

76th Annual  
Copper Country  
**Strawberry  
Festival**



**July 12 & 13, 2024**  
**Chassell, Michigan**  
*"The Strawberry Capital"*

Sponsored by  
**The Chassell Lions Club**

# Dedication



## **Michele Marie Kerban**

**April 25, 1944 - July 18, 2023**

Michele was born in Hancock, Michigan to Michael and Ann Kerban (Urmans). She was a graduate of Hancock High School and Northern Michigan University. Michelle taught elementary school children for 32 years in Chassell, Calumet, California, Hancock and Houghton. The majority of her career was spent at South Range Elementary School. She had a passion for teaching reading and traveled around the state to conduct professional presentations on reading strategies. She earned honors including the Michigan Reading Association Outstanding Reading Educator, IRA Literacy Award, and the Adams Township Teacher of the Year. Her true gift, however, was in her compassion for students. She went out of her way to make a personal connection with every student and addressed any challenge that they may have. She enjoyed mentoring other teachers, and inspired several of her students to go on to become teachers.

Michele was a shining light in the community and to her friends, always extending a helping hand to those in need. She possessed a genuine and infectious warmth that brightened the lives of everyone she encountered. Her fun nature and sense of humor were appreciated by those who were lucky enough to know her. Her selflessness and unwavering support knew no bounds, and she was never hesitant to lend an ear, offer guidance, or provide comfort.

Michele's love for her family was the cornerstone of her life. She was a dedicated mother, grandmother, godmother, sister, and aunt. She was one of the legendary '5 Kerban Sisters' who shared clothes, fun times and unconditional love. Big family gatherings were a joy for Michele. Michele's memory and love will forever be treasured by her children, grandchildren, sisters, nieces and nephews. Her legacy of love, kindness and compassion will live on in the hearts of all who knew Michele.

*"Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more."*

~H. Jackson Brown Jr.

# ~ Schedule of Events ~

## Friday, July 12, 2024

- 9:00 am - 9:00 pm** Serving of Strawberry Shortcake, Brats, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Fresh Cut French Fries, Cotton Candy, Pop/Soda.
- 10:00 am - 8:00 pm** Exhibits & Sale of Arts & Crafts
- 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm** Chassell Heritage Center Open House
- 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm** Old Fashioned Cake Walk (Open Pavillion)  
*The Chassell Womens Club*
- 4:00 pm - 'til sold out** Fish Boil Dinner (Lake Trout, Potato, Carrots, Onion, Roll & Beverage). *Sponsored by Aire Care*
- 6:00 pm** Children's Parade in the Open Pavilion  
*Sponsored by Lou Ellyn Helman in Ron's Memory*
- 7:00 pm** Introduction of Queen Candidates, Evening Gown Competition, Citizen of the Year Award, Youth Citizen of the Year Award & Strawberry Auction. *Sponsored by Keweenaw Chevrolet GMC*
- 8:00 pm** Queen Crowning (time is approximate)
- 9:00 pm - Midnight** Dance at the Chassell VFW Post - music by "The Bad Mother Truckers"

## Saturday, July 13, 2024

- 7:00 am - 10:00 am** Breakfast at the Chassell School by the Chassell High School Student Group
- 8:00 am -** "Fun Run" Starts at Chassell School - Check-in and Registration at 7:00 am
- 9:00 am - 4:00 pm** Serving of Strawberry Shortcake, Brats, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Fresh Cut French Fries, Cotton Candy, Pop/Soda.  
or until sold out
- 9:00 am - 4:00 pm** Exhibits & Sale of Arts & Crafts
- 11:00 am** Strawberry Festival Parade (Registration 9:30 - 10:30 am - No Entry Fee) *Sponsored by DP Construction and LJJ Construction*
- After Parade** BBQ Chicken by Chassell Firefighters and First Responders
- 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm** Live Music by "Rolling Thunder" in the open pavilion. *Sponsored by Keweenaw Petroleum Services*
- 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm** Chassell Heritage Center Open House
- 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm** At the Chassell Boat Launch, Great Lakes Education Programs for all ages – view aquatic organisms! **Michigan Tech's Research Vessel Agassiz will depart every half hour starting at 1:00 PM** (learn how the Great Lakes are studied by scientists) Children 7 yrs. & up.
- 2:00 pm** Children's Activities in the Park *Sponsored by Barbara Worrall in Memory of Gary Worrall*
- 2:00 pm** Parade Winners Announced (Open Pavilion)

# ~ Activities ~

## In the Park...

**STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE** is the tastiest tradition at the Festival. The dessert is prepared and served throughout the weekend by the Chassell Lions.

**BRATS, HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS, CHEESE-BURGERS, FRESH CUT FRENCH FRIES & COTTON CANDY** are available at the Chassell School Sports Booster Club booth.

**FISH BOIL** featuring Lake Trout will be prepared by the Chassell Lions. Dinner will be served starting at 4:00 pm on Friday. Sponsored by Aire Care.

**ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW AND SALE** will be held in the Centennial Park. Featured items often include hand-woven rugs, baskets, paintings and much more.

**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES** Sponsored by the family in memory of King Lion Gary Worrall.



Join us at the volleyball court for an hour of Children's Activities on Saturday at 2 followed by a treat of strawberry cookies. Fun will include surprises, coloring sheets, egg hunts, penny scrambles, and guessing games. Prizes will include pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, dollar bills and even some \$5 bills along with candy

and small creatures. The Chassell Lions Club thanks Culvers of Houghton for donating free frozen custard coins for even more fun. Brush up on your strawberry trivia – some facts easy, some more tricky – and your acting skills!

**OLD FASHIONED CAKE WALK** presented by The Chassell Womens Club returns again this year. The beautiful homemade cakes are donated by Chassell Womens Club members, friends and local merchants. The Cake Walk begins at 3 PM on Friday in the open pavilion. Come on out, win a cake and have a Strawberry good time!

## Food Vendors in the Park

Besides the Chassell Sports Booster Club's food booth and BBQ Chicken by the Chassell Firefighters & First Responders, the following food vendors in the park are:

- Kombucha on-tap
- KLR Iced Coffee and Bubble Tea
- Gourmet Cupcakes
- Curious Pig (Smoking food with a twist)
- KLR Indian Tacos, fry bread, sweets, loaded variety nachos, chili cheese bacon fries, spicy Korean pork, root beer floats.

# ~ Activities ~

## Parades...

**THE CHILDREN'S PARADE** is held at 6:00 on Friday evening. The parade takes place in the Park Pavilion. Various prizes are given for the most creative entries. *Sponsored by Lou Ellyn Helman in memory of Ron.*

**THE STRAWBERRY PARADE** begins at 11:00 am on Saturday at the south edge of Chassell and moves north along U.S. 41. Participation is open to all, with cash prizes awarded to the most creative entries in various categories. Registration 9:30-10:30 AM and NO Entry Fees. *Parade sponsored by DP Construction and LJJ Construction.*

## Music & Dance...

**THE FRIDAY EVENING DANCE** will be sponsored by the VFW. The Dance begins at 9:00 pm (after the Queen Crowning) at the Chassell VFW and is open to the public. Music will be provided by The Bad Mother Truckers.

**PARADE BANDS** from Chassell, Lake Linden-Hubbell and Dollar Bay High Schools will be featured.

**MUSIC AFTER THE PARADE** - The Rolling Thunder Band consists of Bill Kautto from Chassell, Mike Roberts, Hugo Lehto, Ed Kilpela from Aura and Kevin Maki from Trimountain. The Aura boys head up the Aura Jamboree every year. This group has been together for several years. They play a variety of down home favorites including country, classic rock and roll, polkas and folk music. Be sure to stop by and enjoy the crowd and the music after the parade in the Pavilion!



Live Music sponsored by Keweenaw Petroleum Services.

## At the School...

**ON SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 13TH**, the Chassell High School Student Group will serve breakfast at the Chassell School from 7:00 am - 10:00 am.

**ALSO ON SATURDAY MORNING**, there will be a Fun Run beginning at 8 AM Saturday morning, starting at the Chassell School. Check-in and Registration begins at 7:00 AM.

# At the Museum, “The Old School”...

## Friends of Fashion Show

**August 4, 2024: “Riding the Rails”**

Traditionally the Friends of Fashion have presented a historical review during the Strawberry Festival. With all the grand activities of the festival, we have chosen to perform this year’s show, **“Riding the Rails” on August 4th, Sunday at 2:00 at Chassell’s Heritage Center.** You will enjoy our train theme, featuring fascinating stories of how our characters’ lives intertwined, with the developing railroads in the Keweenaw. With so much history to choose from, we have divided our presentation into four areas.

The first part concerns the time period of the 1890’s. Our story starts at Houghton’s Copper Range Railroad “Round House.” Envision heading out towards four small stamp mill towns, Red Ridge, Edgemere, Beacon Hill, and Freda, all served by spurs off Copper Range’s main track. You will learn about the “School Train” that transported high school children from these communities to the Jeffers High School over a period of forty years. Then, did you know that Chassell had its own logging train? You will find out about this in our second segment. After the short intermission you will meet three immigrant families arriving at the Chassell Depot. Our fourth area may surprise you. Klingville had its own industry, a fertilizer plant, serviced by the railroad, operating for 30 years, until the depression affected the country’s economy.

Of course there will be lovely vintage costumes with live models...music from Mark Oliver, with Dave Bezotte on the piano and accordion. As always, this will include many historical photos and guest narrators. It will be an interesting afternoon. We look forward to seeing you at our performance.



*Agate Beach*

# Area Berry Farms



## Circle K Farm

37870 Tapiola Road, Chassell  
906-231-5813  
Fresh Picked Strawberries



## Crane Berry Farm

44416 Paradise Road, Chassell  
906-523-6191  
U-Pick/Fresh Picked Strawberries



## Gierke Blueberry Farm

37915 Klingville Road, Chassell  
906-523-6112, Chassell  
U-Pick Blueberries



## Henry Ohtonen

Klingville Road, Chassell  
906-523-4377  
U-Pick/Strawberries



## Mackrain Berry Farm

21937 Massie Road, Chassell  
906-523-4705  
Fresh Picked Strawberries



## Makinen Farm/A & J Raspberries

40326 Lower Worham Rd, Chassell  
906-523-9018  
U-Pick/Raspberries



## Niemela Family Growers

39466 North Tapiola Road, Chassell  
906-523-4362  
U-Pick/Fresh Picked Strawberries



## Opa's Berry Farm

38554 Klingville Rd  
906-523-4679  
U-Pick Blueberries



## Rautio Berry Farm

15245 Walstrom Rd, Atlantic Mine  
906-231-4895  
U-Pick/Fresh Picked Strawberries



# 2023 Parade Results

## COMMERCIAL

1st – 1st 4-H Kayaking

2nd – AYA Fishing Tournament

## PATRIOTIC

1st – Manninen's Cabins - Otter Lake

2nd – Hanka Homestead

## FAMILY

1st – Soumis Family

## STRAWBERRY

1st – St. Anne's Strawberry Patch: Planting a Seed of Faith

2nd – Chassell Lions Club

## ANTIQUE

1st – Jerry Primeau's C&H 1941 Ambulance

2nd – Dale Karpp's 10th Anniversary Datson 280ZX

## EQUESTRIAN

1st – Kristina Kunick's Pony

2nd – Tori Grima and her horse River

## MUSIC

1st – Dollar Bay High School Band

2nd – Lake Linden High School Band

**BEST IN SHOW** – Palosaari Corn Maze





# 2023 Children's Parade Results

## **INFANTS/TODDLERS**

1st – Lilah Hietala

2nd – Howard & Louise Daavettila

3rd – Gideon & Grace Johnson

## **PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN**

1st – Winter & Willow Waara

2nd – Hazel Lawrence

3rd – Charlie Ahlborn

## **1ST/2ND GRADE**

1st – Wyatt Bates

2nd – Elizabeth Beyer

3rd – Lena Miller

## **3RD/4TH GRADE**

1st – Brekan Behm

2nd – Quinton Schlieff

3rd – Nora Zimmer

## **5TH/6TH GRADE**

1st – Stormy Pelto

2nd – Katelynn Zenner & Aryanna Peterson

## **FAMILY/GROUP**

1st – Deyaert & Julien Families

2nd – Arens, Mattson & Salo Families

3rd – Geshel Wadaga, Granroth, Taarvinen Families

**BEST IN SHOW** – Esrey & Malone Julien, Kinsley & Delaney Deyaert





## **DAN PALOSAARI**

### **Chassell's Outstanding Citizen of the Year 2023**

- |                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1968 Peter Collins          | 1996 Jim Tervo                  |
| 1969 John Karppi            | 1997 Francis & Yvonne Lancour   |
| 1970 William Soumis         | 1998 Sandra Engel               |
| 1971 Frank Misslitz         | 1999 Albert Chaput              |
| 1972 Swande Godell          | 2000 Ernie Griff                |
| 1973 Allen Durham           | 2001 Joyce & John VanWestenburg |
| 1974 Elmer Hill             | 2002 Hazel Tepsa                |
| 1975 H. Ken Hamar           | 2003 Ron & Lou Helman           |
| 1976 Mildred Destrampe      | 2004 Jim Belleville             |
| 1977 Joe St. Amour          | 2005 Paulette Archambeau        |
| 1978 Harry Carlson          | 2006 Peter & Marlene Houle      |
| 1979 Raymond L. Smith       | 2007 David Bezotte              |
| 1980 W.W. "Swede" Intermill | 2008 Judy Ojanen Evert          |
| 1981 Bruce Buell            | 2009 Bill & Nancy Johnson       |
| 1982 Henry W. Ohtonen       | 2010 Walt & Dave Kalliainen     |
| 1983 Earle & Anne Warner    | 2011 Dan Crane                  |
| 1984 Harold Haapala         | 2012 Doug Hamar                 |
| 1985 Esther Intermill       | 2013 Luanne Hamel               |
| 1986 Mildred Pyorala        | 2014 Harold & Donna Byykkonen   |
| 1987 Bill & Nancy Leonard   | 2015 Dorthey Behrend            |
| 1988 Marvyl Wilson          | 2016 Bill & Sunny Cole          |
| 1989 Walter & Joanne Kuntze | 2017 Al & Mary Eckhart          |
| 1990 John & Joan Hamar      | 2018 Dean Latendresse           |
| 1991 Evelyn Palosaari       | 2019 Lois Berg                  |
| 1992 Butch & Erma Burkman   | 2020 - COVID                    |
| 1993 Walter Soumis          | 2021 Pam Hiltunen               |
| 1994 Steve Palosaari        | 2022 Shelby Turnquist           |
| 1995 Art & June Michaelson  |                                 |



## **Shannon Torola**

### **Chassell's Outstanding Youth Citizen of the Year - 2023**

# Parade of Royalty

<b>1949</b>	Lucille Tormala	<b>1987</b>	Lynne Shetron
<b>1950</b>	Marilyn Francois	<b>1988</b>	Kimberly Brogan
<b>1951</b>	Joanne Peterson*	<b>1989</b>	Raeanne Gourneau
<b>1952</b>	Jane Kaiser	<b>1990</b>	Karen Hietala
<b>1953</b>	Jo Ann Drake	<b>1991</b>	Jennifer Kangas
<b>1954</b>	Margaret Mackrain*	<b>1992</b>	Shannon Burcar
<b>1955</b>	Marvyl Intermll	<b>1993</b>	Georgina Gill
<b>1956</b>	Sandra Vivian*	<b>1994</b>	Heather Van Hoey
<b>1957</b>	Mary Ellen Bernard*	<b>1995</b>	Ashley Stevens
<b>1958</b>	Gemma Lou Guidotti	<b>1996</b>	Christina Zimmerman
<b>1959</b>	Rose Marie Johnson	<b>1997</b>	Cynthia Sever
<b>1960</b>	Marlaine Cossette	<b>1998</b>	Katie Stanaway
<b>1961</b>	Sarah Lantto*	<b>1999</b>	Jessica Hansen
<b>1962</b>	Eva McIntyre	<b>2000</b>	Anna Baker
<b>1963</b>	Linda Pokela	<b>2001</b>	Rebecca Ann Weber
<b>1964</b>	Linda Mikkola	<b>2002</b>	Nicole Roth
<b>1965</b>	Susan M. Makela	<b>2003</b>	Marta Loman
<b>1966</b>	Anita M. Koivunen	<b>2004</b>	Samantha Rogers
<b>1967</b>	Olivia K. Kokko	<b>2005</b>	Autumn Winsor
<b>1968</b>	Camille L. LaTendresse	<b>2006</b>	Tara Sotirin
<b>1969</b>	J. Lyn Swanson	<b>2007</b>	Kiersten Birondo
<b>1970</b>	Mary Lynn Johnson	<b>2008</b>	Helen Richards
<b>1971</b>	Sara Rankinen	<b>2009</b>	Rosanna Chopp
<b>1972</b>	Marilyn Frennette	<b>2010</b>	Ellie Lesatz
<b>1973</b>	Joni Andreini	<b>2011</b>	Rachel Crane
<b>1974</b>	Jaye Coon	<b>2012</b>	Alisha Tilson
<b>1975</b>	Shirley Ross	<b>2013</b>	Kaitlyn Hietala
<b>1976</b>	Donna Kuusisto	<b>2014</b>	Shawnia Taisto
<b>1977</b>	Susan Rossberg	<b>2015</b>	Maria Sliva
<b>1978</b>	Valerie LaTendresse	<b>2016</b>	Jessica Berryman
<b>1979</b>	Kristine Kyro	<b>2017</b>	Emilie Jacques
<b>1980</b>	Deborah Ohtonen	<b>2018</b>	Sydney Danison
<b>1981</b>	Darlene Hakala	<b>2019</b>	Lily Ashburn
<b>1982</b>	Juliann Jenkins	<b>2020</b>	Annika Siegel
<b>1983</b>	Tamara Huhta	<b>2021</b>	Madison Mattila
<b>1984</b>	Amy Ryan	<b>2022</b>	Micaela Geborkoff
<b>1985</b>	Amy Briggs	<b>2023</b>	Romy Kus
<b>1986</b>	Kristin Jacobson		

\*Denotes U.P. Queen as well.

# Sweepstakes Winners

<b>1949</b> James Sorvala	<b>1987</b> Albert Chaput
<b>1950</b> Harold Peterson	<b>1988</b> Ken Tervo
<b>1951</b> Waino Palo	<b>1989</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
<b>1952</b> Edward Lahti	<b>1990</b> Ken & Esther Tervo
<b>1953</b> Mike Fasana	<b>1991</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
<b>1954</b> Oscar Romppainen	<b>1992</b> Norman & May Forsman
<b>1955</b> James Sorvala	<b>1993</b> Crane Berry Farm
<b>1956</b> Frank Jarvi	<b>1994</b> Dennis & Martha Sohlden
<b>1957</b> Allan Tapani	<b>1995</b> Henry Ohtonen
<b>1958</b> Allan Tapani	<b>1996</b> Dennis & Martha Sohlden
<b>1959</b> Frank Jarvii	<b>1997</b> Albert Chaput
<b>1960</b> Robert Baccus	<b>1998</b> Henry Ohtonen
<b>1961</b> Allan Tapani	<b>1999</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
<b>1962</b> Ray Jarvi	<b>2000</b> Albert Chaput
<b>1963</b> Ed Lahti	<b>2001</b> Henry Ohtonen
<b>1964</b> Ed Lahti	<b>2002</b> Henry Ohtonen
<b>1965</b> Rudy & Ann Jarvi	<b>2003</b> Henry Ohtonen
<b>1966</b> Ed Lahti	<b>2004</b> Crane Berry Farm
<b>1967</b> Earle Sohlden	<b>2005</b> Crane Berry Farm
<b>1968</b> Ken Tervo	<b>2006</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
<b>1969</b> Rudy Jarvi	<b>2007</b> Crane Berry Farm
<b>1970</b> Rudy & Ann Jarvi	<b>2008</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
<b>1971</b> Rudy & Ann Jarvi	<b>2009</b> Crane Berry Farm
<b>1972</b> Roy Bakkila	<b>2010</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
<b>1973</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen	<b>2011</b> Crane Berry Farm
<b>1974</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen	<b>2012</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
<b>1975</b> Ed & Ruth Lindgren	<b>2013</b> Crane Berry Farm
<b>1976</b> Roy & Mary Ellen Bakkila	<b>2014</b> Crane Berry Farm
<b>1977</b> Roy & Mary Ellen Bakkila	<b>2015</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
<b>1978</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen	<b>2016</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
<b>1979</b> Roy & Mary Ellen Bakkila	<b>2017</b> Crane Berry Farm
<b>1980</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen	<b>2018</b> Crane Berry Farm
<b>1981</b> John & Beverly Tapani	<b>2019</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
<b>1982</b> Albert Chaput	<b>2020</b> COVID (no winner)
<b>1983</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen	<b>2021</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
<b>1984</b> Gary Swagart	<b>2022</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
<b>1985</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen	<b>2023</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
<b>1986</b> Henry & Cathy Ohtonen	

## Strawberry Queen '23



**ROMY KUS**

2023 First Attendant:

**SAIGE HIETALA**

2023 Miss Congeniality:

**ROBIN KIESEL**

## 2024 Queen Candidates

The Chassell Womens Club sponsors **Amya Niemi**. A 2024 graduate of Chassell Township Schools, she was active in track and volleyball. Amya also participated in the VFW Voice of Democracy essay contest and the VFW Patriot's Pen essay contest. She has volunteered with the Chassell Booster club during Strawberry Festival. She has also helped the Chassell Improvement Association with Old Fashioned Christmas. Amya is employed at Walgreens as a CSA. Some of Amya's hobbies include going to the gym, making her own lotion, playing the guitar and spending time with her cousins. Amya is interested in becoming a massage therapist. Charlie and Lisa Niemi are Amya's parents.



**Amya**

## 2024 Queen Candidates

**Ayla Miller** is sponsored by the Gierke Blueberry Farm. A 2024 graduate of Houghton High School, Ayla served as treasurer of the Interact Club where she helped to host Elementary Fun Days, Let's Rebuild Community and Operation Country Active Duty. She was a member of the National Honor Society and a finalist in the HOSA regionals competition this past spring. She ran cross country and track and placed at state finals her sophomore year on the Ski Tigers race team. She has volunteered with Green Timber's Adopt-a-Highway cleanup and at Grace United Methodist Church's Vacation Bible School. Ayla was a camp counselor for Houghton's 6th Grade Camp Fortune Lake trip for three years. Some of her hobbies include swimming, waterskiing, reading, skiing and spending time with family and friends. She is employed at Green Timber and the Gierke Blueberry Farm. Ayla plans to attend NMU this fall to major in Elementary Education. Her parents are Justin and Michelle Miller.



*Ayla*



*Chloe*

**Chloe Snell** is the daughter of Christina Verran. Chloe will graduate from Jeffers High School next year. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has served as Vice President of the Student Senate. Chloe was a finalist in both the Kaleidoscope Poetry and American Poetry contests. An honor roll student, she has also participated in Band and the Travel Club. Chloe volunteers at Adams Township Fire Department events and at various local events with the National Honor Society. She also volunteers with the South Range 4th of July Committee and events sponsored by the VFW. In her free time Chloe enjoys art, running, softball, basketball and swimming. She intends to complete an internship with local police agencies this year. Chloe plans to attend NMU for a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Her future plans include becoming a detective and possibly an FBI agent. Chloe's sponsor is Toucan's Auto Repair.

## 2024 Queen Candidates



*Coralee*

Real Estate Appraisal Co. sponsors **Coralee Daughterty**. Coralee attended Marquette Senior High School where she graduated with distinction. She is currently a student at Michigan Tech where she plans to obtain a double major in Accounting and Finance. She is a member of the Chamber Choir and received the VPA Talent Award at Michigan Tech. Coralee has volunteered as an usher at the Rosza Center and MTU's Make a Difference Day. She is currently in the process of establishing a registered student organization for cornhole at MTU. In her free time Coralee enjoys playing the guitar and piano and her passions include theater and singing. She loves spending time with family at the lake playing games and riding her jet ski.

Her future plans include applying to graduate school in the field of forensic accounting to obtain a CPA license. Coralee is the daughter of Shelise Weirauch and Kevin Daughterty.

**Danielle Williston** is sponsored by Portage Paddle Sports. A recent graduate of Houghton High School, Danielle was in the National Honor Society where she obtained 64 volunteer hours. She was an honor roll student and has taken several AP classes. Danielle served on the advisory committee for the past two years on behalf of Health Careers and CNA. She has volunteered with the Humane Society and was a camp counselor and coach at basketball camp. Danielle helped to organize Gift of Life for HOSA to encourage people to become organ donors. She also served on the Student Council and helped to organize school spirit events. She played volleyball, basketball, softball and track. Danielle likes being outdoors with her friends, baking, walking and working out. She is currently working on her CNA certification. Her future plans are to attend MSU in the fall to major in Nursing and later pursue medical school. Danielle is employed at Border Grill and Portage Paddle Sports. Danielle is the daughter of Chris and Kerry Williston.



*Danielle*

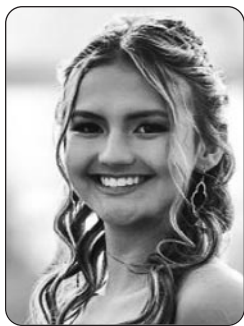
## 2024 Queen Candidates

**Giselle Wiitanen** is sponsored by Pat's Foods. The daughter of Heather Wiitanen Kullman, she is a 2024 graduate of Mount Pleasant High School. She was active in the Student Senate, Career Day and Homecoming. Giselle also participated in Business Management and helped to host Snowball and the Farewell Tour. She was an Assistant Student Office



*Giselle*

Leader for the Principal's Office for the past two years. Giselle was an honor student and was named All Academic in the Saginaw Valley League for basketball and volleyball. She has been a soccer referee and volunteered with the Rotary and Salvation Army. She will attend Lake Superior State University in the fall for a business degree. At LSSU she will be a dual athlete in volleyball and track and field in the spring. She has spent a lot of time in the strawberry fields helping her grandpa plant and pick berries. Giselle was born in Houghton and enjoys visiting in the summer.



*Shayla*

**Shayla Elmlad** is sponsored by Back Road Organic Supply. She will be a senior at Baraga Area Schools this fall. Shayla is an honor student who was president of her class and on the prom committee. She achieved state academic honors in basketball. Shayla has volunteered coaching middle school volleyball, helping with Track and Field Day, and was a referee for middle school volleyball tournaments. She has also helped with children's games for the 4th of July, a craft stand at the Ojibwa Standpoint Campground for the younger children, and helped prepare the Feast for the Chelsey Lafernier Memorial Walk. She is a waitress at the Baraga Drive In and JB's Pizza. Some of Shayla's hobbies include going to the gym, basketball and volleyball. She enjoys camping, singing and spending time with family and friends. Her future plans are to attend Northern Michigan University to major in business. Brian and Suzie Elmlad are Shayla's parents.



## 2024 Queen Candidates



*Lily*

The Chassell VFW Post 6507 & Auxiliary sponsor **Lily**

**Etelamaki.** Lily will graduate from Chassell Township Schools next year. She served as vice president of the National Honor Society and was class president in 9th and 10th grade. She is an honor roll student and was on the Prom Committee. Lily was dual enrolled at Gogebic Community college during her

junior year and will continue dual enrollment her senior year. She is passionate about running and is a member of the varsity track and cross country teams. Lily is a member of the Traprock 4-H Club where she volunteered at Spring Discovery, made greeting cards for veterans and helped with highway cleanup. She also helped the Chassell VFW and Auxiliary put American flags in the flower beds throughout Chassell. She is a group leader at St. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church for Vacation Bible School. Lily cleans vacation rentals, babysits and dog sits for employment. In her free time Lily likes to work out, run and spend time with friends and family. Her future plans include attending Cosmetology School after graduation. Doug & Tanya Etelamaki are Lily's parents.

**Nora Keranen** is the daughter of Angela and Dan Keranen. She will be a senior at Dollar Bay High School this fall. She has been in Student Council, National Honor Society and Travel Club. She is a graduate of the Young Women in Leadership Program at MTU. Nora is an honor student who has been named Top Student in several classes. She has volunteered to



*Nora*

supervise and spot gymnasts with Copper Country Gymnastics and has volunteered at the Humane Society. She participates in cheerleading, volleyball, gymnastics, track and field and cross country. Some of Nora's hobbies include biology, video games, French, rollerblading, puzzles and writing. She is employed at Copper Country Gymnastics as a coach. She plans to attend Michigan Tech to study either Computational Biology or Civil Engineering. She wants to move to Switzerland and work as a bioinformatician and later start a family. Nora is sponsored by the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geospatial Engineering at Michigan Tech.

## 2024 Queen Candidates

Krupp's Resort sponsors **Ralyn Mattila**. Ralyn graduated from Jeffers High School in 2023. While in school she was vice president of the Student Senate, committee events planner for SLACK and a member of Future Educators. Ralyn was president of the National Honor Society for two years and was an honor student throughout high school. She attended Gogebic Community College this spring. Ralyn is undecided on her future plans at this time. She has volunteered her time to play with the cats and walk dogs at the Copper Country Humane Society. Ralyn has also cleaned the highway and a beach for the National Honor Society. She is employed as a breakfast attendant at the Country Inn and Suites. Ralyn is self-taught on multiple instruments, enjoys music and singing, loves traveling and adventures, and photography. Eric and Casandra Mattila are Ralyn's parents.



*Ralyn*



*Claire*

**Claire Filpus** is the daughter of Traci Welch. She is a 2023 graduate of Houghton High School. Claire was in the Interact Club for four years and served as an officer the last two years. She was also a member of the National Honor Society and was Vice President her senior year. Claire is currently taking classes at Gogebic Community College and has been involved in their book club and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She is employed at Quincy's, Suomi Restaurant and the Houghton Schools. This fall she will enlist in the National Guard and complete basic training. After her time in the National Guard, Claire plans to attend Northern Michigan University to become a high school shop teacher. As part of the training for the Hurontown Fire Department, she is taking Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response training. She will complete this training in September. Claire is a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church where she is learning to sew quilts for donation. Quincy's Dining Co. is her sponsor.

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# Scientific Excursion

'How scientists investigate the health of Lake Superior' is the focus of a scientific excursion experience aboard Michigan Tech's research vessel, "Agassiz," that will be offered at the Strawberry Festival from 12:30 - 6:00 pm, Saturday, July 13, departing from the Chassell marina.

The public is invited to reserve a space by going to the MTU Events page or by using this link (<https://blogs.mtu.edu/cseo/strawberry-rtw/>).

People are also welcome to come to the Chassell Marina dock on Saturday to reserve a space. Excursions will depart at 12:30, 1:15, 2:00, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15 and 5:00 pm from the Chassell Marina. Each excursion has room for 18 participants and due to the popularity of this activity, the spaces go quickly. Half of all available spaces will be saved for onsite participants.

On each scientific excursion, Kenny Larsen, a Michigan Tech scientist in the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geospatial Engineering and the Great Lakes Research Center, will show how data is collected on water clarity, temperature, and turbidity and explain what that tells us about the health of Lake Superior and Chassell Bay. He will also explain the link between current and past land uses and the health of the Great Lakes.

Children must be at least 7 years of age. All youth younger than 15 years must be accompanied by an adult. Personal floatation devices are available for all passengers. All participants must wear closed toe shoes.

"Joining this excursion gives people the chance to learn how scientists study the Great Lakes and how lake health is measured" explains Tom Oliver, director of the Center for Science & Environmental Outreach. "These scientific excursions continue to be extremely popular, giving youth and adults the chance to interact directly with Michigan Tech scientists," adds Oliver.

The Agassiz is funded by the General Motors' Ride the Waves Program which puts more than 600 Copper Country youth and adults on the water each year to learn about the health of the Great Lakes and Lake Superior, and to promote Great Lakes stewardship. Additional financial support for the Agassiz at the Strawberry Festival is provided by the Chassell Lions Club.

For more information on the scientific excursions aboard MTU's Agassiz at the Strawberry Festival, contact: Tom Oliver at 906-487-2412 or [teoliver@mtu.edu](mailto:teoliver@mtu.edu).

MTU Center for Science & Environmental Outreach  
<https://blogs.mtu.edu/cseo/>

Michigan Tech's Great Lakes Research Center  
<http://greatlakes.mtu.edu/>

Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative  
<http://lakesuperiorstewardship.org/>



**Free 30-minute scientific excursions will be conducted aboard the MTU Research Vessel Agassiz on Saturday, July 13, 2024. Children 7 years & up will learn how the Great Lakes are studied by scientists. Departures from the Chassell boat launch will be every 30 minutes starting at 12:30 pm.**

# 2024 Scholarship Winner



*Kylee Sohlden*

The 2024 Lions Scholarship for \$1000 was awarded to **Kylee Sohlden**. Kylee is the daughter of Jesse and Sarah Sohlden. Kylee will attend Michigan Tech in the Fall where she will major in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation.



# News from the Chassell Historical Organization

In April the Chassell VFW Post 6507 & Auxiliary and the Chassell Lions Club joined forces to sponsor a Community Benefit Breakfast at the Chassell VFW. Volunteers from both organizations worked together at the event. Attendance was overwhelming and \$3,600 was raised for this year's beneficiary, The Chassell Historical Organization (CHO). The money raised will serve as a match to a grant the CHO has received from the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission. This grant will be used for an important electrical wiring and lighting retrofitting project at the Chassell Heritage Center which is located in the 107-year-old Southwell Elementary School at 42373 Hancock Street. Keweenaw Power and Lite will complete the project. All four organizations would like to express their gratitude to everyone who came out to support the event!



*Chassell Historical Organization President Keith Meyers (center) receiving checks from Chassell VFW Post 6507 President Braden Archambeau (left) and Chassell Lions Club President Steve Palosaari (right). Chassell VFW Post 6507 Auxiliary President Donna Byykkonen is on the far left and CHO Vice-President Judy Evert is on the far right.*

With the financial support of generous patrons, the CHO has contracted with Bach Mobilities from Escanaba to install stair-climbing units. These units will go from the building's entrance to the first and second floors and from the entrance to the basement. The work will be completed this summer to provide significantly greater accessibility to the Chassell Heritage Center for those facing physical limitations. This project follows previous accessibility improvements including an access ramp and

ADA parking spaces to the north side of the building. These two previous projects received important grant support from the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission.

The Chassell Historical Organization invites you to visit the Chassell Heritage Center at 42373 Hancock Street and the Chassell Historic Trail starting at the southwest corner of the parking lot near the 4th Street entrance to Centennial Park.

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***A special thank you to all of the volunteers who work hard to make our main street gardens look beautiful. It takes a team of gardeners to maintain the pocket gardens each year. We appreciate all that you do for our community!***

---

## **New Boardwalk Completed**



***Limited sizes of our 75th Anniversary T-Shirts are still available for purchase.***

## Access Ramp Sponsored by the Chassell Lions Club

Here is a typical example of the Chassell Lions Club reaching out to help someone in the community. The 'Shop' teacher at Chassell High School, Mike Randell, brought his class to this home every day for over two weeks between 11 a.m. and noon to construct this truly professional access ramp. The Lions contributed \$1,000 for the materials while the homeowners paid the remainder. Thank you LIONS and thank you Chassell High Shop Class!!





# What's New in Chassell

In the past year Chassell Township installed a kayak launch on the northwest side of the US 41 bridge over the Sturgeon River. This was made possible through a recreation grant by the Copper Shores Community Health Foundation and Chassell recreation millage. Visit Keweenaw Destination Development grants have funded two interpretive signs at the launch. An additional recently awarded grant will fund one-half of the cost of a roadside entrance sign to the launch. This will be matched by Chassell Lions members Keith and Julie Meyers to honor Keith's father David Meyers. David was the last surviving member of the Chassell High School Class of 1944 before his passing earlier this year. The Township hopes to continue to develop this site through current grant applications to the DNR's Natural Resources Trust Fund and Recreation Passport grant programs.



Last October, Chassell Township was awarded a highly competitive \$495,000 DNR Spark Grant which will fund important improvements to Centennial Park. These improvements include an ADA accessible walkway from the Pavilion to the lake, with additional support from the Chassell Lions Club. The waterfront boardwalk will be rebuilt with a connecting boardwalk to the trail on the north side of the Bark Park. The fixed boat ramp dock will be replaced with an adjustable boat ramp dock. An ADA accessible restroom will be added to the Pavilion along with making the Pavilion restrooms accessible year-round. New boards will be provided for the ice rink and improvements will be made to the curtains around the Pavilion. The first phase of the construction for this work will begin after this year's Strawberry Festival.

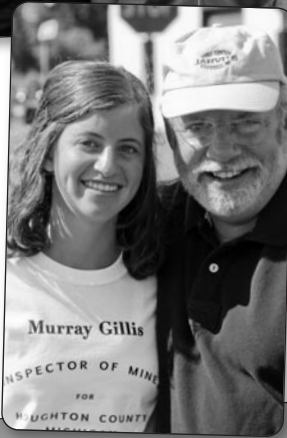
The Township has also partnered with the Copper Shores Community Health Foundation to create a Blight Mitigation Fund. This fund will help citizens who have financial need address blighted conditions with their homes. Interested individuals can make contributions to this fund and a committee will evaluate applications for awards. Stop by the Chassell Township Planning Commission table to learn more about this program.

Toward the Winter Cities focus in its Master Plan, the township is working toward implementing a groomed oval

on Pike Bay this coming winter. Modeled after similar ovals in Finland, the plan is to make kick-sleds available. This will allow residents and visitors to enjoy a unique fitness experience, while building on the area's significant Finnish heritage. The plan is for the oval to also be available to walkers and runners wearing spikes. Township Supervisor David Mattson will provide vehicle tracks and a drag for grooming. Chassell Lions member Steve Spahn is providing a vehicle to which the tracks can be attached and used for grooming. A potential partnership with the Chassell Township Schools and the ISD is being explored to help with the production of the kick-sleds.

---

## ***~Remember When~***



# 2023 Lions Halloween Party Winners

## **Infant to 2 Years Old:**

- 1st: Blakely Larsen
- 2nd: Riverlin Cowell
- 3rd: Daisy Durocher

## **3 & 4 Year Olds:**

- 1st: Jade Aho
- 2nd: Ander Geshel
- 3rd: Scarlet Steffens

## **Kindergarten - 2nd Grade:**

- 1st: Adlee Ryyananen
- 2nd: Kinsley & Delaney Deyaert
- 3rd: Lawson Lyberg

## **3rd - 4th Grade:**

- 1st: Jude Schmidt
- 2nd: Eero Maki
- 3rd: Sophia Tarvainen

## **5th - 6th Grade:**

- 1st: Isabella Edwards
- 2nd: Kayla Aho
- 3rd: Karl Zimmer

## **7th - 8th Grade:**

- 1st: Luke Kauma
- 2nd: Logan Diedrich
- 3rd: Orion Ware

## **9th Grade - Adult:**

- 1st: Noah Edwards
- 2nd: Dawn Edwards
- 3rd: Reagan Aho

## **Overall Winners:**

- 1st: Jude Schmidt
- 2nd: Jade Aho
- 3rd: Isabella Edwards



# Chassell Heritage Center

42373 N. Hancock St., Chassell, MI 49916  
Phone 523-1155

## Chassell Heritage Center Summer 2024

Free Admission - Donations Appreciated

We are pleased to announce that the Chassell Heritage Center will be open for the summer season this year.

We will be open July and August and our hours will be as follows: Tuesday 1-4 PM, Thursday 4-9 PM and Saturday 1-4 PM.

**Our opening day is Tuesday, July 2nd**

### Strawberry Festival Open House at the Chassell Heritage Center:

We are closed on Thursday, July 4 due to the 4th of July holiday. Closed on Thursday, July 11 for the community strawberry cleaning at the Chassell Pavilion.

Open Friday, July 12th, from 12 Noon to 6 PM

Open Saturday, July 13th from Noon to 4 PM

There will be no Friends of Fashion Show on the Saturday of Festival, but it will be held on Sunday, August 4th at 2:00 PM.

— Thank you.



# **Chassell Heritage Center Summer Programs 2024**

**Thursdays at 7:00 pm**

**July 18 – Trio Tumpelot and Majority Finn** – Trio Tumpelot plays folk and dance hall music from Finland and elsewhere. The trio consists of Pasi Lautala on accordion and vocal, Meg Pachmeyer on bass, and Anna Gawboy on concertina. Majority Finn (a.k.a. the Lautala Boys) consists of Pasi, Olivi and Ansel Lautala and Meg Pachmeyer playing Finnish music from last century to today, including originals written by the band members.

**July 25 – Exploring Iceland** – Join Millie Pyorala and Dorthey Behrend as they share highlights and photos of experiences on their recent trip to Iceland.

**August 1 – Keweenaw Brewgrass** - An eclectic mix of "anything rhythmic" — bluegrass, Texas swing and rock classics on acoustic instruments, blending with three- and four-part harmony vocals.

**August 8 – Remembering the Copper Range Railroad** – Glenn Bugni presents photos and memories of his time as a fireman/section worker on the Copper Range Railroad during the warm months of 1966-1968.

**August 15 – Country Music by Bill Kautto & Friends** - An entertaining evening of country music favorites old and new.

**August 22 – The Finnish American Heritage Center in Transition** – Jim Kurtti will reflect on the past and future of the Finnish American Heritage Center and its Historical Archive, now under the leadership of Finlandia Foundation, which recently purchased the facility. He will examine the FAHC's role and future within the greater Finnish American community and what that means for the Copper Country. Although retired from his two-decade tenure at the FAHC and as editor of *The Finnish American Reporter*, Kurtti continues to support and advocate for Finnish America, as well as other ethnic heritage and identity.

**August 29 – Life with a Team of Sled Dogs** – Tom Bauer tells of his 20+ years of experience living with a kennel of Alaskan Huskies and the activities that go along with it, including racing, touring and hosting the Mushing Club at Michigan Tech.

## **Post-Season Bonus:**

**September 19 – Trip on the DSS&A from Calumet to Mackinaw City in the 1910s** – Railroad historian Mark Worrall offers this special addition to our program series. Doors open at 6 p.m. for the 7 p.m. presentation.

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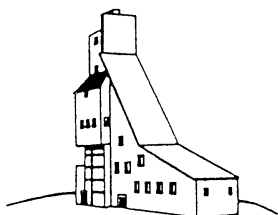
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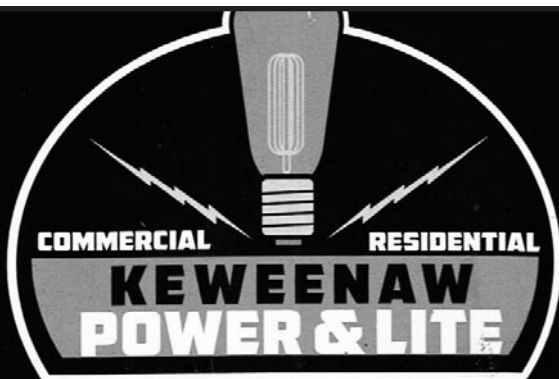
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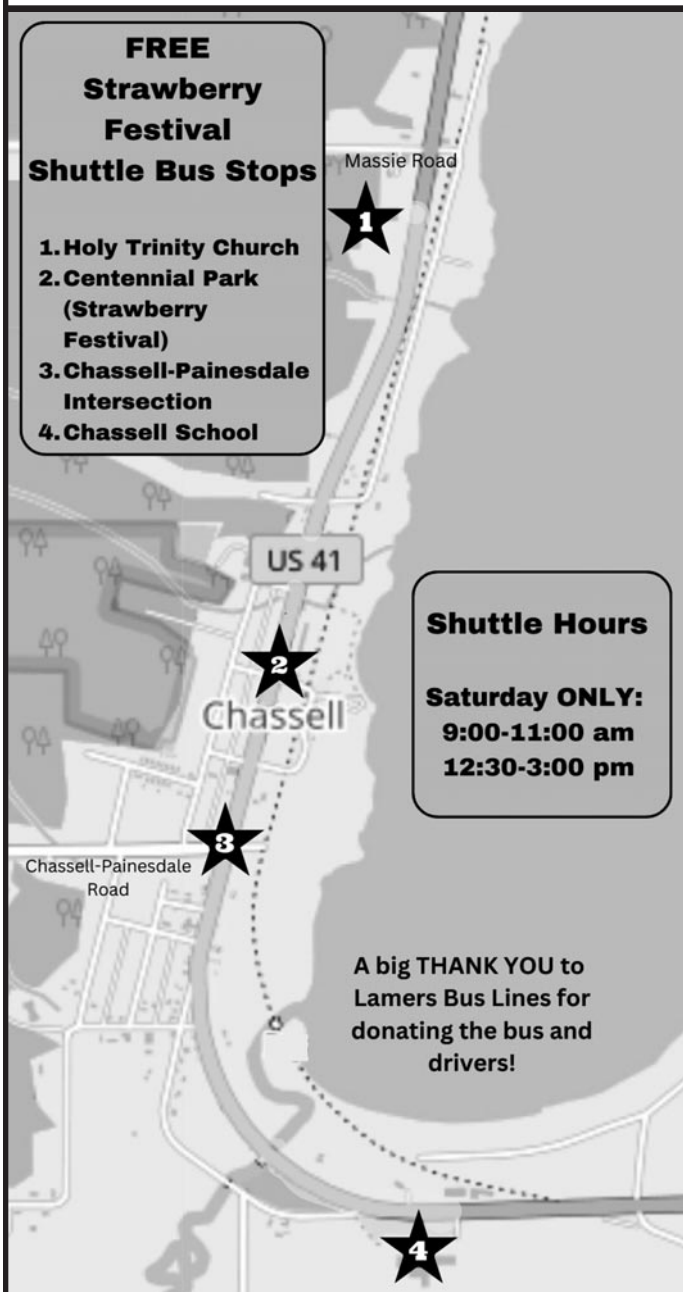
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