- 21:** Fall Gas Up, Drake Well Museum, 202 Museum Lane, Titusville.
- 21:** Pioneer Steam & Gas Engine Society Drake Well Show, Drake

- Well Museum, 202 Museum Lane, Titusville.
- 21:** Fall Solstice Party, Meadville Area Recreation Complex, 800 Thurston Road, Meadville.
- 28:** Murder Mystery Dinner Theater: Mid-Evil Faire Mayhem – Ail Affaire To Remember. Perry Street Station, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville.

OCTOBER

- 1-20:** October train rides, Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville.
- 4-27:** Ghost Lake, Conneaut Lake Park, 12382 Center Ave.
- 10-12:** Murder Mystery Dinner Theater at the Baldwin-Reynolds House, 639 Terrace St., Meadville.
- 11-13:** 29th annual Fall Pumpkin Fest, Conneaut Lake Park, 12382 Center Ave., Conneaut Lake.
- 12:** Pioneer Steam & Gas Engine Society Fall Harvest Show, Pioneer Steam & Gas Engine Society grounds, 16601 State Route 198, Saegertown.
- 19-20:** Monster Mash: Halloween Party

at The Baldwin-Reynolds House, Baldwin-Reynolds House, 639 Terrace St., Meadville.

NOVEMBER

- 11:** Veterans Day Salute, Conneaut Cellars Winery and Distillery, 12005 Conneaut Lake Road.
- 30:** Small Business Saturday, Conneaut Cellars Winery and Distillery, 12005 Conneaut Lake Road, Conneaut Lake.
- NOV. 30 – DEC. 7:** Santa Express, Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad, 409 S. Perry St., Titusville.

DECEMBER

- 6:** Meadville Market House Christmas carriage ride event, Meadville Market House, 910 Market St., Meadville.
- 7:** Linesville Lighted Tractor Parade, Linesville.
- 13-14:** Fezziwig's Christmas Dinner, Baldwin-Reynolds House, 639 Terrace St., Meadville.
- DEC. 31-JAN. 1:** New Years Eve at The Baldwin, Baldwin-Reynolds House, 639 Terrace St., Meadville. ■

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ASHTABULA COUNTY

MAY

VARIOUS DATES: Lighthouse Cruisers Cruise-Ins, 6 p.m., every Thursday May through September, Conneaut Township Park, 480 Lake Road, Conneaut, Ohio. Visit www.visitconneautohio.com. Call (440) 593-3019.

VARIOUS DATES: Friday Night at the Races, 6 p.m., every Friday, May to September, Raceway 7, 4094 Center Road, Conneaut, Ohio. Visit www.raceway7.com. Call 440-594-2222.

25: Flea Market at Indian Creek, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Indian Creek Resort, 710 Lake Road E, Geneva-on-the-Lake. Bring your own table; music provided by Jimmy Fuller. Call 440-466-8191.

JUNE

7: Ashtabula Downtown Development Association First Friday Street Fest, 3-8 pm. Main Avenue, Ashtabula. Event includes youth art, chalk art, one-mile heart walk, car cruise, street vendors, flea market and "Treasures in the Trunk." Visit www.downtownashtabula.com.

7-8: Hot Air Balloon Festival at Debonne Vineyards. Call (440) 466-3485. Email info@debonne.com.

7-9, 14-16, 20-22: "Carrie," 7:30 p.m. Straw Hat Summer Theatre at the Ashtabula Arts Center, 2928 W. 13th Street, Ashtabula, Ohio. Call 440-964-3396. Visit: <http://ashtabulaartscenter.org>.

7-9, 14-16, 20-22: "Seussical the Musical," 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo, 236 Buffalo St., Conneaut, Ohio. Call 440-599-7529. Visit: www.broadwayonbuffalo.com.

8: Fairy Garden Festival, Giddings Park, 104 E. Jefferson St., Jefferson. A day of fairy gardening with music, alpacas, costume contest, children's activities, food vendors and crafts. Call 440-576-0333. Visit jeffersonchamber.com.

8: Burning of the Socks, 5 p.m. 529 Front St., Ashtabula. Traditional burning of the socks to kick off the boating season. Visit www.historicashtabulaharbor.com.

8-9: Escape to the Lake MS Bike Tour. This two-day bike trip begins in Pennsylvania's Moraine State Park, South Shore Beach with an overnight stay at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. Day 2 finishes at Township Park in Conneaut, Ohio. To register visit: bikems.org

9: Blessing of the Fleet, 5 p.m. Ashtabula Harbor. Visit www.historicashtabulaharbor.com.

15: Conneaut Soap Box Derby, 9 a.m., Broad Street and State Route 20 intersection, Conneaut. Visit www.soapboxderby.org. Call 440-812-0991.

15: Wine, Jazz and Art Festival, noon at The Landing Lakefront Festival Grounds near Old Firehouse Winery. Call (440) 466-9300. Visit VisitGenevaontheLake.com/Events.

15-16: Annual Strawberry Festival and Craft Bazaar, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 12-5 p.m. Sunday, at the Historic 19th Century Jefferson Depot Village, 147 E. Jefferson St., Jefferson, Ohio. Event features strawberry shortcake, original crafts amidst historic buildings, quilt and doll show, live entertainment, free kid's corner games, prizes, food and historic guided tours. Visit jeffersondepotvillage.org. Call 440-812-1100.

15: Woof, Wag and Wine!, 1-5 p.m., Grand River Cellars, 5750 S. Madison Road, Madison, Ohio. Event benefits Lake Humane Society. Participants can bring their dogs along for a tour of the vineyards as well as a wine tasting, live music, prizes and more. Guests encouraged to bring chairs, blankets and canopies. Visit www.lakehumane.org. Call 440-951-6122.

16: Antique and Classic Car Show, 1-4 p.m. at the Historic 19th Century Jefferson Depot Village, 147 E. Jefferson St., Jefferson, Ohio. Cars, crafts and games, as well as free strawberry shortcake for drivers. Visit jeffersondepotvillage.org. Call 440-576-0496.

21-23: Native American Indian Festival, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 4026 State Route 322, Wayne, Ohio. The Eastern Lenape Indian Nation honors their ancestors with a weekend of Native American Indian traditions, ceremonies, dances, history lessons, storytelling, food, artifacts and music.

Visit www.uelnation.org. Call (440) 285-2419.

28-29: Uncork'd Wine Fest, 5-9:30 p.m. Friday, 12-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Lake Shore Park, 1700 E. First St., Ashtabula. Two-day event includes fishing tournament, wine garden and tasting, as well as crafters, vendors and live music. Visit www.uncorkd-winefest.com. Call 440-998-6998.

29-30: Beach Glass Festival, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Bridge Street, Ashtabula, Ohio. The street festival in the historic Harbor District features beach glass from across the world, crafts and food. Visit www.historicashtabulaharbor.com. Call 440-964-8000.

28-30, JULY 5-6: "Into the Woods Jr." 7:30 p.m. Straw Hat Summer Theatre at the Ashtabula Arts Center, 2928 W. 13th Street, Ashtabula, Ohio. Call 440-964-3396. Visit: <http://ashtabulaartscenter.org>.

JULY

VARIOUS DATES: Great Lakes Medieval Fair, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, July 13 to Aug. 19, 3033 State Route 534, Rock Creek. Visit <http://medievalfaire.com>

4-6: Conneaut July 4th Festival and Fireworks, 340 Erie St., Conneaut, Ohio. Weekend of home town festive concludes with fireworks at dusk July 6. Visit www.visitconneautohio.com. Call 440-599-7697.

4: Independence Day fireworks at Geneva-on-the-Lake Golf Course; 10 p.m. but arrive early for best seating. Call (440) 466-8600. Visit VisitGenevaontheLake.com.

5: Ashtabula Downtown Development Association First Friday Street Fest, 3-8 pm. Main Avenue, Ashtabula. Event includes one-mile heart walk, car cruise, street vendors, flea market and "Treasures in the Trunk." Visit www.downtownashtabula.com.

5-7: Ashtabula County Antique Engine Club's annual show, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, 4026 State Route 322, Wayne, Ohio. This show is a continuous display of tractors, gas engines, antique cars and trucks, blacksmithing, wood carving, sawmill, planning, shingle mill, crafts, flea market, food



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and music with games, parades and antique tractor pulls. Visit www.ashtabulaantiqueengineclub.com.

13: Conneaut Sock Hop, 12-6 p.m., Downtown Conneaut. Event includes music, food vendors, antique and classic cars, contests and more.

13-14: Early America Live, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 12-5 p.m. Sunday, at the Historic 19th Century Jefferson Depot Village, 147 E. Jefferson St., Jefferson, Ohio. An 1890 reenactment festival with costumes, demonstrations (including candle-making, dying and spinning wool, pottery, art, basketry, metal artistry and more). Event also features crafts, entertainment, contests, games and an 1890 food menu. Visit jeffersondepotvillage.org. Call 440-576-0496.

12-14, 19-21, 26-27: "Freaky Friday," 7:30 p.m. Straw Hat Summer Theatre at the Ashtabula Arts Center, 2928 W. 13th Street, Ashtabula, Ohio. Call 440-964-3396. Visit: <http://ashtabulaartscenter.org>.

20: Class 8 on the Lake at Indian Creek Camping Resort. Call (440) 466-8191 or visit IndianCreekResort.com.

12-14, 19-21, 26-28: "The House of Pooh Corner," 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Sundays, Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo, 236 Buffalo St., Conneaut, Ohio. Call 440-599-7529. Visit: www.broadwayonbuffalo.com.

26-28: Wine and Walleye Festival, 6 p.m. gala dinner Friday, starting 12 p.m. Saturday and closing Sunday afternoon. Event includes a regatta, wine garden, beer tent, lighted boat parade, fireworks, vendors, live entertainment and more. Visit www.wineandwalleyefestival.com.

AUGUST

2: Ashtabula Downtown Development Association First Friday Street Fest, 3-8 pm. Main Avenue, Ashtabula. Event includes pet parade, car cruise, street vendors, flea market and "Treasures in the

Trunk." Visit www.downtownashtabula.com.

2-4, 9-11, 15-17: "Lucky Stiff," 7:30 p.m. Straw Hat Summer Theatre at the Ashtabula Arts Center, 2928 W. 13th Street, Ashtabula, Ohio. Call 440-964-3396. Visit: <http://ashtabulaartscenter.org>.

3-4: Pymatuning Lake Festival 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 5354 Pymatuning Lake Road (Pymatuning State Park) Andover, Ohio. One of the longest-running festivals in Ashtabula County, featuring entertainment, games, food and more. Visit www.pymatuningareachamber.org. Call 440-645-4657.

6-11: Ashtabula County Fair, Ashtabula County Fairgrounds, 127 N. Elm St., Jefferson, Ohio. The six-day county fair features animal shows, rides, games, nightly entertainment, tractor pulls, demolition derby, pig races and more. Visit ashtabulafair.com. Call 440-576-7626.

9-11: "One Acts," 7:30 p.m. Arlene's



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Broadway on Buffalo, 236 Buffalo St., Conneaut, Ohio. Call 440-599-7529. Visit: www.broadwayonbuffalo.com.

10: Bridges and Vines Bicycle Tour, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., beginning at South River Vineyard, 6062 South River Road West, and going through the Western Reserve Greenway Trail. Rides of 13, 25, 39, 64 and 103 miles will be offered. Event benefits the Ashtabula County United Way. Visit www.unitedwayashtabula.org. Call 440-998-4141.

10: Servants of Mary Family Festival and Fireworks Show, 3-11 p.m., 6601 Ireland Road, Windsor, Ohio. Live music, games, vendors, food and beer with fireworks at dusk.

15-17: D-Day Conneaut, opens 12 p.m. Thursday and 9 a.m. Friday and Saturday, Conneaut Township Park, 480 Lake Road, Conneaut, Ohio. D-Day Ohio comes to Conneaut for a WWII D-Day Re-Enactment featuring re-enactors storming the beach at Normandy with authentic equipment.

Explore the encampments and take in concerts, dances and more. Visit www.ddayohio.us. Call 440-599-7697.

16-17: 30th annual Bluegrass Festival, 6 p.m. to midnight Friday, noon to midnight Saturday, 4026 State Route 322, Wayne, Ohio. Continuous Bluegrass music featuring several bands. Visit www.ashtabulaantiqueengineclub.com. Call 330-442-3377.

16-18: Music Along the River Festival, beginning 3 p.m. Friday and ending 7 p.m. Sunday, Harpersfield Covered Bridge Metropark, 1225 Harpersfield Road, Harpersfield, Ohio. A weekend of acoustic and traditional music featuring live performances, informal music jams, workshops and food. Call 440-361-4528. Visit ashtabulametroparks.com

16-17: Annual Historic Depot Yard Sale, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Historic 19th Century Jefferson Depot Village, 147 E. Jefferson St., Jefferson, Ohio. Call 440-576-0496.

24: Orion No. 353 Mason's Car Show and Craft Show, 12-5 p.m. Ashtabula Towne Square mall.

24: TABS, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Bridge Street, Ashtabula. The Arts on Bridge Street festival is an outdoor event with a wide range of artists showcasing their work as well as food, live bands, art demonstrators, artists and vendors. Visit historicashtabulaharbor.com. Call 440-964-8000.

24: Celtic Feis, Old Firehouse Winery, 12 p.m. 5499 Lake Road E., Geneva-on-the-Lake, Ohio. Northeast Ohio's largest Scottish and Irish Festival, featuring entertainment, food and more. Visit www.oldfirehousewinery.com. Call 440-466-9300.

31: 60-mile Route 7 Yard Sale, from Hubbard to Conneaut all along Route 7.

SEPTEMBER

5-8: Thunder on the Strip, Geneva-on-the-Lake. The annual bike rally will feature a weekend of bike parades,



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- live entertainment, motorcycle stunt shows, bull riding and vendors. Visit www.thunderonthestrip.com. Call 440-466-1768.
- 6:** Ashtabula Downtown Development Association First Friday Street Fest, 3-8 pm. Main Avenue, Ashtabula. Event includes chili cook-off, "Art in the Alley" preview, car cruise, street vendors, flea market and "Treasures in the Trunk." Visit www.downtownashtabula.com.
- 6-8:** Perch and Pilsner, Conneaut Township Park, 480 Lake Road, Conneaut. The festival will feature craft beer, Lake Erie perch, a fishing tournament, kayak races, boat cruises, live music and fireworks. Visit www.perchandpilsner.com.
- 7:** Outdoor Learning Center Discovery Day, 10 a.m. 230 Gateway, Conneaut. Featuring all the Outdoor Learning Center has to offer including marked trails, interpretative signs and wooded trails.
- 7:** Ashtabula Downtown Development Association "Art in the Alley" Show, in the alleys and parking lots surrounding Dublin' Down Irish Pub on Main Avenue in Ashtabula. Event features local and regional artists and in addition to the artwork, the show will include a wine garden, food and live music. Visit www.downtownashtabula.com.
- 7-8:** Crafts in the Park, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Lake Shore Park, Ashtabula, Ohio. More than 100 juried crafters from Ohio and Pennsylvania, includes everything from yard signs, jewelry, beach glass, florals, maple syrup and jellies and jams. Call 440-645-5740. Visit www.lakeshoreparkashtabula.org.
- 11:** Patriot Day Concert, 6 p.m., Lake Shore Park, Ashtabula. A tribute concert in remembrance of 9-11.
- 13-15:** Geneva-on-the-Lake Walleye Open fishing tournament, Geneva Marina, 4599 Padanarum Road, Geneva. Call (440) 428-6591. Email DBMarineService@gmail.com.
- 13-15, 20-22, 27-29:** "Lend Me a Tenor," 7:30 p.m. Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo, 236 Buffalo St., Conneaut, Ohio. Call 440-599-7529. Visit: www.broadwayonbuffalo.com.
- 20-22:** Lake Shore Park Rib Burn Off, 4-10 p.m. Friday, 12-10 p.m. Saturday, 12-8 p.m. Sunday, Lake Shore Park, 1700 E. First St., Ashtabula, Ohio. A weekend of ribs, concessions and live music, as well as disc golf Saturday and a car show on Sunday. Visit www.lakeshoreparkashtabula.org. Call 440-964-3819.
- 21:** Great Lakes Geek Fest, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Geneva Community Center, 72 W. Main St., and Geneva Parks and Recreation Building, 81 E. Main St. Event features vendors, artists panels, costume contest, activities and raffles.
- 21-22:** Annual Fall Show, Ashtabula County Antique Engine Club at 4026 State Route 322, Wayne, Ohio. One-day show featuring displays and food; two-day flea market. Visit www.ashtabulaantiqueengineclub.com. Call 440-576-9588.
- 28-29:** Geneva Grape Jamboree, starts 10 a.m. both days, downtown Geneva, Ohio. This two-day event features parades each day, a pageant, grape-stomping and pie-eating competitions, wine tasting, corn-hole, crafts, vendors and more. Visit www.grapejamboree.com. Call 440-466-5262.
- ## OCTOBER
- 4:** Ashtabula Downtown Development Association First Friday Street Fest "Ghost Tours." Visit www.downtownashtabula.com for more information.
- 5:** Brant's Apple Orchard Fall Festival, Brant's Apple Orchard, 4749 Dibble Road, Ashtabula, Ohio. Event features a 5K run, horse drawn hay rides, craft show, kids carnival games and donut eating contests. Visit www.brantsappleorchard.com. Call 440-224-0639.
- 12-13:** Annual Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, East Jefferson Street, Jefferson, Ohio. There are events at almost every one of Ashtabula County's 19 covered bridges, plus a festival in Downtown Jefferson with a parade, food vendors, entertainment, crafters, kids activities and more. Visit www.coveredbridgefestival.org.
- 12:** Harvest in the Harbor, Bridge Street, Ashtabula. Fall, family-friendly activities.
- 18-20, 25-27, 1-3:** "Rocky Horror Show," 7:30 p.m. Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo, 236 Buffalo St., Conneaut, Ohio. Call 440-599-7529. Visit: www.broadwayonbuffalo.com.
- 26:** GhoulFest, Geneva. The day includes pancake breakfast, trunk-or-treat, parade and a haunted gym.
- ## NOVEMBER
- VARIOUS DATES:** Lights on the Lake, 6 to 9 p.m. Lake Shore Park every Friday, Saturday and Sunday starting Nov. 29 through the end of December. Visit www.aclotl.com, Call (440) 993-1051.
- 2:** Winegrowers of Grand River Valley Turkey Trot. A self-guided tour of area wineries featuring traditional Thanksgiving food pairings. Visit www.wggrv.com. Call 440-298-9838.
- 22:** Ashtabula Downtown Christmas Parade, 7 p.m. starting on Main Street.
- 29:** Conneaut Christmas Parade, 7 p.m., Conneaut.
- 29, 30, DECEMBER 1, 6-9, 13-15:** "Rock Nativity," 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Arlene's Broadway on Buffalo, 236 Buffalo St., Conneaut, Ohio. Call 440-599-7529. Visit: www.broadwayonbuffalo.com.
- ## DECEMBER
- VARIOUS DATES:** Lights on the Lake, 6 to 9 p.m. Lake Shore Park every Friday, Saturday and Sunday through December. Visit www.aclotl.com, Call (440) 993-1051.
- 6-7:** Follow the Star to Bethlehem, 5-9 p.m., Ashtabula Towne Square, 3315 N Ridge Road E, Ashtabula. Area churches come together to recreate ancient Bethlehem. Visit www.facebook.com/followthestartobethlehem
- 7:** Jefferson Depot Village Williamsburg Christmas, 3 p.m., at Historic 19th Century Jefferson Depot Village, 147 E. Jefferson St., Jefferson, Ohio. Event includes carols and scripture in candlelight in the 1848 Church in the Wildwood, a live nativity and a candlelit walk through the historic buildings. Visit jeffersondepotvillage.org. Call 440-576-0496.
- 7:** Harbor Holiday Open House, Bridge Street, Ashtabula. ■

New attractions

Ashtabula County Fair offers something for everyone



Mekella Russell-Oliver, 5, of Jefferson, competes with Oliver Preston, 5, of Jefferson, during a sack race during the 2018 Ashtabula County Fair in Jefferson.

BY SHELLEY TERRY
sterry@starbeacon.com

Now in its 173rd year, the Ashtabula County Fair will offer new grandstand shows, butterflies, music and contests during its six-day run, Aug. 6-11.

While the fair, located at 127 N. Elm St., Jefferson, provides the county's agricultural community an oppor-

tunity to showcase its best animals, produce, goods and talents, there's also a new monster truck show, two demolition derbies, two days of harness racing, a rodeo, draft horse pulls and, if all goes well, a refurbished grandstand to watch it from.

SEE **ATTRACTIONS**, 38

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ATTRACTIONS: Fair has a lot to offer

FROM PAGE 37

“The work on the grandstand should start by the end of the (May) and, hopefully, have it all done by the fair,” said Brian Edelman, Fair Board president.

The Fair Board received a \$250,000 state grant to make the grandstand seating accessible for those with disabilities, replace its roof and add a protective weather membrane and all-new wood decking, as well as a new

maintenance building.

Edelman said the board is excited about new shows and exhibits on tap for this year, including a monster truck show slated for Aug. 8, and two new sideshows — a butterfly exhibit and an American Ninja Warrior experience. Back by popular demand is the K-9 in Flight dog show, where dogs show off their skills leaping and jumping for the crowd.

Speed and excitement will come together with harness racing at 11:30

a.m. Aug. 8 and 9. Racing fans can participate in pari-mutuel wagering. Entrance to the grandstand is free.

“We’re going to have about 10 races a day,” said Sue Stockwell, fair board member. “It’s great entertainment.”

Stockwell, who’s also in charge of the Floral Building and contests, said there will be new classes for roses this year, which she believes will be very popular.

Other fair attractions will include a rooster crowing contest, a frog jump, a youth parade, a 4-H fashion show, tractor pulls and hundreds of animal projects — horses, rabbits, goats, turkeys, chickens, pigs, steers, dairy cows and more.

A market animal auction will take place Aug. 10 with hundreds of bidders expected to buy the 4-H livestock projects.

The commercial building gives businesses, clubs and organizations a place to show their wares, while the Grange Building offers a look at local produce, crafts and Grange projects.

Members of the Ashtabula County Hol-

stein Club will serve the club’s signature milkshakes, cheese sandwiches and ice cream.

The Plymouth Grange and the Jefferson Grange will serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. Plymouth is known for its homemade pies and sloppy joes, while Jefferson serves up a roast beef, gravy and mashed potatoes dinner.

Regular admission is \$8. Children ages 4 and younger get in free every day. Rides by Lisko Amusements are free with the daily \$8 admission ticket. With any passes or special admissions, a wristband to ride the rides is \$4.

The rides will be open 1-5 p.m. and 6-11 p.m. Aug. 6 and 8; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 6-11 p.m. Aug. 7; 1-5 p.m. and 6 p.m. to midnight Aug. 9 and 10, and 1-5 p.m. and 6-10 p.m. Aug. 11.

Senior citizens, ages 62 and older get in for \$1 on Senior Day (TBA), and veterans will get in free on Veterans Appreciation Day (TBA).

On Family Day, Aug. 7, children ages 14 and younger get in free all day. An all-day ride pass is \$5.

For information, visit ashtabulafair.com. ■



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Live history

Step back in time at Jefferson Depot Village

BY JON WYSOCHANSKI

jwysochanski@starbeacon.com



Jane Wilson makes marsh grass baskets at the 1890 “Early America Live” program in July 2018 at the Jefferson Depot Village.

For more than 40 years volunteers have painstakingly worked to preserve and display area history at Jefferson Depot Village.

Jean Dutton, president of Jefferson Depot Village, said the Depot Village, 147 E. Jefferson St., Jefferson, allows people to see how their ancestors lived in the 19th Century. The site’s had visitors from all over the country and even overseas.

“It’s our roots and people can walk through there as if they are walking in their shoes,” she said. “It’s a living history village and we have been very particular as far as having original furnishings and such. I think if these buildings weren’t saved they would be gone — and that’s our history. We feel this is very important for people to see.”

Fourteen structures at the Jefferson Depot Village have been brought

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there since the depot's inception in 1978. This year, Dutton said work will begin to bring the organization's 15th and final structure there.

A Queen Anne Victorian home built in the 1850s will be moved from Andover to the site this year. The home will have to be taken apart and moved piece-by-piece, Dutton said.

The work is expected to begin this spring, but it is a long process and after it is moved the home will need to be re-built at the Depot Village and refurbished, she said. People can likely expect to see work taking place this year, but the home won't likely be ready for viewing until sometime next year.

The Depot was going to be sold to a salvage company back in the 1970s, Dutton said, but she and her late husband felt there was an importance to stepping in and saving the site.

"When we started with the railroad station I thought that was the only building we were going to restore," Dutton said.

This year there will also be a new event the evening of July 20 celebrating astronaut Neil Armstrong's first trip to space. Armstrong once lived in Jefferson as a child, Dutton said.

For more information call 440-812-1100 or 614-507-5246 or visit www.jefferson-depotvillage.org. ■

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Janet Grittle instructs Bob Griffin of Hudson while working the wine bar at Ferrante's Winery and Ristorante during the Ice Wine Festival.

Growing industry

Wineries and festivals lure visitors to
Ashtabula and Lake counties

Wine aficionados don't have to travel to California or France to find their favorite wine — the Grand River Valley wine region has them all.

The Grand River Valley wine region, which consists of vineyards in Harpersfield, Geneva and Madison townships, has everything in vinifera grape wines from dry reds to sweet ice wines. Practically every variety is available, thanks to the region's location between the Grand River and Lake Erie, which provides sandy soil and keeps the area

BY SHELLEY TERRY
sterry@starbeacon.com

warmer in the fall.

There are more than a dozen wineries in the Grand River Valley Region and the surrounding area, including Kosicek Vineyards, South River Winery, St. Joseph's Vineyards, Debonne Vineyards, Ferrante Winery, Virant Family Winery, Laurello Vineyards, Grand River Cellars Winery, Deer's Leap Winery, Harpersfield Vineyard, Hundley Cellars, M Cellars, Laurentia Vineyard and Winery, Old Mill

Winery and the Lakehouse Inn Winery.

Donniella Winchell, executive director of the Ohio Wine Producers Association, said the region has garnered awards from around the country and carved itself a special niche for ice wines and pinots.

Winchell said the Grand River Valley region is part of the world-wide "Pinot Belt" — which begins in Burgundy, France, and travels across the United States through the Grand River Valley in Ohio, west to Oregon — where the best conditions exist for

producing world class Pinot Grigio and Pinot Noir.

There's also no reason anyone should be driving while impaired when it comes to exploring the wineries. Shuttles depart regularly for wine destinations, she said.

There are more than 25 different shuttle buses — four are based at the Lodge at Geneva State Park and run twice per day from Sunday through Thursday and four times per day on Friday and Saturday all year long. These are available for Lodge hotel guests, as well as visitors who make prior arrangements.

Winchell credits various festivals for playing an important role of the development of wine culture in the area, including the Uncork'd WineFest at Lake Shore Park, the Wine and Wall-eye Festival on Bridge Street in Ashtabula, the Geneva Grape Jamboree and the Ice Wine Festival at participating wineries.

For more information on any of the wineries or events, visit ohiowines.org.

FESTIVALS

Uncork'd WineFest, slated for June 28-29 at Lake Shore Park in Ashtabula Township, provides an opportunity to sample local wines

and beer, shop for unique gifts, eat, dance and see a view of Lake Erie.

New this year will be a bounce house, face painting and a corn hole tournament, said Greg Church, executive director of the Greater Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce. The event has also changed dates from August to June.

"I am thrilled to be part of the Uncork'd WineFest this summer, especially at a time where we are offering some exciting changes," he said. "Some of these changes include being family-oriented, as well as being intentional about highlighting our chamber members and sponsors."

The festival will host its inaugural corn hole tournament June 29, Church said.

"All of this will be mixed in with the usual fun, wine, beer and food with a superb band lineup," he said. "We believe that moving the festival up to June will help highlight our local wineries and food vendors early in the summer and give them the opportunity to welcome back customers for the rest of the season and beyond."

For more visit www.uncorkdwinefest.com.

SEE **GROWING**, 46

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GROWING: Wineries, festivals lure visitors

FROM PAGE 45

The Wine and Wall-eye Festival will take place July 26-28 on Bridge Street in the historic Ashtabula Harbor, featuring wine, fishing, entertainment, craft beer, gourmet food, shopping and more.

The festival starts at 3 p.m. July 26 with a gala dinner, a street crawl and a Walley-Eye'd 5K run.

Christine Seuffert, president of the Lift Bridge Community Association, which is hosting the event, and her team of volunteers expect large crowds of locals and out-of-town visitors.

On July 27, there will be a full-slate of activities including street vendors, gourmet food stations, live music, beer and fish and lighthouse sail tours, while

a wine tent will have northeast Ohio wineries offering tastings and wine education.

The Wine and Walleye Lighted Boat Parade will begin at 9 p.m. July 27, and at about 8:45 p.m., the Lift Bridge will be raised and remain upright until the fireworks show is over and the area cleared.

July 28's offerings include street vendors, lighthouse sail tours, live music beginning at noon and plenty of wine, beer, fish and gourmet food stations.

City Manager Jim Timonere said city employees and the LBCA work for weeks getting ready for the popular festival.

"It grows every year," he said. "We hope all will come and enjoy the festival."

For more information, go to www.wineandwall-eyefestival.com.

56th annual Geneva Grape Jamboree, will take place Sept. 28-29 in downtown Geneva, is a celebration of the grape harvest. Grapes, entertainment, crafts, an art show, two large parades and tours of local wineries brings thousands to the festival every year.

The Jamboree features everything to do with grapes. There are more than 75 food concessions, 125 arts and craft vendors, daily music by local bands, contests like grape stomping and grape pie eating and grandstand entertainment.

The Jamboree started in 1963 with about 5,000 visitors, but over the years that number has grown to 200,000.

Every year a "Miss Grapette" pageant queen and her court are named and become part of Saturday's parade. In fact, all of Ohio's festival queens come to Geneva to ride in the parade.

The parades usually have 100 units and stretch out more than a mile in length

For more information, go to www.grapejamboree.com.

The 16th annual Ice Wine Festival, which

takes place the first three Saturdays in March 2020, is put on by wineries in Ashtabula and Lake counties.

Laurello Vineyards, Ferrante Winery, Debonne Winery, Grand River Cellars Winery, South River Vineyards and St. Joseph Vineyards all participate in the festival.

The wineries offer food pairings for the festival, as well as special events.

Ice wine is made from grapes left on the vine after the end of the traditional harvest season, Winchell said. Once the grapes freeze, they are immediately harvested and pressed before they can thaw.

The pressed juice is much more concentrated than usual, yielding only about a quarter as much liquid as grapes harvested before the freeze. That also makes the wine much sweeter.

"The festival is a drive-yourself progressive wine tasting event," said Cindy Lindberg, president of Grand River Cellars. "We're all within 10 minutes of each other, so it's very convenient."

For information, go to wgrrv.com/events/ice-wine-festival. ■




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Rev it up

Tens of thousands will Thunder into Geneva-on-the-Lake

There will be bikers aplenty in Ashtabula County on Sept. 5-8 at the annual Thunder on the Strip.

“We’re expecting 50,000 to 60,000 (visitors) throughout the four-day period,” said Dwayne Bennett, one of the event’s founders, adding, “I appreciate everyone supporting the event through the years.”

There are many different aspects of the Thunder on the Strip motorcycle rally, with a large number of bands, a bar hop — people who make a purchase at all 18 participating bars get a free T-shirt — and many vendors.

On Sept. 5, attendees can join in the Founder’s Parade, which starts at Sportsterz, 5422 Lake Road E., Geneva-on-the-Lake, and goes to DW3s Saloon, 1851 S. Broadway, Geneva.

There also will be stunt shows throughout the weekend.

“We’ll have probably three different stunt shows,” Bennett said.

Among those will be the Harley-Davidson Contraband Stunt Team, performing multiple times on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

There will also be numerous vendors selling food and merchandise.

“We started adding (food vendors) each year for the last five years,” Bennett said.

Last year, for the first time,

BY BRIAN HAYTCHER

bhaytcher@starbeacon.com



Motorcyclists fill Geneva-on-the-Lake during the 2018 Thunder on the Strip in Geneva-on-the-Lake.

both sides of the strip were restricted for motorcycle parking. Bennett said the change was helpful, and it makes bikers feel like the Strip is catering to them.

The event’s clientele isn’t what people would call stereotypical bikers, he said, with many visitors bringing expensive RVs and toy haulers — trailers or RV-

sized vehicles designed to carry motorcycles or ATVs — to area campgrounds.

“They don’t want any problems. They don’t want any trouble,” he said.

Bennett credits the success of Thunder on the Strip to a number of things.

“Basically, they can park their bike then they don’t have to drive,” he said, adding Thunder on the Strip provides a shuttle from one end of the Strip to the other.

The community has been supportive of the event, Bennett said, adding their response has “been really positive.”

Geneva-on-the-Lake’s tourism season used to last from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and Thunder on the Strip has done quite a bit to expand that.

“That was the ultimate goal. (Visitors) come on Labor Day and stay all the way through Thunder,” he said. “We fill up hotels all the way from Mentor to Conneaut.”

Stephanie Siegel, Ashtabula County Convention and Visitors Bureau executive director, said Thunder on the Strip has increased bed tax numbers and supported restaurants and stores in the county.

“People are coming from all over, near and far,” she said. “It attracts all different kinds of people. There’s actually a whole component of people who visit for the drive.” ■

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Year two

Perch and Pilsner Festival ready for another round

Those who like fish and beer will be right at home at Conneaut's Perch and Pilsner Festival, slated for Sept. 6-8. But even those who don't should still be able to find more than enough at the festival to keep busy.

Last year was the inaugural Perch and Pilsner Festival, which takes place at Conneaut

Township Park, 480 Lake Road, Conneaut. This year, the Conneaut Chamber of Commerce hopes to build on last year's success.

"We're hoping for thousands (of attendees)," Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Wendy DuBey said.

Returning from last

year will be the Chipewa Lake Water Ski Show Team, for one day of the event. There is also live music scheduled for all three days, with six bands on tap. Also returning is the fishing competition. While the prize for first place hasn't been set for this year yet, last year's winner took home \$500.

Last year, organizers had to contend with rainy weather, but they said it was still a successful debut.

"I'm excited to see how the community responds to year two," said Jeff Raisian, who organized the event.

Raisian suggested the idea of a festival when he was on the Chamber of Commerce's board last year, and it was well-received.

"It's been an idea I had for quite a few years," he said. "We're trying to hit something for everybody. ... Geneva has the Grape Jamboree, Ashtabula has Wine and Walleye. What can we show?"

There will be all kinds

of food at the event, Raisian said, including the festival's namesake perch. For people who don't like fish, there will be many other options, including burgers, barbecue and assorted fried goods.

Erie Bounce — which specializes in bounce houses and other inflatable entertainment — will also be back at this year's event, Raisian said, bringing double the amount they brought last year, as well as games.

"They're going to amp that up," Raisian said.

Overall, he said, there will be more of everything — including more than 20 craft brews.

"We're working on the Best Pilsner Contest," Raisian said.

The event is taking place on the same weekend as Thunder on the Strip in Geneva-on-the-Lake. Raisian hopes that some of the attendees at Thunder will make the drive out to Conneaut for the festival.

For more information visit www.perchandpilsner.com. ■

BY BRIAN HAYTCHER

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Historic day

D-Day Conneaut to mark 20th anniversary

D-Day Conneaut will transform Conneaut Township Park into a war zone from Aug. 15-17 this year.

2019 marks the 75th anniversary of D-Day, when allied forces stormed beaches and cliff-sides in France, and paratroopers dropped into occupied territory.

Along with the anniversary of the actual invasion, D-Day Conneaut is celebrating its 20th anniversary, having first started in 1999. D-Day Conneaut started as a small, relatively private re-enactment event at Conneaut Township Park, 480 Lake Road, Conneaut. The park was chosen for its striking resemblance to the beaches of Normandy.

In the 20 years since, it has grown into one of the largest World War II re-enactments in the world. The event's organizers have called it the largest open air museum in the world.

This year, organizers say the event will be as ambitious as ever, with plans for an extra half day on Thursday, beyond the usual Friday and Saturday schedule.

The park is divided into camps for the Germans, Americans, Commonwealth forces and the French Resistance.

On Friday and Saturday, the event is historically accurate, with no modern vehicles or equipment visible on-site. On

BY BRIAN HAYTCHER

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World War II re-enactor Deborah Bass prepares French Legion of Honor medals for presentation during D-Day Conneaut 2018 at Conneaut Township Park.

Thursday, there will be modern vehicles in the park as re-enactors set up camp.

Throughout the event, there are presentations on various aspects of life for World War II-

era soldiers.

The biggest draw of D-Day Conneaut, though, is the battle re-enactments, with the park's beach converted into a replica of the beaches of Normandy, complete with anti-tank defenses. Areas of the park are turned into Pointe Du Hoc, as well.

Modern re-enactors of the historic assault will storm the beaches in Higgins boats, much as their predecessors did 75 years ago, using equipment that is either of the period or an accurate reproduction.

In the past, there have been B-25 bombers, tanks and multiple varieties of fighter aircraft present during both days of the event.

Betsy Bashore, D-Day Conneaut CEO, is an experienced re-enactor and brought authenticity regulations to the event.

"We think we will have our highest number of German and Commonwealth re-enactors," she said.

Among the things that are tentatively planned for this year is a C-47 plane, Whiskey 7, that flew on D-Day. Bashore was reluctant to say exactly what additional pieces might be present at the anniversary event because many of them are 75 years old.

D-Day Conneaut will have a half-day on Thursday with various displays and demonstrations. However, the camp won't be historically accurate

Thursday because modern vehicles will be dropping re-enactors off, Bashore said.

All the people involved drew high praise from organizers.

"The re-enactors leave the camp talking about what ... they're going to bring next year," Bashore said.

Lori McLaughlin, D-Day Conneaut COO, added, "It's an amazing, coordinated effort. We have some top notch people on our team."

Bashore recommended visitors check out the live mortar firing demonstrations, one is scheduled on all

three days.

"When people think about a re-enactment, they think about a battle," Wayne Heim, D-Day Conneaut board member and official photographer, said, adding D-Day Conneaut is more than just the battle. "These guys are in character from the time they show up. Everybody continues to improve their impression."

"There's 30,000 people here on Saturday," Snyder said. "Saturday is the crazy day."

Bashore and McLaughlin both recommended walking through the

camp. McLaughlin said the people from the area would be surprised by the transformation.

"You can walk into that park during D-Day ... and get lost," Mc-

Laughlin said. "The park completely transforms."

For a complete schedule and more information visit www.ddayo-hio.us. ■

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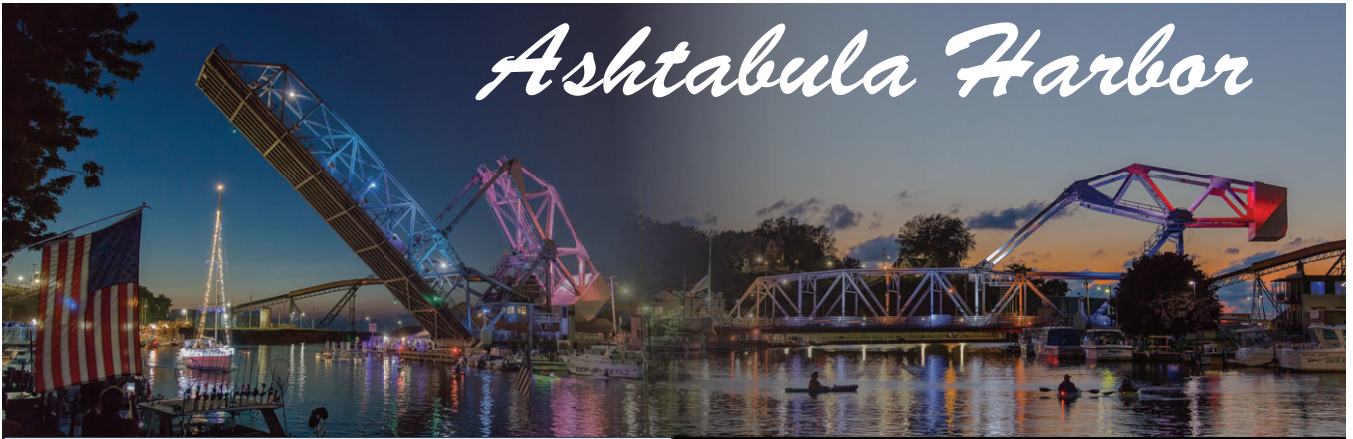
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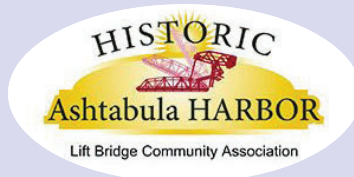
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Members of Eagleville Bible Church operate a stop at the Mechanicsville Covered Bridge during the 2018 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival

19 to visit

Covered Bridge Festival puts spotlight on county

The Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival offers a little bit of something for everyone and a chance for people to see numerous parts of the county.

The festival, in its 36th year, is known as much for its festivities in downtown Jefferson as it is for the 19 unique covered bridges scattered across townships in the county.

With more than 150 covered bridges throughout the state, Ohio ranks second in the nation

BY JON WYSOCHANSKI

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for the most covered bridges. Both the longest and the shortest drivable bridges are in Ashtabula County — the 613-foot Smolen-Gulf Bridge spanning the Ashtabula River and the 18-foot Liberty Street Bridge in Geneva.

There are of five types of covered bridges in Ashtabula County: Howe truss, Pratt truss, Town lattice truss, Burr Arch

and Inverted Haupt truss.

This year the festival will be Oct. 12-13. Saturday the festival will run from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday it runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The bridges will still remain open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Ginger Whitehead, festival committee executive director, said beyond the usual vendors and activities at the bridges there will be mobile COSI Science Stations for children.

“This is the first time we’ve

ever had them and it's something new for us," she said.

Whitehead said the most important aspect of the festival is the ability to visit different bridges and support a variety of community charities and causes.

"At the central festival people come for the crafts, car show, food and entertainment," she said. "Out at the bridges they can support lots of other non-profit organizations from the Boy Scouts to Habitat for Humanity. The festival provides an opportunity to support communities throughout the county."

Bill Painter, a longtime volunteer with the festival, said the festival is one of, if not the largest festival geographically in the state. Ashtabula County is largest county by land size in the state and the festival is scattered across the county at the 19 covered bridges.

This presents a unique festival-going experience, Painter said, because visiting each bridge essentially entails a variety of mini-road trips with sightseeing along the way.

"We have something going on in 19 places," Painter said. "But it's not just that, people come in to see the fall foliage and they get to drive from place to place. This is where we highlight everything and it all comes together."

Ashtabula County author and historian Carl E. Feather has said the appeal of the covered bridges are their history and nostalgia.

"There are very few functional, public connections to the 1800s

Festival information

There is no admission for the festival. The following is a tentative list of events at this year's festival.

OCT. 12

- 9 A.M. TO NOON:** Pancake breakfast at Jefferson United Methodist Church
- 10 A.M.:** Festival and craft building opening
- 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.:** Car show at Giddings Park
- 9 A.M. TO 12:15 P.M.:** Queen's luncheon at A-Tech
- 10-10:30 A.M.:** Children's Choir from Jefferson United Methodist Church
- 11 A.M. TO 4 P.M.:** John King as Abraham Lincoln touring the grounds
- 11 A.M. TO NOON:** Scribbles and Giggles touring the grounds
- 12:30 P.M.:** Parade lineup at high school
- 1-4 P.M.:** 1890 tours at Jefferson Village Depot
- 1:30 P.M.:** Parade leaves high school
- 1:45 P.M.:** Parade arrives at Giddings Park
- 2 P.M.:** Parade and visiting royalty announcements
- 3-3:30 P.M.:** The Spoon Man
- 5-7 P.M.:** Country Redford
- 7 P.M.:** Festival closes

OCT. 13

- 10 A.M.:** Festival opens
- 9 A.M. TO NOON:** Pancake breakfast at Jefferson United Methodist Church
- 10-11 A.M.:** Church service by Jefferson United Methodist Church
- 12-1:30 P.M.:** The Two Kings
- 12-4 P.M.:** John King as Abraham Lincoln strolling grounds
- 12-1 P.M.:** Scribbles and Giggles strolling grounds
- 2-2:30 P.M.:** The Spoon Man
- 1-4 P.M.:** 1890 Tours at Jefferson Depot
- 3-5 P.M.:** O'Needers
- 5 P.M.:** Festival closes

- This year's Queen's Pageant is scheduled for a week before the festival and young women in grades nine through 11 interested in applying should call 440-576-3769 or download an application at www.coveredbridgefestival.org.

- At Giddings Park, 100 E. Jefferson St., people will find food vendors, souvenirs, antique cars and engines, apple butter making demonstrations, COSI Science Centers and the entertainment stage.

- At the Community Center, 11 E. Jefferson St., there will be museum displays and crafters.

- At Giddings Hall there will be crafters.

- At the Jefferson Historical Society there will be displays and bean soup provided by the Rotary.

- At Henderson Memorial Public Library, 54 E. Jefferson St., there will be kids activities and sidewalk chalk drawing.

- At Jefferson Depot, 1890 Tours

19: Covered Bridge Festival spotlights county

FROM PAGE 57

remaining in our county," he said before last year's festival. "The Ashtabula County Courthouse comes to mind as one of them, but the covered bridges are in a unique class because they are accessible day and night. Their architecture is rustic, functional and photogenic. They ooze nostalgia. They are original, modified only to make them even more functional."

That functionality is

the key, he said.

"We lose railroad depots, commercial structures and even old houses because we can't find a practical application for them in the modern world. Without an endowment, these old buildings are doomed to be lost. The covered bridge is self-endowed by its function. As long as it provides passage across the waterway, it earns its keep. And it pays aesthetic dividends in the process," Feather said. ■

The 19 Covered Bridges of Ashtabula County

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South Denmark Road Covered Bridge — 2670 South Denmark Road, Jefferson

Caine Road Bridge — 4699 Caine Road, Pierpont Township

Graham Road Bridge — 4646 Graham Road, Pierpont Township

Root Road Bridge — 4680 Root Road, Conneaut

Middle Road Covered Bridge — 910 Middle Road, Conneaut

Conneaut Creek Covered Bridge — 5899 State Road, Conneaut

Creek Road Covered Bridge — 371 Creek Road, Conneaut

Benetka Road Bridge — 4500 Benetka Road, Sheffield Township

Olins Bridge — 1880 Dewey Road, Plymouth Township

Smolen-Gulf Bridge — 7001 State Road, Ashtabula

Riverview Bridge — Indian Trails Park, 4761 State Road, Ashtabula

Giddings Road Covered Bridge — 1400 Giddings Road, Jefferson

Doyle Road Bridge — 1300 Doyle Road, Jefferson

West Liberty Covered Bridge — 94 West Liberty St., Geneva

Harpersfield Covered Bridge — 1122 Harpersfield Road, Geneva

Mechanicsville Covered Bridge — 1153 Mechanicsville Road, Geneva

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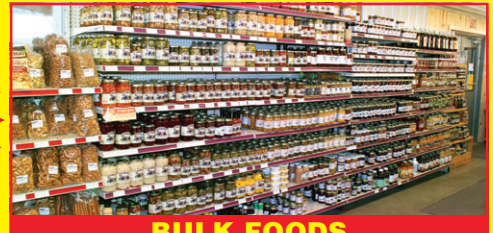
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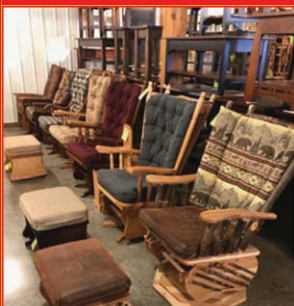


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