



Summer FUN Guide

STAR BEACON
JUNE 2021

Have fun at historic county fair

BY SHELLEY TERRY
sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — It's time to get your fair face on!

The 175th Ashtabula County Fair will be packed with shows, food, music, exhibits and contests during its six-day run, Aug. 10-15 at the fairgrounds on North Elm and North Poplar streets.

While the fair offers the agricultural community a chance to showcase its best animals, goods and talents, there also will be two demolition derbies, two days of harness racing, a youth parade, a rodeo and modified tractor and truck pulls.

Fair-goers will find a newly refurbished grandstand, a renovated Expo Center and a new pole barn.



STAR BEACON FILE PHOTO

SEE FAIR, 14

Children enjoy carnival rides by Lisko Amusements at the 2019 Ashtabula County Fair in Jefferson.

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GOTL remains a traditional summer hot spot

BY WARREN DILLAWAY
warren@starbeacon.com

GENEVA-ON-THE-LAKE — Tradition has been a major attraction for people heading to the village generation after generation to enjoy a variety of recreational pursuits and a hot dog at Eddie's Grill.

"We still get all our Pittsburgh and Youngstown people and we are getting a lot from Cleveland,"

said GOTL Mayor Dwayne Bennett.

"I think a lot of things are going our way. I think we have had a record May."

Bennett said people are sick of being cooped up indoors and are excited about vacations.

In addition to the traditional stops at Adventure Zone, The Cove and many other eating and drinking establishments, Bennett said newer



WARREN DILLAWAY | STAR BEACON

Family fun is a traditional draw for generations of tourists that continue to return to Geneva-on-the-Lake to experience Eddie's Grill and many other popular spots at Ashtabula County's unique tourist destination.

businesses are adding to the positive experience.

"I think the golf cart rental has gone well,"

he said.

Those visiting GOTL have access to transportation that can go from Indian Trails to

the beach at Geneva State Park.

Bennett said the annual fireworks display is scheduled for July 4

and a motorcycle event kicked off the season going earlier this year.

SEE GOTL, 4

CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

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Dimple count and other fun golf facts

Golf is played all over the globe. Golf is one of the world's oldest sports, boasting a rich history. Golf is a sport of skill, that can involve not only athletic prowess, but also brain power. Here are some interesting facts about the

game.

- To this date, golf is only one of two games to be played on the moon. The other is a javelin throw.

- Long before the advent of tees, golfers played off of hand-built sand piles.

- In 1889, Ab Smith inadvertently coined the phrase "birdie," when he hit a shot he defined as a "bird of a shot."

- Making a hole-in-one during a round of golf is quite a challenge. However, the odds of making two are

incredibly low, at one in 64 million.

- Only around 20 percent of golfers have a handicap below 18. The United States Golf Teachers Federation defines handicap as "a measure of a player's current ability over

an entire round of golf, signified by a number. The lower the number, the better the golfer is."

- The word "caddy" comes from "cadet," the French word for "student."
- A regulation golf ball contains 336 dimples.

GOTL: Lakefront village remains a traditional summer hot spot

FROM PAGE 3

Captain Gus' Sandwich Shack and Grill owner Nick Spyrou realizes the village has a tradition that keeps

bringing families back year after year.

He said parents bring their children who get attached to the place and then bring their own kids.

"I think it is a special family place," Spyrou said.

Spyrou said the village, and his business, was able to survive the coronavi-

rus pandemic with a fairly successful 2020 summer season and things are looking even better this year.

The Lodge at Geneva-on-the-Lake is expanding its pool

area with a variety of amenities.

Geneva State Park is greeting campers. The luxury campground recently completed a pool house and boaters are using the

marina.

The Lake Erie Canopy Tours are also now open at the state park after being shuttered last year by the COVID-19 pandemic.



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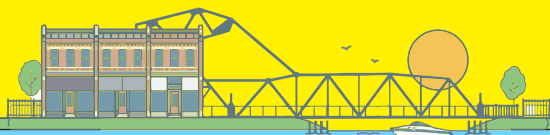
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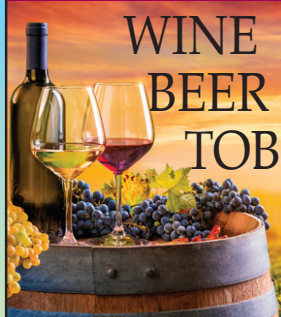
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Pymatuning one of Ohio's most popular parks

BY SHELLEY TERRY
sterry@starbeacon.com

A popular vacation destination on the

Ohio-Pennsylvania border, Pymatuning State Park is well known for its excellent outdoor opportunities.

The 14,000-acre reservoir offers boat access areas, seasonal docks and some of the finest walleye and muskie fishing in the state.

Visitors will also find a large, shady campground with some lakeside views, cabins, a swimming beach and scenic picnic areas along the lake shore.

Located on the western shore of Pymatuning Reservoir, the Pymatuning State Park provides a wide variety of facilities for those who enjoy outdoor recreation.

The countryside around Pymatuning State Park was shaped by the action of the glaciers that covered the



PHOTO COURTESY OF ODNR

A popular vacation destination on the Ohio-Pennsylvania border, Pymatuning State Park is well known for its excellent outdoor opportunities, including hiking, camping, fishing and swimming.

area more than 14,000 years ago. As the last ice melted away, a rolling terrain dotted with dozens of kettle lakes was revealed. Gradually,

a great swamp forest developed, punctuated by bogs and wetlands and supporting stands of towering white pines. The rich wetland habitat was home to a great number of wild animals including bears and wolves. It was this abundance of resources that attracted Native

Americans to the area; the word Pymatuning is taken from an Indian term translated as "the crooked-mouthed man's dwelling place."

The remaining ponds and marshes are a good food source for many types of animals,

SEE PYMATUNING, 15

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October 16th

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Ashtabula's Wine and Walleye Festival is back in 2021

BY SHELLEY TERRY
sterry@starbeacon.com

ASHTABULA— The city's annual Wine and Walleye Festival returns this summer, but with a different

format because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Wine, Dine, and Walleye Festival will be held from noon to 9 p.m. July 24 on Bridge Street in the Ashtabula Harbor, with the focus

on outdoor dining at harbor restaurants and shopping both indoors and outdoors at local boutiques and shops. Restaurant reservations are highly encouraged. "These unprecedented-

ed times have forced us to change the way we will go about our festival for 2021," said Bryce Heinbaugh, a member of the festival's executive committee. "The executive

committee for the festival is dedicated to safety."

There will be no outside vendors or food trucks this year, but there will be live music.

The Harbor Yak will host the first-ever Kayak River Race that day. More details are expected to be released soon, organizers said.

City Manager Jim Timonere said city employees and members

of the Lift Bridge Community Association work for weeks getting ready for the festival.

"We hope all will come and enjoy the festival," he said.

City Council President John Roskovich said it's an important event for the city.

"I really hope we have a fun and safe event," he said.

For more information, go to www.wine-and-walleyefestival.com.



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Harbor's Bridge Street the place to be

BY SHELLEY TERRY

sterry@starbeacon.com

ASHTABULA — Independent We Stand named Bridge Street the winner of "America's Main Streets" contest in June 2018, and city officials say there are good reasons why.

The historic Ashtabula Harbor boasts nearby Walnut Beach, marinas and boat clubs, several museums, unique shops and plenty of great places to eat and drink.

With the formation of the Lift Bridge Community in 2008, a small group of inter-

ested citizens developed a mission to promote and develop the Ashtabula Harbor into a major tourist destination and a strategic plan to accomplish the mission.

Thanks to the revitalization of the area, several historical buildings have been eligible for state grants worth more than \$100,000 for rehabilitation and preservation efforts.

Today, every building on the eastern end of the street is in use and, in the near future a boutique-style hotel with a rooftop wine bar will be built on Goodwill Drive, just

'We have so many wonderful attractions in the Harbor that are enjoyed by tourists and locals like.'

J.P. Ducro IV

Ashtabula County Commissioner

a stone's throw from Bridge Street.

"We have so many wonderful attractions in the Harbor that are enjoyed by tourists and locals alike," said Ashtabula County Commissioner J.P. Ducro IV.

Flowers adorn the street in spring, summer and fall, crosswalks are painted, Goodwill and Hulbert drives boast new bricks, a spacious parking lot is open, historical buildings don plaques and shopkeepers do all they can to keep the street tidy. In a few blocks, visitors can go from strolling through the commercial corridor and watching the lift bridge raise and lower every half hour to catching some sun at Walnut Beach on Lake Erie.

Warm weather visitors will find that

Bridge Street boasts several highly rated restaurants, including Rennicks Meat Market, Bascule Bridge Grille, Halcyon, Fitzgerald's Wine Bar and Briquettes Smokehouse, among others.

There's a chocolate shop, a coffee shop, a new ice cream parlor and a specialty popcorn shop ready for customers to sample and enjoy. On Sundays, visitors can peruse a farmer's market.

Come the weekend, visitors can hear authentic 19th century ghost stories by joining the Eerie Harbor

Ghost Walk — the only tour of its kind in the historic Ashtabula Harbor.

The tours, featuring a costumed storyteller, are scheduled for Friday nights (with Saturday as the rain date).

Groups will gather outside the Harbor Perk, 1003 Bridge St., at 6:30 p.m. and set off for a ghostly tour of the historic harbor. Text 440-228-8458 for reservations. Tickets can be purchased with cash, \$15 adult, \$12 for youth (15 and under). For more information, visit www.eerieharbor.com.

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Tips to help ensure safe camping trips

Camping's appeal is undeniable. According to The Business Research Company, a market research and intelligence company, the global camping and caravanning market is expected to grow from just under \$40 billion in 2020 to more than \$45 billion in 2021. Estimates suggest even more growth in the coming years, reaching \$56.6 billion by 2025.

Camping has long been a popular pastime for outdoor enthusiasts, but it may have developed an entirely new group of devotees in 2020. Traditional vacations may not have been possible in 2020, when governments across the globe urged citizens to avoid conventional travel as the world found itself in the throes of a global pandemic. In an effort to overcome cabin fever, many people viewed camping as a safe way to get out of the house while still limit-

ing contact with people from other households. That no doubt inspired new generations of camping fans, many of whom will continue to pitch their tents and sit around campfires long after the pandemic has ended.

The National Park Service recognizes the popularity of camping and urges people to stay safe. Veteran campers and novices alike can benefit from reviewing these safety tips..

- Plan ahead. Camping trips may not require hours of scouring travel websites in an effort to find the best deals on flights and hotels. But camping trips still require ample planning. When planning a trip, take into account who's coming along. Assess their camping skills and physical fitness to determine the most appropriate place to camp. Campers with limited mobility may be best suited for accessible campsites. The NPS

urges campers to consider if everyone in the group will be able to make a long hike from the parking lot to the campsite. If not, choose a site that you can pull right up to or is just a short, easy walk from the parking lot.

- Research the campsite and surrounding area. Know as much as possible about the campsite prior to embarking on your trip. Learn about everything from the local wildlife you may encounter while camping to the condition of surrounding areas, including the altitude, the difficulty of nearby hiking trails and where to go in case of emergency.

- Develop an emergency plan. The NPS urges campers to develop an emergency plan, noting that it's always wise to expect the unexpected when camping. Bring a first aid kit along when leaving the campsite to engage in activities like hiking or

fishing. Go over safety protocols before going on a hike, including the need to stay together and remain on the trail at all times. More information about what to do should anyone be injured during your trip is available at www.nps.gov.

- Bring the right gear. The NPS notes that each camping trip will have its own equipment needs, which will be dictated by the setting, the time of year of the trip, the difficulty of the terrain, and the duration of the trip. Navigational supplies, sun and insect protection, insulation (i.e., extra clothing and blankets), shelter, flashlights and headlamps, first aid kits, extra food and water, firestarters, repair kits and tools, and a communication device like a smartphone or satellite phone are the essential necessities that should be brought along on all camping trips.

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Staying out of trouble on the water is important

Boating is a recreational activity enjoyed by thousands of people. Spring and summer are prime times of year for boating, though people who live in temperate climates may be able to enjoy boating all year long.

Everyone who takes to the water, novices and experienced boaters included, should be familiar with boating safety guidelines. In fact, it is a good idea to take a boating safety course prior to boating for the first time or as a refresher if it has been a while since reviewing the rules of the water.

Boating safety goes beyond learning basic operation and navigation. Safety guidelines also involve getting a vessel safety check. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary offers complimentary boating examinations. They can verify the presence and condition of safety equipment required by federal and state organizations. Boaters also may be able to conduct virtual vessel exams. This means boat owners can perform a self-inspection of the boats based on digital prompts. People who reside in Canada can contact the Office of Boating Safety to confirm whether vessel checks are required and how to get one. Licensure and registra-

tion of boats are part of responsible boat ownership both in the U.S. and Canada.

Along with boating inspections and water rules, some other ways to stay safe involve educating oneself of the larger dangers on the water. These generally involve risky boater behavior, such as failing to wear a life jacket or having an inadequate number of life jackets for passengers.

Alcohol use while boating also can be problematic. Being under the influence can adversely affect boaters' reaction times and decision-making abilities.

According to the 2018 U.S. Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics Report, alcohol continued to be the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents in 2018, accounting for 100 deaths (19 percent) of total fatalities. Curbing alcohol use while boating can help avoid accidents and deaths.

Excessive speeds also can derail nice days on the water. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department says that, although there are no numerical speed limits on the water, excessive speed can cause accidents in crowded areas. Speeding makes it difficult to react to obstacles — including underwater wildlife

— and bring the boat to a stop within a safe

distance of others. Boating season is

heating up, and that means making safety

a big part of operating and enjoying a vessel.

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Hot diggity dog: Some facts about frankfurters

Hot dogs are the yin to the hamburger's yang. Franks and burgers are a common pair at barbecues and ballparks. Handheld, portable meals, they pack a convenient, flavorful punchy.

as American as hot dogs. However, hot dogs are derivative of European sausages. This fact and more can shed light on the humble hot dog, which is sure to find its way to a grill near you this summer.

pretentious to consume a hot dog with utensils. Hot dog etiquette experts also insist adults should not top their hot dogs with ketchup, which they suggest is a topping strictly reserved for children.

associated with New York City. However, hot dogs gained popularity across the country in the 20th century.

Hot dogs are often called frankfurters. This refers to Frankfurt, Germany, where pork sausages similar to hot dogs are believed to have originated.

Hot dogs were given their name by cartoonist Tad Dorgan. He observed a vendor selling "hot dachshund sausage dogs" during a baseball game at New York's Polo Grounds. As legend has it, Dorgan couldn't spell the name of the dog, instead writing only "hot dogs." The name eventually caught on.

Despite jokes as well

as speculation regarding what hot dogs contain, hot dogs are cured and cooked sausages that contain mainly pork, beef, chicken, and turkey. The meats come from the muscle of the animals. If a product contains organ meats, it must be declared.

In 1867, Charles Feltman made a cart with a stove on it, which he used to boil sausages. The cart also had compartments to keep buns fresh. Carts that sell hot dogs on the street are now seen in cities everywhere.

Hot dogs are a NASA-approved food for astronauts.

While hot dogs are sold at many venues,

data indicates that the popular convenience store chain 7-Eleven sells the most grilled hot dogs in North America, with 100 million sold annually.

Relish, sauerkraut and ketchup are popular toppings. But mustard is by far the most popular.

Why are there typically 10 hot dogs per pack and only eight buns per bag? When hot dogs were first introduced, they were sold at varying quantities at the butcher shop. Hot dogs were eventually standardized to packages of 10, but buns are baked in clusters of four in pans designed to hold eight rolls.



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Grilling like a professional

Some tips to get juicier backyard burgers

Summer weekends wouldn't be the same without backyard barbecues. And no backyard barbecue is complete without hamburgers.

The exact origins of the hamburger are unknown, but historians believe this beloved staple of American barbecues can be traced to mid-nineteenth century Germany. According to History.com, political revolutions in Germany in the 1840s spurred many Germans to emigrate to the United States. Germans brought many of their cultural traditions with them,

including their cuisine. One such dish was the chopped steak, which can be traced to Hamburg, a city renowned for its high-quality beef. Though few might now see ground beef as a remedy for digestive issues, that was a common belief in the 1860s, when a New York-based doctor named James Salisbury suggested that cooked beef patties could benefit the digestive system as much as chopped, chipped or ground beef. Buns were not yet in the picture at that time, but they were

by 1904, when beef patties on buns were available at the St. Louis World's Fair. In 1921, the first White Castle restaurant opened in Kansas, and hamburgers have been a staple of American cuisine ever since.

Though it's been a century since White Castle opened its first restaurant, people are still perfecting the art of making the perfect hamburger. Exactly what defines the perfect hamburger may be open to debate, but there's no denying the desirability

of juicy burgers. As grillmasters prepare for another season of backyard barbecues, the following are some ways they can make their burgers more juicy.

- Avoid extra-lean meat. Extra-lean meat might be healthier than the alternatives, but 93 percent lean ground beef is unlikely to produce juicy burgers. When making burgers from scratch, opt for 80 percent lean. WebMD notes that fat helps to hold burgers together while searing and cooking the meat. The result

is a more juicy interior than cooks are likely to get when using lean meats.

- Swap beef for lamb. Cookbook author John Holl notes in his book, "The American Craft Beer Cookbook" (Storey), that substituting ground beef with ground lamb makes for a juicier burger. Lamb is moist, so unlike lean beef, it can be grilled as well-done without drying out. Lamb also offers a different taste than beef, adding a little variety to a backyard barbecue.

- Saddle your spatula.

Flipping the burgers too much or pressing them against the grill as they cook can dry them out.

- Be conscious of carryover cooking time. This refers to the length of time temperature in a food continues to rise even after it's been removed from a cooking area. Beef is among many foods that continue to cook after being removed from a heat source, so beef burgers can be removed from the grill before they reach the desired temperature. This prevents drying out and ensures that once they're served, the burgers will be juicy and safe to eat.



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FAIR: Find summer fun during historic Ashtabula County event

FROM PAGE 2

After successfully adding a second day of racing three years ago, the fair board decided to go with it again.

"We'll have harness

racing Thursday and Friday, post time 11:30 a.m.," said Sue Stockwell, fair board member and race secretary.

"There will be several races a day, and pari-mutual wagering."

Other attractions will include a rooster crowing contest, a frog jump, a 4-H fashion show, contests for children, horse shows, barnyard Olympics and hundreds of 4-H projects — hors-

es, miniature horses, rabbits, goats, chickens, ducks, pigs, steers, dairy cows and more.

A market livestock sale will be held Saturday where hundreds of bidders are expected to

buy the market animal projects.

Free shows this year include Max Power — a 9-foot tall robotic entertainer, the Ready Go Dog Show, Cracker Jack the Clown and Company, Jungle Terry and the Rex and Dana Comedy and Magic show.

The Barnard Entertainment Pavilion Stage on the back midway will play host to local bands from 6-10 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Members of the Ashtabula County Holstein Club will serve the club's signature milkshakes, ice cream and cheese sandwiches.

Members of the Plymouth Grange will offer burgers, hot dogs and pie and the Jefferson Grange will have its famous roast beef, gravy and mashed potatoes dinners, plus hamburgers, fish sandwiches, hot dogs, pies and more. Both granges will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Fresh made lemonade, doughnuts, steak on a stick, French Fries, pizza, peanuts, popcorn, homemade fudge, candy apples, waffles, barbecue chicken, pierogies and lots more will be on sale from vendors.

Regular admission is \$8, children ages 4 and younger get in free every day. Rides by Lisko Amusements are free with the daily \$8

'We'll have harness racing Thursday and Friday, post time 11:30 a.m. There will be several races a day, and pari-mutual wagering.'

Sue Stockwell
Fair board member
and race secretary

admission ticket. Live pony rides cost extra.

Grandstand shows cost \$5, paid at the grandstand, except the Barnyard Olympics and KOI Drag Racing are free. With passes or special admissions, a wristband to ride the rides and are \$5.

The rides will be open 1-5 p.m. and 6-11 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 6-11 p.m. Wednesday; 1-5 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. and 6-10 p.m. Sunday.

Senior citizens, ages 62 and older, get in for \$1 on Tuesday and Friday. Veterans get in free on Thursday with proper identification.

On Family Day (Wednesday) children ages 14 and younger get in free all day.

An all-day ride pass is \$5. For more information, visit ashtabula-fair.com or call 440-576-7626.



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PYMATUNING: One of Ohio's most popular parks

FROM PAGE 6

including bald eagles. Several pairs of eagles nest on the Pennsylvania side of the reservoir, and a patient observer may spot one of these rare birds of prey in flight. In addition to eagles, the reservoir serves as a resting spot for numerous migrating waterfowl.

HISTORY OF THE AREA

Settlement of the area by white immigrants from the east was slow to occur. The vast Pymatuning swamp and nearly impenetrable forest made travel difficult. The earliest Europeans to reside here were trappers in search of valuable beaver pelts.

Later, the lush forest attracted lumbermen who especially prized the strong, straight trunks of the white pines that were used to con-

struct masts for sailing ships.

As more and more settlers came into northern Ohio, much of the wilderness of the Pymatuning region was lost. Remnants of the original swamp still remain today, allowing naturalists to explore this unique habitat.

In 1933, the dam which impounded Pymatuning Reservoir was constructed to regulate the flow of the Shenango and Beaver rivers. Land on the western shore of the reservoir was acquired by the state of Ohio in 1935, and in 1950 the Division of Parks and Recreation began developing Pymatuning State Park.

PASSES

Ohio does not have an annual pass and does not charge entrance fees to state parks.

FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Land, 3,512 acres

Water, 1,407 acres

Fishing, hunting, hiking, picnic shelters, swimming beach, concessions, nature center, boat rentals, launch ramps, electric sites, full hook-up sites, pets permitted, flush toilets, showers, dump station, camp commissary, campground beach, ice boating, ice skating and ice fishing.

CAMPING

Campers will find the large modern campground suitable for tents and trailer camping. Electric service is provided to most campsites. Heated shower houses, flush toilets, laundry facilities and a nearby camp commissary are provided. Certain sites may be rented for the

entire season. A small beach for campers is near the center of the campground.

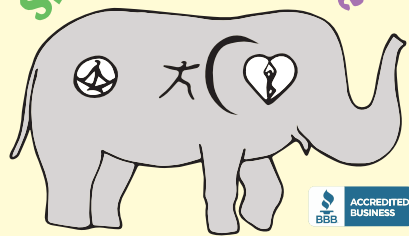
COTTAGES

Twenty-seven family cottages which sleep six are heated for year-round use. Thirty-three standard cottages are available May 1-Nov. 1, each of which sleep four. All cottages are furnished with linens, towels, and cooking/eating utensils.

The family cottages have been renovated to include gas fireplaces, cable TV and microwave ovens. Reservations may be made up to one year in advance. A small beach is available for cottage guests.

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.

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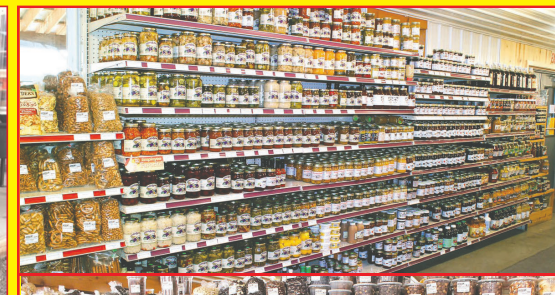
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