

The KALKASKA REVIEW

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Cars compete during the Bump and Run competition at the Kalkaska County Agricultural Fair. The fair is scheduled for Aug. 4-7 in Kalkaska. See pages 4-7 for the full schedule of events.

Kalkaska County Agricultural Fair is back

KALKASKA COUNTY — One year after the Kalkaska County Agricultural Fair was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fair returns, scheduled for Aug. 4-7 in Kalkaska.

The annual event is back with its usual lineup of animals, amusement rides and daily entertainment for the entire family.

The fair kicks off at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 4 with the morning flag raising. Among the daily activities are a youth scavenger hunt and a cute baby pig contest, along with the traditional rides provided this year by Native Amusements, beginning Wednesday from 3-10 p.m. with Dollar Ride Night. The amusements will also operate from 1-10 p.m. on Thursday, and noon to 11 p.m. on Friday and



Sam Belongia shows his pig "Rooster" at the 2019 Kalkaska County Agricultural Fair.

Saturday. All-day wristbands are available Thursday through Saturday for \$20.

Wednesday's feature is the

West Michigan Pullers, a truck and tractor pulling club.

Thursday is Senior Citizens
See *FAIR*, page 14

Kalkaska Library basement floods

KALKASKA — A heavy rain storm on Saturday morning created havoc for a number of roads that were washed out and basements that took on water.

Among the casualties was the Kalkaska County Library, which had a portion of its basement deluged with water as a result of the storm.

"Saturday morning it started flooding right off the bat it was raining so hard," said Library Director John Roberts. "It was a really hard, quick rain. It was really coming down like cats and dogs. It was intense for a couple hours. It was coming down in sheets around 9 or 9:30."

Because the rain came down so quickly and so hard, it created a lake on two sides of the library. It didn't take long for some of that water to make its way into the library. Even after the rain stopped and the water subsided, it was too late.

"We had six to eight inches of standing water in the east and north sides of the building. There was just nothing we could do," said Roberts.

The basement of the library
See *FLOODING*, page 14



Area dispensaries thriving in Kalkaska

KALKASKA — You could say business is growing strong.

You could even say it's lit.

All puns aside, the marijuana dispensary industry is thriving and continuing to bloom in Kalkaska, about a year and a half since the first recreational facility for those age 21-and-over launched in Michigan in December of 2019. Kalkaska is home to four medical and recreational marijuana establishments — Green Pharm, Pincanna, Riverside Provisioning, and the newly opened The Botanical Co. — bringing to fruition Kalkaska's willingness to welcome a burgeoning field

since Michigan voters passed Proposal 1, which legalized marijuana for recreational purposes in 2018. The state made medicinal marijuana legal in 2008.

Pincanna was the first to open its doors in May of 2020, and the amount of business it's received since has not disappointed.

"Since opening in May 2020, our business has been better than we originally anticipated," said Pincanna founding partner Robert Nusbaum. "Our first year surpassed expectations and so far this summer is proving to be the same."

See *DISPENSARIES*, page 14



Courtesy photo

The Pincanna storefront is shown in this photo. The marijuana dispensary, one of four in Kalkaska, is seeing strong business in a little over a year since it opened.

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Fair

Continued from page 1

Day, with a breakfast scheduled for 8-10 a.m. The Senior Day activities include carriage rides, a scavenger hunt, petting zoo, animal barn tours and lawn games. There also will be shuttles from the parking area to the Civic Center. Later on Thursday, Derek St. Holmes will perform. St. Holmes is known as the 'Voice of Ted Nugent and Whitford/St. Holmes.'

Friday is Kids Day at the fair, with opportunities for face painting, games under the pavilion, Twister Joe balloons and more. Later Friday is the International Pro Rodeo Association World Championship Rodeo at the

Rocking Horse Arena.

Saturday also is chock-full of activities, including the K-Town Showdown Co-Ed Softball Tournament, the Barnyard Bargain Bonanza, with a flea market, farmer's market, rummage sale and crafts, and the Motors and Mayhem bump and run, and demolition derby.

With Kalkaska set to celebrate its sesquicentennial, there will be a 150th anniversary History Tent set up on the lawn at the Kaliseum.

For more information on the all the events taking place during the fair, visit kalkaskacounty-faironline.com.

Dispensaries

Continued from page 1

Riverside Provisioning owner Todd Tompkins echoed that sentiment, while pointing out that even with the market filling up, his business has been able to find a successful niche.

"There is a lot of competition in the area, but we hold a strong market presence with the locals," said Tompkins. "We strive for fair prices, quality products, and savings to be passed on to the consumer wherever we are able to do so."

Each business offers sales or discounts, when applicable, for customers who have been both loyal, local visitors or tourists in the area on vacation.

"In the summer months we do see a 60 percent increase in tourist traffic from the winter months," said Tompkins. "We have an amazing local following that is constantly learning and evolving their taste for cannabis."

"We love seeing our regular customer base at Pincanna and its great to welcome back the many visitors and tourists that are in town for recreational activities this summer," said Nusbaum.

The dispensaries offer a wide range of products, including marijuana flower, as well as edibles, extracts, concentrates and topicals. Each store has its own distinct line of products.

"Our top selling products are many of the products we make at our state of the art grow and

processing facility in Pinconning," said Nusbaum. "Many favorites are found from our house of brands, including Radicle Genetics, Full Spectrum Extracts, Michigan Organic Rub, Funky Extracts, The Darren McCarty Brand, Chemdog, Cannardo, High 5 and more."

The dispensaries are finding that customers are coming from all ages under the 21-and-older umbrella.

"The age rates do vary, but our median age demographic seems to be being over 50 believe it or not, which is pretty amazing," said Tompkins. "We do our very best to cater to everyone's needs by finding out what the newest and hottest products are on the market and by making constant price adjustments."

The welcoming environment in Kalkaska has been an important part of the relationship between the businesses and the community.

"I believe Kalkaska has adapted very well," said Tompkins. "The consumers appreciate the hard work of the community to make this happen. We are seeing a lot of people who are getting relief in ways some may deem unimaginable from a natural grown plant. Also, having competition in this market is key, it keeps all businesses competitive and always adapting with marketing strategies which usually lead to better prices and products for the consumer."



Courtesy photo

The front of the Botanical Co. is shown in downtown Kalkaska. The marijuana dispensary opened recently, the fourth recreational marijuana shop in Kalkaska.

Flooding

Continued from page 1

houses books and hosts programming for teens and children. Both sustained some level of damage and were immediately closed. In the interim books and shelves have been taken away from the area that was affected.

"The teen area was completely in standing water," said Roberts, who estimated that there was water over 30 percent of the basement. "Over the next couple of hours, it started to seep into the children's area. So basically, the north and the east sides of the building had flooding damage."

Roberts said the library got lucky in one respect. It was able to get in contact with Paul Davis Restoration quick enough to get an immediate response to the damage.

"They started taking care of things that morning," said Roberts. "We got really lucky. There was no damage to our collections downstairs. Water damage, obviously, but long term — mold is the big enemy. They've been dehumidifying everything and getting it squared away."

The library does have the benefit of utilizing the space at Railroad Square for some of its kids activities, but the basement is also the busiest area of the facility during the summer, said Roberts. The hope was to have the area reopened before the end of the week.

"We want to get it up and running as quickly as we can," said Roberts. "The remediation guys are still working on the moisture. As soon as they give the OK then we can get the shelving back in place and get the books back up."



Water is shown along a bookshelf in the basement of the Kalkaska County Library. A heavy rain storm on Saturday flooded a part of the basement.



Water is shown in the basement of the Kalkaska County Library, which experienced flooding following a rain storm on Saturday.



Courtesy photos

Boxes are stacked on top of tables to avoid water that poured into the basement of the Kalkaska County Library on Saturday.