

Rain, Snow, Freezing Temperatures Do Not Dampen Enthusiasm of Snowsfest Crowds

Winter Events Are Focus of Les Cheneaux Festival

Hundreds of spectators and participants who came to Eastern Upper Peninsula events like Snowsfest in Hessel last weekend experienced a mixed bag of winter weather conditions, including sub-zero temperatures, snow, sun, and even rain that soaked Sunday's activities.

Snowsfest started Friday evening, February 15, with decoration judging and a Caribbean theme pub shuffle. The Runway Bar of Hessel ran away with the pub shuffle contest, sweeping the three categories of best drink, best servers, and best decorations. Owners, employees, and friends of the Runway built a tiki-

style, grass roofed bar to top the existing bar, where patrons could sip tropical "Hurricane Wendi" drinks, served in plastic coconuts.

Snow Statue, Window Decorations, Decorating Contest Winners

Les Cheneaux Area Artisan Cooperative won first place in the sculpture on ice contest for its massive, purple "Fish Called Wanda." The fish had slides and stairs, and was an instant hit with children during activities Saturday. Kate Otstot of Hessel, Nancy Stuhler of Cedarville, Marilyn Zelovic of Barberton, Ohio, and Hessel, Molly



Three-year-old Jacqueline Brace of Pickford, with (from left) her mother, Tonya Brace, and painter Emily Pieri of Cedarville, selects the color she wants to embellish the butterfly painted on her face. Face painting was offered during Snowsfest Saturday, February 16, in Hessel.



Seth Haske (left) reacts to his uncle Curt Vaught's win in the Snowsfest Chili Cook-Off. Mr. Vaught beat Mr. Haske by one vote.



Working on the Les Cheneaux Artisan Cooperative snow sculpture Friday night, February 15, Marilyn Zelovic of Barberton, Ohio, and Hessel (left) and Kate Otstot of Hessel (center) stop their work briefly while Nancy Stuhler of Cedarville continues carving at the creation, "A Fish Called Wanda."



Children participating in Snowsfest's Pirate Games Saturday, February 16, try to keep one leg up in the "peg leg" races. Thirty-one children participated in the Pirate Games, organized and led by Great Lakes Boat Building School business manager Michele Fiering, and volunteers.

Mathews of Hessel, and Mrs. Otstot's cousins from Texas, Keven Turk and Curt Blust, worked on the fish. Bud Mathews of Hessel helped pile snow for the workers.

In the business division of the snow sculpture contest, First National Bank of Cedarville won first place and the Runway Bar of Hessel won second.

Islands Insurance of Cedarville took first place in the Snow Buddy contest, and Cedarville Foods took second place. Cedar Cove of Cedarville won third place.

Window decoration prizes were awarded to Taylor Lumber of Cedarville for its first place entry, Arfstrom Pharmacy for second place, and Cedarville Inn for third.

Clue Hunt, Poker Run, and 50/50 Raffle

Kristine Moore won the Snowsfest 50/50 raffle prize of \$290. Michele Fiering of Hessel won the Snowsfest Clue Hunt by finding the hidden prize at Green Thumb in Cedarville. She won \$50 from the Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce and a \$50 gift certificate from the store. The Saturday Poker Run participation was up by 13 participants from last year, with 97

*Please turn to page 12

Millecoquins Lake To Be Site of Winter Carnival Saturday

The east side of Millecoquins Lake near Engadine will be the site of a Winter Carnival Saturday, February 23, from 8 a.m. to about 5 p.m. Activities will include fishing contests for youth and open classes, a chili cook-off, dog-sled rides, concessions, games on the ice, snowmobile radar runs, a predator hunt, and a poker run. Most activities will be based at the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club Recreation Building, said club manager Lester Livermore.

The fishing contest will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is free for youth. Participants in open classes will pay \$5. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and continues all day. Judging is at 4 p.m. at the recreation building.

The chili cook-off takes place from noon to 3 p.m. Registration costs \$5 and is at 11 a.m. Participants must be ready to serve by 12 p.m. Tasters, who may serve as judges for the contest, can sample the chili for \$2.

Registration for the predator hunt is \$10 at the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club office on the east side of the lake. The contest began February 8. Contestants must present their catches at the carnival between 9 a.m. and noon.

Winners will receive prizes for the heaviest coyote, bobcat, and fox. Predators may be taken by any legal means anywhere in the U.P., Mr. Livermore said.

Registration for the poker run can be made at any local business. Drawings for awards will be at the recreation building, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Games and concessions on the ice begin at 11 a.m.

The snowmobile radar runs will take place from noon to 3 p.m. They are similar to drag races, but participants race one at a time and are clocked by a radar gun. Those with top speeds will receive prizes including plaques and trophies at the recreation building from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Organizers will consider proposed additions to the carnival, but anyone with something to add must contact the Sportsman's Club first, Mr. Livermore said.

For more information, contact the club at (906) 477-6592.

The Club sponsors the event, with Big Mac Pac, U.P. Snow Gobblers of the Wild Turkey Federation, the Two Heart Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Engadine Athletic Boosters, and Feneley-McNeil-Nesbit American Legion Post 290.

Grant Workshop To Aid Fire Departments Is Wednesday

A workshop about the process of applying for firefighting grants will be offered Wednesday, February 20, at 7 p.m. at the Little Bear East Arena and Conference Center in St. Ignace. The topic will be 2008 grants through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

The two-hour workshop is free and no registration is required. The Department of Homeland

Security is offering three workshops in February in the Upper Peninsula. Workshops were also offered in Marquette and Escanaba. Steve Dumovich from the Chicago office of the Department of Homeland Security will present information.

More information is available online at www.firegrant-support.com.

Fund Established for Lee Family

An emergency assistance fund has been established at First National Bank, Les Cheneaux Branch in Cedarville for Jimmy and Shari Lee of Hessel, whose home

was destroyed by a fire Friday, February 15.

Donations can be made at the bank, and checks should be earmarked for the "Jerome Lee family."

Wilfred Libby Benefit Is Planned

The Pickford Lions Club is sponsoring a spaghetti benefit dinner for Wilfred Libby of Pickford Monday, February 25, from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Pickford Township Hall. The dinner will

help defray medical expenses arising from a recent hospitalization. Admission is by donation.

For more information, call Stan or Marlene Kennedy at (906) 647-8034.

Clark Township

Neighborhood Watch Calls for More Volunteers

By Amy Polk

A new sign along the highway to Hessel designates Clark Township a Neighborhood Watch zone, but the community's participation in the national Neighborhood Watch program needs more local volunteers trained to spot suspicious activity and keep an eye on neighboring homes and businesses.

Loren Dingman told volunteers February 4 that more people need to be trained before summer if citizens want to try curbing the criminal activity in the township.

A victim of a 2007 home invasion and theft, Mr. Dingman organized the Neighborhood Watch group. He has been encouraged by Mackinac County Sheriff Scott Strait, and deputy Ivan Wilde is providing training to the group, which has been meeting almost monthly since October. Attendance could be better, he said, and ranges between 12 and 30.

Each one-hour meeting covers a different topic.

"I really feel we need to get on the alert before the summer hits and there is a lot more [criminal] activity," Mr. Dingman said. "There was a lot more activity last year than there was in all the 10 years we've been here."

Mr. Dingman moved to Clark Township from an urban area.

The Clark Township group is seeking "block captains" to manage at least 10 volunteers in their neighborhood.

Crime and substance abuse rise when the economy is bad, Sheriff Strait said. Over the past three years, his office has investigated more than 40 break-ins and larcenies in Clark Township. Some of those could have been discouraged with security systems, outdoor flood lights, and locked doors and windows.

Awareness of one's surroundings and identifying suspicious activity also reduces crime and is the basis for the Neighborhood Watch program.

Police encourage residents to report anything suspicious, no matter how embarrassing it might seem.

"Don't be shy," Sheriff Strait told the group February 4. "Whenever you're in doubt, and thinking, 'Geez, should I call?' Call! Law enforcement will take you seriously."

Volunteers have become involved in stopping and solving crime through Neighborhood Watch, so calls from a Neighborhood Watch community are going to be taken more seriously.

Suspicious activity is anything unusual, such as activity late at night or early morning, a car pulling away when the owner of a home or business owner leaves their building, an unfamiliar car parked outside a home or store that does not seem to be doing business at the store or visiting the home, strange odors coming out of a home, sounds of breaking glass, a lot of daily traffic coming in and out of a house, cars driving around the block several times, and loud voices or yelling.

If a suspicious person is identified, Mr. Wilde said, make a mental or written note of the person's appearance, starting at the top and working down. Physical

characteristics police are looking for include gender, race, age, height, weight, hair color and style, complexion, speech, and scars.

Vehicle descriptions can include make, model, estimated year, color, graphics, lettering, occupants, and direction.

Deputy Wilde is available to all Mackinac County communities for Neighborhood Watch training.

To help beef up security, Clark Township will install lighting at the corner of Nye Road and Cedar Street, a benefit for walkers and area residents, and Sheriff Strait recommends that residents inform the township of other areas they feel need more lighting.

The Neighborhood Watch group wants to buy 12 signs to post around the township to warn potential criminals of the heightened awareness program. They will cost between \$30 and \$35 each. Car stickers and home stickers are available through the Sheriff's Department, as well as informational guides and suspicious activity logs.

The next Clark Township Neighborhood Watch meeting will be Tuesday, March 4, at 5:30 p.m. at Clark Township Hall in Cedarville.

56 Teams Are Ready for Pond Hockey Action at St. Ignace

The second annual Upper Peninsula Pond Hockey Championships on the ice of Moran Bay will feature a 56-team field and will begin Saturday morning, February 23, and continue Sunday, February 24.

The weekend will feature ice bowling for adults, and live music. All events will take place at Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry dock on North State Street. A heated tent will be set up where food, beverages, and music will be provided.

One feature hockey fans will enjoy is the celebrity appearance of the Hanson Brothers from the 1977 hockey movie "Slapshot." The three men, Dave Hanson and brothers Jeff Carlson and Steve Carlson, recognizable to fans for their black-framed glasses, long hair, and rough style of play, will be at the event Saturday, February 23.

Tricky Dicky and the Spoonmen, a band from Mackinac Island, will play Saturday, February 23.

Virus Curbs Long Term Care Visiting

An upper respiratory infection has closed Mackinac Straits Hospital Long Term Care to visitors and the public, reported Barb Davis, director of nursing for the unit, Monday, February 18. Eleven of the 75 residents there are ill with a sore throat, cough, and fever that is probably viral in nature, she said, and some staff members have also become ill. Test results are negative for influenza, she said.

"The measure is a precaution to protect our residents, employees, and families," she said. "No one is seriously ill at this time. We will reassess the situation Friday, and visiting is restricted until further notice."

Group activities like bingo, coffee hour, and rosary services are also suspended at the facility.

Some To Be Notified of Water Precaution

City: Leave Faucets on Slow Trickle

Some residents in the city of St. Ignace are being notified by telephone by the city's Department of Public Works (DPW) to begin running water continuously in their faucets, to prevent pipes from freezing.

The frost line in the ground has reached 50 inches deep in some parts of the city, as of Tuesday, February 19, DPW reported. DPW will call some residents to notify them when to turn their water on.

The stream of running water in faucets should be no thicker than a pencil. There will be no charge for the extra water used.

Do not leave faucets running unless advised to do so by city workers.