

Summer schedule:

As finals are fast approaching, I encourage you to take a break and turn your thoughts toward summer. Look ahead to all the activities our area has to offer. Let this serve as your unofficial guide to activities within the area for the upcoming months:

HUBBARD LAKE: Manjidiwin Days, to be held June 28-July 1. Manjidiwin means "a gathering of the people for a celebration." Activities are set at the Lions Park in Hubbard Lake. A teen dance opens the festival on Thursday evening with music by the RH Factor band, which will also provide dancing and entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights. The event consists of arts and crafts, softball tournaments, a dunk tank, a BBQ, concessions, a sunset run, bike races, and much more. The triathlon will be held on Saturday morning.

ALPENA: 4th of July celebration. Highlights will include the annual parade, pony rides offered by the 4-H group, a Strawberry Ice Cream Social, a chicken BBQ, a Sand Castle Contest by the Downtown Merchants Association, a volleyball tournament and music in the Fine Arts Shell.

ALPENA: Brown Trout Festival, July 14-22. This popular nine-day festival is centered around what is considered to be the oldest fishing tournament in Michigan. This year, the Sunrise Side will offer "Song of the Lakes" in the Fine Arts Shell on July 16, Jazz in the Park on July 17. Music will be provided by Larson Brothers, and American Grease will perform for the closing weekend. Other events include a casino night, minnow and turtle races, picnic on the green, 50's night by WHSB, a kid's fishing tournament, and much more.

OSSINEKE: Old Fashioned Days, August 3-4. Events include an old-fashioned parade, a BBQ, arts and crafts displays, along with various games and contests. Street dancing will be held both nights.

ALPENA: Ramblin' Rods Car Show, August 10-12. The agenda includes Cruise and Dance at the Ripley Big Boy on Friday night with jitterbug and the twist dance contests. The car show opens on Saturday at Mich-E-Kewis with games and prizes awarded. Judging for the model car contest will take place on Sunday along with a poker run. Thousands of dollars in prizes will be given away including a cruise to the Bahamas.

HARRISVILLE: Harmony Days, Sept. 1-2. The annual arts & crafts show is held every Labor Day weekend on the courthouse lawn. It offers a wide variety of displays and music by the Barbershop Quartet, Sweet Adelines, and much more for your enjoyment.

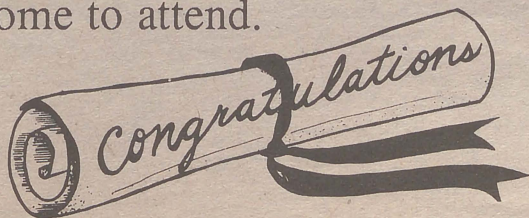
Other area events include:

Hubbard Lake Walleye Challenge (May 9-10); Thunder Bay Canoe Races (June 30-July 1); Sidewalk Sales in Alpena (July 19-21); Royston Fest (July 28); Picnic on the Green (every Thursday during the Summer, beginning in July); V-J Day in Hillman (August 11); Rogers City Salmon Tournaments (August 11-12); Alpena County Fair (August 19-25); Posen Potato Festival (Sept. 7-9).

--Graduation Ceremonies--

Thursday, May 17, 7pm at EAC.

A reception will be held following commencement from 8:30pm-10:00pm at Jesse Besser Museum. All graduates, relatives, and friends are welcome to attend.



Storyteller shares tales in weekend performance

by Jay McDonald

Jackie Torrence, one of the best-known storytellers, will be performing and conducting a workshop at the Alpena County Library this week as the Library hosts its 10th storytelling festival, sponsored in part by the Cheboygan Arts Council.

Torrence feels her family heritage contributed greatly to her storytelling abilities since her uncles, aunts, grandparents, etc. all enjoy getting together and telling stories. Torrence listened and learned.

Torrence, overcoming a childhood speech impediment, began telling stories in 1972 when she had to substitute for the volunteer storyteller at the High Point Library. The children responded well and Torrence found out, "I could tell stories."

Torrence achieved national prominence after a 1977 festival held in Charlotte, N.C. where she performed. This prompted an article about her in the Wall Street Journal.

She now travels most of the time giving public and school performances, telling her more than 200 stories that feature characters like Soldier Jack and Brer Possum. She also has two award-winning TV shows to her credit, and co-hosted with Sally Struthers the prime-time TV program, "The Teller and the Tale."

While in Alpena, Torrence will visit area schools telling stories to all grade levels. On Thursday she will do a free public performance from 7pm-8pm at the county library, and on Friday she will conduct a storytelling workshop. Space is limited for the workshop, so

interested students should contact the library for reservations.

Sonya Titus, instructor for children's literature, (a required course for perspective elementary education students), highly recommended attendance at the workshop and public performance.

Titus stated, "I'm very excited that someone of Torrence's stature is coming to Alpena. It is a great opportunity for students, especially future elementary teachers, to see a 'master' storyteller at work. It should be profitable, but also great fun!"

TBT closes out winter-spring season

by Jay McDonald

Thunder Bay Theatre will close its winter-spring season with the comedy-mystery "I'll Be Back Before Midnight" running May 11-13 and May 17-20. Special discount tickets are available for students.

One of the people starring in the production is Aurora Hubbard, local actress who has appeared most recently in the Alpena Civic Theatre production of "Vanities" and last weekend's ACC Foundation dinner/theatre. Hubbard considers theatre "my

outlet...just a hobby," but her credits are extensive with appearances in other professional enterprises such as "Die Hard II" and the currently-running Keno commercial.

Alan LaCross is another newcomer to TBT in this production; returning to his native town after 20 years on the west coast. LaCross' credits are in film, including "Die Hard II" in Alpena and "Ted" and "Home Sweet Homeless" in Los Angeles.

Laura Berry, a graduate of the theatre program at the University of Michigan, joined the TBT company this spring and has appeared on

stage in the children's show, "Magic II" and the children's touring company production of Aesop's Fables.

Completing the cast is Gary Sturm, associate director at TBT, who has, over the years, appeared in many TBT productions, such as "Applause" and "1776."

"I'll Be Back Before Midnight" has received rave reviews from critics in the United States and England. One reviewer said, "a mystery thriller that really chills. I watched the second act through the fingers of my right hand...see it, if you dare!"