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Join in on the fun at the Aitkin County Fair July 10 - 13



Get ready for the biggest celebration of the summer in Aitkin County, as the Aitkin County Fair gears up for

four days of non-stop fun from Wednesday through Saturday, July 10 -13. With the picturesque county fair-

grounds as the backdrop, this year promises to be even more thrilling.

Creative Activities

Calling all bakers and makers! The Creative Activities Department has many divisions and classes for individuals to show off their many talents. Open class entries are accepted on Tuesday, July 9 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Early registration will be offered from 4:30-7 p.m. on Monday, July 8 for your convenience. Exhibitor handbooks are



available at various locations and on Facebook. Advance registration is recommended and can be done online at: aitkin.fairwire.com

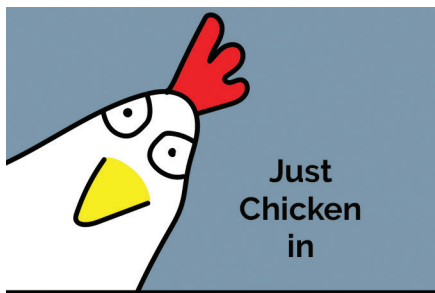
The Creative Activities building has a full schedule of demonstrations and live judging open to the public. This year's features are Quilts/Bedspreads, Artisan/Craftsman, Gluten Free baked goods, sauces, yeast and quick breads, muffins and pickles along with a variety of demonstrations. Area musical talents will be on hand to entertain while you browse the exhibits and again this

year there will be Artist in Residence to show off their many talents. The annual Fashion Show will wrap up Saturday afternoon.

Tree-mendous Tree Decorating

Not to needle you with another pun, but in a stroke of "leafy" genius, the Aitkin County Friends of the Arts is sponsoring a Tree Decorating Contest. Judging kicks off on Friday, July 12, with divisions for Families, Groups, and Businesses. With cash prizes up to \$250 for the Grand Champion, with Reserve at

Continued on Page 3



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Volunteers needed for Habitat's build

Wausau Homes of Aitkin brought in and assembled the basic house for Sofia Heesaker and her three sons just outside Aitkin.

The basement is built and the home is built and enclosed.

Now it is time for volunteers to step forward.

Help is needed for interior finishing: insulation, sheetrock, painting; installing floors, cabinets, doors, casings, etc.

Exterior there will be roofing and installation of siding, soffits and fascia, all exterior finishing and landscaping.

If you are able to volunteer, contact building director Dante Irizarry at 320-339-0091 or email dan-



Sofia Heesaker and her three sons are the partner family for the new Aitkin Build. Submitted photo



The Heesaker Habitat for Humanity home is in place and enclosed. Now it is time for volunteers to sign up to finish it. Ann Schwartz photo

te.irizarry@habitatforhumanityaitkincounty.org. You can also call 218-927-5656 and leave a message.

The only requirement for volunteering is to fill out a registration form that includes a liability waiver so you are covered by Habitat's insurance.

Not able to do construction work? Some other needed jobs are running errands, picking up supplies, preparing or serving food and drinks for the work crew or babysitting so parents can work.

Let's all pull together so Sofia and her boys are home for the holidays.



Silent auction items line the hallway. Cindi Hills, one of the benefit chairs, commented that she has never seen community donations given so freely. Ann Schwartz photos



Dixie and Charlie Babin are among those in attendance in a room filled to overflowing.

Community responds to Purdy benefit



Dylan, Shanna, Rob and Clayton Purdy. Submitted photos

By ANN SCHWARTZ

Over 500 people attended a benefit on June 28 in Aitkin for the Rob and Shanna Purdy family.

The family underwent a very tough last few years with Rob suffering from severe covid, Shanna diagnosed with cancer and just recently, son Clayton, 19, died following a mental health crisis.

"Clayton suffered a mental health crisis and overdosed on his prescription medication," Joan Petersen said. He spent 19 days at Hennepin County Medical Center and passed

away on June 7.

Both Rob and Shanna's family (the Carties) go back a long way in the community. The parking lot was overflowing for the recent benefit and the large 40 Club Convention Center was completely packed. I received the number 449 and I know lots of people

came in after me.

Clayton loved small town living. He played basketball and ran track for Aitkin High School and is expecting a child with his finance.

People talked about how Clayton's older brother Dylan memorialized him at the funeral service. Rob has also recorded a video on YouTube with his memories of raising Clayton.

As Rob said in his video, small towns have advantages and disadvantages. One quirky thing is that everyone knows everything about you and your family. The other deal is that people are always willing to help. And the community of Aitkin County, knowing everything about this Purdy family, chose to support the remaining three.

Guns, prints, a variety of fantastic baskets, gift cards, sports memorabilia, quilts, and so many more items were auctioned off or won by drawings. Baked goods were prepared by many family members and friends and sold that night. A meal with pulled pork sandwiches was available with a free will offering. Multiple auction/raffle items were won, then donated back to be auctioned off again to support the family.



Dylan speaks at Clayton's funeral, remembering his brother who was known for his bushy blonde hair.

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Bay Lake Improvement Association Fireworks Show
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Aitkin County Fair | Continued from Page 1



\$150 and People's Choice, at \$50. It's not just about the glory—it's about the greenbacks! **Musical Merriment**

Music lovers, rejoice! The Windy River Stage will have a full line of musical entertainment each day.

Wednesday will kick off with locals Mike and Jan Cherry from noon-2 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.; acoustic musician and songwriter, John Kerns from 2-4 p.m. and the Chicago Tribute Band Duluth Transit Authority performing from 7 to 10 p.m.

On Thursday Bruce Archer will perform from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with Vern Bishop and the Moose River Band from 1-3:30 p.m. and Terrell X from 4-6 p.m. with Boss Mama and the Jebberhooch together with Salty Dog finishing off the evening from 7-10 p.m.

Todd Menton will start off the day on Friday performing from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by Christian McShane from 1-4 p.m. and Ben Ranson from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Country Artist Rafe Carlson will perform Friday night from 7-10 p.m. and Roy Liljenquist will perform Saturday morning from 10 a.m.-noon and Superfrank will finish off the stage from noon-4 p.m.

Ag Olympics

Back again this year will be the popular Ag Olympics in the Livestock Arena on Wednesday at 5 p.m., so get

your team together.

Rabbit Agility

Ever seen a rabbit show off its agility skills? Now's your chance at the Rabbit Agility Show on July 11, following the 4-H rabbit judging. Watch as these furry friends hop, skip, and jump their way into your hearts.

Pedal Power

Everyone's favorite Kid's Pedal Tractor Pull will be held on Thursday evening starting with registration at 5 p.m. and pulling at 6 p.m. Watch as little legs power mighty machines in a battle of strength and determination.

Touch A Truck

Again this year the Aitkin Women of Today will sponsor Touch a Truck at the fairgrounds on Saturday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and the annual Tractor Parade will circle the grounds starting at 2 p.m.

Horse Hitch Competition

Something new and exciting for this year is the Draft Horse Team Hitch Competition to watch in the horse show arena on Thursday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The two horse teams will follow an obstacle course, barrel race and rescue race. The grandstands will feature three nights of racing this year.

Carnival

What's a fair without carnival rides? The Crescent City Amusements Midway will be open daily. Rides will open Wednesday at 3 p.m., Thursday and Friday at 1 p.m. and Saturday at noon. Advance sale tickets are available for purchase at local banks, County Market and the Aitkin

County Auditor's Office. Single session bands are available for \$25 in advance or \$30 on-site. Mega bands are good for all four days of carnival rides and can be purchased for \$65 advance or \$75 on-site. Bands are valid from opening time until 10 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and until closing on Saturday and are valid for all Crescent City rides including the Rock-it.

Livestock Exhibits

Of course, it wouldn't be a county fair without the livestock exhibits. Exhibits include 4-H and Open Class with all types of livestock. There will be various shows each day with the Central Minnesota Cattlemen's Beef Show rounding off the final day on Saturday, for youth 5-21 years of age from all over Minnesota competing for the Best of Show.

Horses are back on the grounds throughout the entire fair with shows and exhibitions starting with the 4-H Show on Wednesday and going on Friday with the Open Class Games Show in the arena

Get Your Fair On

Mark your calendars, rally your friends and family, and get ready for the event of the season. The Aitkin County Fair isn't just a tradition—it's a celebration of community spirit, creativity, and downright good fun. Exhibitor handbooks can be found at local business for complete entry information or visit aitkinfair.com



COMMUNITY EVENTS

July

- 4th - Bay Lake: Fourth of July festivities from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Rutgger's Bay Lake Resort with a cookout, games, and family-friendly activities.
- 4th - Brainerd/Baxter: Parade at 6 p.m., followed by live music at Lyman P. White Park Amphitheater at 8 p.m., family relays at 8 p.m., and fireworks at 10:15 p.m. at Don Adamson Field.
- 4th - Crosby: Fourth of July Parade at 11:00 a.m., festivities at Crosby Memorial Park, and fireworks at dusk.
- 4th - Garrison: Join the community to celebrate from 7:45 p.m.- 10 p.m. at Garrison Bay on Mille Lacs. Fireworks at dusk.
- 5th - Bay Lake Improvement Association's Fireworks extravaganza for Friday, July 5 at dusk, with a rain date of July 6. Watch from the shores of Rutgger's Resort or from the comfort of your boat on Bay Lake.
- 6th - Crosslake: Fourth of July Celebration with fireworks at dusk launched from Sand Island.
- 5th - Hallett Freedom 5K run/walk bib timing race hosted by Hallett Center of Crosby. Early registration is \$35 plus \$3.10 signup fee includes a T-shirt and door prizes (\$40 after May 14).
- 6th - Annual Crooked Lake Firefighters Day/Dance, noon, with food vendors and beer garden in Luscher's Park off County Road 58 in Outing. Live music with Katherine Switzer from 4 to 7 p.m. and Gigfoot from 8 to midnight. Fireworks at dusk sponsored by the Outing Area Chamber.
- 10th - 13th - Aitkin County Fair at Aitkin County Fairgrounds. Gates open 8 am daily. Wednesday 3-10pm, Thurs. & Fri.: 1-10pm,

LEGAL NOTICES

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, July 6 & 13, 2024)

NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING FOR LIBBY TOWNSHIP OFFICE

Notice is hereby given of the time of filing affidavits of candidacy for Libby Township officers to be elected by mail ballot in the General Election, which will take place on Tuesday, November 5, 2022.

Filings will be open July 30, 2024 and will close August 13, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Filing hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the office of the clerk.

Offices to be filled are a Supervisor (Supervisor Position C) for a four (4) year term that will begin in January 2025; and a Clerk for a four (4) year term that will begin in January 2025.

In addition there is a vacancy in the office of Treasurer, with a term expiring in January of 2027. This office of Treasurer is to be filled for a two (2) year term that will begin in January 2025.

Filing fee for all township offices is \$2..

Dated this 27th day of June, 2024
Jane Grimsbo Jewett
Clerk, Libby Township
5.2

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, July 6 & 13, 2024)

LIBBY TOWNSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Libby Township Board will meet online at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 to discuss matters that may come before the board. The July 16 meeting will be conducted via Zoom. Contact Jane Jewett, clerk, at willowsedge.janesfarm@gmail.com to request the Zoom link.

Dated this 28th day of June, 2024
Jane Grimsbo Jewett
Clerk, Libby Township
2.5

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Veteran Car Donations

While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (833) 937-2593.

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133rd Annual AITKIN County Fair

JULY 10 - JULY 13, 2024

Free Admission

WEDS., JULY 10

12 Noon - Quilt Judging (Activities Bldg)
3 pm - Live Gluten Free Baking Judging (Activities Bldg)
5pm - Ag. Olympics (Livestock Arena)
6 pm - Live Salsa & BBQ Sauce Judging (Activities Bldg)
7 pm - 10 pm - Live Music: Duluth Transit Authority (Windy River Stage)

THURS., JULY 11

10 am - 1 pm Artist in Residence: Karen Newton-Flowers, Landscapes and Animals.
11 am - Rabbit Agility show (Rabbit & Poultry Barn)
11 am - 3 pm - Draft Horse team hitch competition (Horse Arena)
12 noon - Live Yeast Breads, Quick Breads & Muffin Judging (Activities Bldg)
1 pm - 4 pm Artist in Residence: Janice Hasselius
5pm Kids Pedal Tractor Pull (Midway Concourse)
6 pm - Live Open Pickle Judging (Activities Bldg)
7 to 10 pm - Live Music: Salty Dog (Windy River Stage)
7 pm - STOCK CAR RACING (Grandstand)

FRI, JULY 12

9am - Open Class Horse Show (Horse Arena)
10 am - Noon - Live SPECIAL CONTEST Tree Decorating Contest Judging
1 pm - 2pm - Demonstration: Flower Arranging, Amanda Lowe & Laura Smith
1 pm - 4 pm - Artist in Residence: Mackenzie Krawchuck, Wildlife Artist
2 pm - 4 pm - Learn to Play the Guitar Workshop with Ben Ranson
6 pm - 4-H Blue Ribon Auction (Live Stock Arena)
6 pm - 7:30 pm - Water Color Class by Janice Hasselius
7 pm to 10 pm - Live Music: Rafe Carlson (Windy River Stage)
7 pm - BAJA RACES (Grandstand)

SAT., JULY 13

10 am CMCA Youth Beef Show
11 am - 1 pm Touch a Truck - Sponsored by Women of Today
Noon - 2 pm - Artist in Residence: Rita Fortunato
Noon - 4 pm - Super Frank (Windy River Stage)
2 pm Classic Tractor Parade
2 pm - Fashion Show - Master of Ceremonies: Steve Wilson
Music Stylings: Diane Zilverberg
5 pm - MUD RHYTHM MUD TRUCKS (Grandstand)

Tues., July 9 - Open Class Entry - 8 am to 5 pm
Online at: aitkinfair.com
Check on aitkinfair.com for complete schedule and entry information.

Crescent City Amusements
OPEN DAILY
WEDS. 3 PM,
THURS. & FRI. 1 PM
SAT. NOON

DAILY
• JUST 4 Laffs •
• Clowning, Games, & Balloon tying...
• GLASS BLOWING •

Live Music
through out the day
in the Creative Activities Bldg. & Windy River Stage

Daily Demonstrations
scheduled in the Activities Building

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Imagine the Difference You Can Make

- Every donated vehicle will be properly recycled, reducing waste and harmful emissions.
- Vehicle donations are fully tax-deductible and the proceeds help provide services to help the blind and visually impaired.

When you donate your car, you'll receive:

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- Rip Rap Rock Installation
 - Boulder Wall Material Installation
 - Sod Installation
 - Class Five
 - Bobcat Work
 - Demolition
 - All Dirt Work Needs
 - Patios

- General Building & Remodeling Contractor**
- Roofing
 - Window Installation
 - Siding
 - Garages
 - Doors
 - Decks
 - Handicapped Bathrooms

- Dozer & Backhoe Work**
- Basements
 - Driveways
 - Ponds
 - Wild Life Food Plots
 - Land & Lot Clearing
 - Stump Removal
 - Rip Rap
 - Demolition
 - Building Pads
 - Ditches and Ditch Cleaning
 - Black Dirt, Sand & Gravel
 - Roads / Road Building
 - Boulder Walls
 - Trail Brushing

- Tree Removal**
- Tree Removal and Clean-up
 - Stump Grinding
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- Mulch (Natural, Red or Brown)
- Black Dirt
- Sand (Fill or Washed)
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- Washed Rock (Pea Rock 3/8, 3/4 or 1 1/2)

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