

Summer's Final Hurrah

Well, it's back to school time on the Lakeshore, but there's time for a final Summer hurrah. On the heels of a spectacular County Fair, including performances by Chasin Mason and Trick Pony, comes a new event to the Port Cities: Kites Over Lake Michigan. This great kite festival will take place over Labor Day weekend at Two Rivers' lovely Neshotah Beach, including a free kite making opportunity for kids. If you haven't seen what the beach looks like with multitudes of kites fluttering above, it's worth the view alone. Keep in mind that these aren't your grandma's kites either. Thanks to the vision of Chow Chong's Unique Flying Objects, present day kites could almost be mistaken for UFO's.

After a summer of magnificent, energy-packed and theater-packed performances, Lakeshore's Rising Stars has celebrated its finale with Jessica Plansky of Marinette as the big money winner. Congratulations to Jessica and all of the top 10 Rising Stars: Andy Lorge of Sheboygan, Amirah Konitzer, Rachel Seidl, Lisa Uttech, and Tyler Wicihowski of Manitowoc, Molly LeCaptain of New Franken, Willy Ithier of Green Bay, Stacy Hurst of Little Chute, and Alicia Krakaw of Two Rivers. By following your passion, you are inspiration to us all.

And for those fans who endured the sweltering summer nights to take in the spectacular production made possible by Terry Stevenson and Riley Haupt, swelter no more! The Capitol Civic Centre, at long last, is a cooler place to be. The new HVAC system is in place which will afford the Capitol the opportunity to run its house twelve months out of the year rather than staying mostly dark over the summer. Look forward to cool nights at the Capitol Civic Centre next summer and cool summer programming to accompany the AC, perfect for our heaviest visitor season. Even the upcoming fall programming is sure to be the right temperature thanks to the new system. Be sure to check out the unique and entertaining Lively Arts Series shows, the Lakeshore Wind Ensemble and the Manitowoc Symphony. Manitowoc is proud to be one of the nation's smallest cities with its own symphony orchestra.

And thanks again to Senator Herb Kohl who worked with the City of Manitowoc to attain the funding for the Capitol's new air conditioning system through the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Thank, Herb, for all your help.

Hopefully you didn't miss it, but a hitch of Budweiser Clydesdale horses paraded through Harbor Town Center en route to the County Fair. What glorious and beautiful beasts. This is the first time a hitch has made a stop in Manitowoc in over 20 years. The horses were beautifully groomed with alternating red and white rosebuds braided into their manes, tails docked and braided, and shiny brass accents on the beer delivery wagon that I understand took 30 hours to polish. It was a real treat for Manitowoc.

On a final note, the crews working for the Central Brown County Water Authority finished their work on Johnston Drive and should be on the waterfront on or about October 15th to begin tunneling under our river. Thanks for

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everybody's patience in regard to this important project for Manitowoc's future. This investment by the people of Brown County will help control our water and tax rates for all of us now and future generations as well.

This construction schedule will also allow us to complete Quay Street to the Carferry dock next spring in time for the beginning of the '07 Carferry season.

Manitowoc Mayor Kevin Crawford may be reached at 920-686-6980.