

Second annual Forest County Festival draws crowds despite sweltering heat

by Val Niehaus, PTT reporter/
photographer

The 2nd Annual Forest County Festival was held June 29-July 1 at the Crandon International Off-Road Raceway. Despite challenges from the weather, the event was a success and enjoyed by many.

The festival offered much to do including free carnival rides, live music, kid's games, food, laughter and smiles. There was also an abundance of chatter about the oppressive heat that descended on the area throughout the weekend. As was heard through the grapevine, Friday evening was booming with families and children taking full advantage of all the activities. It was a good start for the weekend's celebration.

Saturday turned out to be an absolute scorcher with extremely high temps and humidity resulting in heat indexes above 100 degrees. Fortunately, the Legionnaire Mud Challenge took place at 8 a.m. before the heat became intolerable; it had a good turnout with around 100 participants competing. The Crandon Fire Department parade then followed at noon in downtown Crandon and included interesting floats, group entries, the Crandon High School band, and some impressive logging

equipment decked out in patriotic themes. Following this, people either went to cool off at the lake or stayed inside somewhere with AC. The brave ones decided to "meet the heat" and headed out to the carnival for the rides and food.

After the parade, the Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) held check presentations at the festival grounds during which they donated \$10,000 grants across the board to Forest County townships. These included the City of Crandon and the towns of Hiles, Wabeno, Popple River, Nashville, Lincoln, Argonne and Alvin. Representatives from many of the townships expressed their gratitude to FCP and then spoke a bit on what they were planning to do with the monies. Many are planning to use these funds to make improvements to their communities. Planned projects include new playground equipment for the community park in Argonne; improvement of fish habitats on Lake Lucerne; and assistance for the City of Crandon with funding for their new K-9 program. The money will be going to several worthy causes and many thanks go out to FCP for making these area enhancements possible.

Saturday night at the

festival grounds was to have finished with a huge fireworks display but unfortunately, though they brought relief from the heat, the thunderstorms that rolled through the area resulted in the festivities being rescheduled for Sunday night.

Sunday dawned a bit cooler and after a cloudy morning, the weather cooperated, and a pleasant

afternoon of music, free rides and carnival treats for the last day of the festival. The afternoon was topped off with the greatly anticipated school bus races. Watching these customized and artistically painted school buses race around the Brush Run track is a highlight of the festival. Watching these lumbering vehicles challenge each other for

the win while trying to stay upright offered excitement for all. The appropriate ending to another successful Forest County Festival was the rescheduled fireworks display which went off with a bang, pun intended!

If you weren't able to visit the festival and you only heard about it, you should be able to visit and

participate next year as the tribe and track want to keep this event going for years to come in hopes that it grows in popularity and participation. It will always be held on the weekend of the 4th of July celebrations in the area so keep an eye out for next year's advertising.



Town of Hiles L-R Brian Bukovic, Town Supervisor, James A. Crawford, FCP Secretary, and Karl Tauer, Chairman.



Town of Nashville L-R Jamie Anderson, Chairman, James A. Crawford, FCP Secretary, and Wesley Ginter, Town Supervisor.



Town of Lincoln L-R Lynne Black, Chairman, James A. Crawford, FCP Secretary, and Mike Wilson, Town Supervisor.



Town of Alvin L-R Florence Kostka, Town Supervisor, James A. Crawford, FCP Secretary, and Della Rosenow, Town Clerk.



Town of Argonne L-R James A. Crawford, FCP Secretary, and Randy Spencer, Chairman, holding his daughter Zelia Spencer.



Town of Wabeno L-R Jerry Diny, Park Board, James A. Crawford, FCP Secretary, and Robert McEwen, Park Board.



Town of Popple River L-R Patsy Gilligan, Clerk, James A. Crawford, FCP Secretary, and Jerry Gilligan, Chairman.



City of Crandon L-R Ryan Wilson, Officer, James A. Crawford, FCP Secretary, and Dan Packard, Chief of Police.

Wild Rivers Guide

A quarterly publication of
Northeast WI Publishing LLC

The Florence Mining News/Borderland Journal and The Forest Republican are published weekly on Thursday by Northeast WI Publishing LLC, 103 S. Hazeldell Ave., Crandon, WI 54520

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