

Mackinac Island Daisy Days Raises \$1,000



Six-year old Nicholas Davis (right) buys flowers for his mother from Karen Allen at the annual Daisy Days fundraiser Friday, June 22. At a table set up in front of the Mackinac Island Post Office, Colton Fisher, 10, assisted Ms. Allen in selling the flowers and raffle tickets. Daisy Days proceeds benefit the Stella King Scholarship Fund.

Daisy Days, held Friday, June 22, and Saturday, June 23, raised approximately \$1,000 for the Stella King Scholarship Fund, which benefits a Mackinac Island senior each year.

The fund is named after the late Stella King, who was Mackinac Island's lay health nurse for years.

Candi Smith and Barb Fisher organized this year's fundraiser.

Clark Blosswick was the 50/50 raffle win-

ner, receiving \$209.50. Jennifer Blosswick won a bicycle. Other prize winners included Donna Ruddle, who received a rocking horse, Smi Horn, Mike Hart, and Dianne Weidner, who each won pictures, Kirk Smith, who won a coffee maker, Carol Rearick, who was the winner of a poster, and S. Hahn, who received a book. A "Somewhere in Time" bag went to Dee Czapek, a Del Sol bag was won by Billy Smith, and a set of miniature dolls was won by Justin O'Keefe.

Patriotic Events Offered To Celebrate 4th of July

By Eric Fish

While the Fourth of July falls on a Wednesday this year, activities are scheduled from July 1 to America's Independence Day. Below is a list of events.

Michigan Beer and Wine Festival, July 1

This event will take place at Mission Point Resort in conjunction with the Michigan Wine Producers Association and the Brewer's Guild of Michigan at 2 p.m. and boasts Michigan's best wineries and breweries with entertainment, activities, and food. The cost is \$5. Food and drink tickets are available for \$1 each.

Mackinac Island Fourth of July Regatta, July 1

In conjunction with the Pink Pony, the annual Fourth of July Regatta will begin at 2 p.m. from the East Break Wall of the Mackinac Island Harbor. A 12:30 skipper's meeting at the Pink Pony will precede the event.

The regatta is dubbed as a "competitive family fun race" and is open to anyone with a sailboat at no charge. The race route is a simple circling of the

Island consisting of about 10 miles. Last year's winner was the boat, Outrageous, which completed the course in one hour 18 minutes.

An awards ceremony will follow the event at the Pink Pony. For more information or to register a boat, contact Mackinac Island Yacht Club Chairman David Rowe at 810-516-5052 or the Mackinac Island Yacht Club.

A Star Spangled Fourth, July 4

Fort Mackinac will wear patriotic red, white, and blue colors for a special 1880s Independence Day celebration. Fort interpreters will fire a 38-gun salute, and join patriotic music and Victorian games. In addition, a special "Rose Dance" will happen on the fort ground.

Special presentations are scheduled to take place at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. The events are available to enjoy with regular fort admission.

All American Picnic, July 4

Red and white checkered tablecloths will line the Fort Mackinac parade grounds to create a patchwork quilt welcoming

visitors of Grand Hotel's all-you-can-eat Independence Day meal. The food items will consist of barbecued ribs, grilled chicken breasts, hamburgers, hot dogs, turkey burgers, corn on the cob, salads, and desserts.

Tickets are available in advance at the Mackinac State Park Visitor Center or by phone at 847-3328. The event is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Mackinac Associates Red, White, and Blue Celebration, July 4

Mackinac Associates members can enjoy wine, cheese, and other various appetizers under a tent at Fort Mackinac at 5 p.m.

Other July 4 Activities

At dusk, Windermere Point will provide a vantage point for a fireworks display.

From 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. the Reverend Vincent Carroll of Little Stone Church will recite poems he wrote at Da Nang, Vietnam, and sign his books at The Island Bookstore.

Mackinac Island Is in 2nd Spot as Midwest Vacation Destination

Mackinac Island ranks only behind Chicago as the most popular vacation spot in the Midwest, according to a survey of AAA travel agents. The survey of 572 agents, conducted earlier this year, asked them to rate popular destinations based on their professional opinion. Behind Chicago and Mackinac Island, agents listed Branson, Missouri, Black Hills, South Dakota, Wisconsin Dells, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Traverse City, St. Louis, Kansas City, and Indianapolis.

Nationwide, families will not see any relief in their wallets this year, according to AAA, with average combined lodging and restaurant costs up 3.7% over last year. According to the company, a family of two adults and two children can expect to pay an average \$269 per day for food and lodging. Lodging rates will average \$152 a night, up nearly 7.9% from last year. Meals will cost \$118, down 1.3% from 2006.

Tourism in Michigan is a \$15-billion-a-year industry, and the state remains one of the best travel values. A family vacation in Michigan will cost \$43 less per day than the national average, with travelers paying an average of \$226.38 per day for food and lodging (two adults and two children). That's

Shannon Gets Hole in One



By Eric Fish

Pat Shannon has been playing golf for only three years. He has never had a lesson and is still confused by the golf term "handicap." But on Saturday, June 16, he became the first golfer of the season to score a hole in one at

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\$42.62 a day less than the national average, according to AAA.

An estimated 1.2 million Michiganders will travel during the 2007 Fourth of July holiday, according to a recent AAA survey of 1,950 U.S. residents. Of this number, 92% will travel by car and 8% will travel by air.

"This Fourth of July holiday is somewhat unique, in that it falls in the middle of the week," said Claire Lockley, vice president of Travel for The Auto Club Group. "Interestingly, we're finding that Americans aren't willing to give up their traditional Fourth of July celebrations with friends and family, and many are choosing to take a few more days off of work to do so."

Ms. Lockley added that fuel prices have stabilized somewhat, providing relief at the pumps and stimulating the decision to travel.

Holiday auto travelers will find gas prices in Michigan averaging \$3.042 for a gallon of self-serve regular gasoline, 20.7¢ higher than last year at this time.

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