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SUPPLEMENT TO THE CASS CITY CHRONICLE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2010

July 4 Festival stories written and pictures coordinated by...

Kelli Ameling

Behind the scenes

Planning starts right after one ends

Planning for the annual Freedom Festival is a never-ending process.

Emily Phillips, finance chairman for the festival committee, explained there is a lot of hard work involved in organizing the celebration.

"The planning (for the next festival) starts right after one ends. We look at what we can improve on, what worked and (come up with) new ideas," Phillips said.

She works on a committee with 7 other general chairs to help bring the Freedom Festival together.

They meet once a month all year long to discuss the Fourth of July holiday.

"In February we start sending out information to vendors and crafters to get them lined up," she said.

Phillips explained the committee also has to look at what day the holiday falls on. If the Fourth falls during the week, they do not have to worry about other events colliding in the area. If it falls on the weekend, the committee worries about other areas in the event going on at the

same time.

The Freedom Festival costs more than the community might realize.

"The whole festival costs about \$13,000," Phillips said.

She explained the fireworks alone, for Saturday night, runs about \$7,500, and the show on Friday is close to \$500.

Although there is a gap money-wise between the fireworks and parade, the parade is the second most expensive attraction on the festival.

"The parade costs between \$1,500 and \$2,000," Phillips said. "We have to pay for some entries to be in the parade."

She explained that entries such as bands cost between \$500 and \$700.

The committee does have some ways of bringing in money to the Freedom Festival.


Phillips said money comes in from the vendors and crafters who pay for their spots, along with the golf tournament and little fundraisers the committee does throughout the year. She added businesses and donations are a big help.

"Without donations, (the festival) would not exist," Phillips said. "We appreciate local support."

Phillips added the Lions Club is always generous with its donations to the Freedom Festival, but the festival has many sponsors.

"We appreciate any donation. It does not matter if the donation is \$10 or if it is more, the size (of the donation) does not matter," Phillips said.

As of right now, she said, it's difficult for the committee to see where it stands, because donations will continue to come in all the way up to the day of the festival.



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Hayes: country not showing proper respect to our flag

It isn't difficult to find examples of a lack of respect for this nation's flag during parades, ball games and other events.

Ask Ken Hayes, who is retired from the U.S. Army, and he won't hesitate to tell you how he feels when he sees folks ignoring the United State's colors.

"I can tell you that it hurts and I find it degrading to our country when I see someone not showing proper respect to our (flag)," Hayes said.

Hayes grew up in Cass City and served in Vietnam, worked for Saginaw Steering Gear and operated a service station in Cass City before deciding to make a career in the military; serving over 20 years in the Army.

"I really believe people are uneducated or (just) don't care," Hayes explained. "It makes you wonder why (we fought) and put our lives on the line to see disrespect."

CONDUCT FOR THE FLAG

During a ceremony involving the raising or lowering of the flag, or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, people present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the armed forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may also render the military salute.

Anyone else present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or remove their hats with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

RESPECT OF THE FLAG

The flag should never touch the ground, floor, water or merchandise. The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery. The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way. The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or

boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

When saying the Pledge of Allegiance, a person should stand at attention, facing the flag with their right hand over their heart. When not in uniform, a person should remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand and hold it at their left shoulder, with their hand on their hard. A person in uniform should remain silent, facing the flag and render the military salute.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

During the rendition of the National Anthem, when the flag is displayed, individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note. Members of the armed forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform.

Anyone else who is present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over their heart. Anyone not in uniform should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder with the hand over the heart. When the flag is not displayed, all present should face toward the music and act in the same manner they would if the flag was displayed.

DISPLAYING OF THE FLAG

The flag should only be displayed from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstuffs. When a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously. The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed.

The flag should be displayed daily on or near the main administration building of every public institution. The flag should also be displayed on or near every polling place on election days, and during school days in or near every schoolhouse.

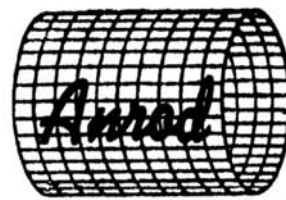
"For those that didn't know, now you do. For those who didn't care, perhaps you should. God help our Country," Hayes said.



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Variety of music to fill the air during 32nd Freedom Festival

There will be many opportunities for the community to enjoy music during the Freedom Festival.

For 11 years, Lela Yageman has been the band leader for The Thumb Music Jammers, which will be performing Saturday from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at the gazebo in the park.

"We play patriotic, old-time traditional, Thumb classics, and tributes to all the branches of the military, including the coast guard," Yageman said.

The Thumb Jammers include Ethel Ross, keyboard; Greg Ruth, guitar; Mike Ruth, guitar; Bernie Sullivan, violin; Tim Wolf, drums; Lela Yageman, melodica; Richard Roberts, banjo; Ernie Essenmacher, accordion; and Archie Hyttinen, violin.

Yageman explained the members are from all over the Thumb area.

"We enjoy playing and interacting with the crowd," she said, adding once a guy in the audience wanted to help sing the Bad Axe song, and the band let him.

This year there will be a new song added to their list to sing at the Freedom Festival.

"We learned the Coast Guard song, so we will be doing that one, too," Yageman said.

"It's a nice crowd (at the Freedom Festival). Some have stayed most of the program, which makes it enjoyable for us," she said.

Also at the Freedom Festival, "Music in Rotary Park" will host 2 bands Friday.

In Rotary Park at 6:30 p.m. Oliver and the Attack of the Lovely will be performing.

Justin Sorenson is a musician from Cass City and performs folk and indie music. He has written and performed his music throughout the area.

Friday will also showcase Take the City at 7:30 in Rotary Park.

The group is from the Bay City area and performs pop, rock and indie music.



THE THUMB JAMMERS will be showcasing their music at the Gazebo Saturday. From left: Ethel Ross, Greg Ruth, Mike Ruth, Bernie Sullivan, Tim Wolf, Lela Yageman, Richard Roberts, Ernie Essenmacher and Archie Hyttinen.

Old and new attractions to entertain children of all ages

This year will not be a boring year for kids and young adults at the Freedom Festival.

On Saturday, from noon to 6 p.m. there will be a fun area set up for people of all ages.

Cass City Chamber of Commerce Administrator Dee Mulligan said there will be many fun attractions brought back this year, plus some new ones.

"The new attraction this year is the mechanical bull," Mulligan said. She noted the activity will be for all ages because the "bull" can be set at different levels.

Last year, Mulligan said, there were about 300 kids, mostly 2- to 10-year-olds, and she hopes the mechanical bull will attract even more of the older kids.

"They can have contests or whatever they want to do. The whole event is missing the pre-teen (age), so we are hoping (the mechanical bull) will attract them," Mulligan said.

Some old-time favorites will return this year, according to Mulligan, who cited the inflatable baseball and the slide. The bounce house and Jurassic Park attraction will also be back.

Wristbands are available for \$5 a person, or \$1 tickets can be purchased for individual attractions, she said.

Mulligan said a child does not have to be supervised while they are in the kids' area. It is up to the parents' discretion as to

whether or not to leave a child alone.

This year there have been some changes made to the kids' activity area.

"There will be a tent set up along with benches to sit on," Mulligan explained. "The hours were also extended from noon to 4 p.m. to noon to 6 p.m."

This year, Mulligan added, there will not be a mountain climb because it did not attract a lot of people last year.

The chamber of commerce pays for the kids' fun area through the wristband sales.

Mulligan assured there will be plenty of enjoyable attractions to keep the little ones occupied.

There will be the Maplewood Petting Zoo, sporting events, Thumb Area Tail Waggers, a tractor pull and the American Association of University Women's (AAUW) annual paint-in, she added.

There will also be a children's section for ages 12 and under in the parade, said Richard Little, parade coordinator.

Line up for the children's section is at 10 a.m. in the Chemical Bank parking lot, and parents may walk along side their child if they please.

"We will give a prize to every kid," Little said. "It's nice to see the kids decorate their bikes and pets in the patriotic theme."

Little strongly encourages kids to participate.

"There is always something to keep (the kids) occupied," Mulligan said.



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GLEN AND PAT Perkins are bringing their Glenview Clydesdales back to Cass City for the annual Freedom Festival Grand Parade.

Little: parade entries down, hoping for a big turnout

Clydesdales and dancers and floats, “Oh My!”

This year’s Fourth of July Freedom Festival parade will start at 10:30 a.m. sharp Saturday.

The parade will start at Brooker Street and end at the village park, lasting about an hour to an hour and a half, according to Richard Little, parade coordinator.

This year’s Grand Marshalls are Village President Carl Palmateer and his wife, Joyce, who will be riding in a convertible.

“It was kind of a surprise. I hadn’t really thought about it,” said Carl. “It was a good surprise.”

Little said Cass City has one of the nicer parades in the area.

Some of the highlights include the popular Clydesdale horses, Flint Scottish Pipe Band, Corvair Club, Excel Dancers and the 4-H king and queen, along with some newcomers.

“One new entry is the Shrine Stilts,” Little said.

He added he has seen Shrine Stilts in other parades, in which members walk with big balloons — some of them on stilts.

In all, Little said, “This year we have about 80 to 85 entries signed up” for the parade.

Last year there were 129 entries in the parade line-up.

“I would really like to have other communities (in the parade),” Little said, adding it’s difficult to get them in the parade due to the holiday weekend.

The parade is the second most expensive event next to the fireworks.

“We have to pay for the entertainers. There are also a lot of little expenses involved, like the awards for example,” said Emily Phillips, finance chairman.

This year, trophies will be awarded for president’s choice, most attractive and most patriotic parade entries. There will be 3 judges: Linda Bailey, Linda Gray and Melva Coleman.

This will be Little’s third year coordinating the parade. He usually starts planning around January, right after the Christmas parade is over.

“It’s a long haul and lots of work,” Little said.

He noted the process includes making a lot of calls to people to make sure they are really going to be in or a part of the parade.

“There are lots of compliments (for) those who do participate (in the parade),” commented Little, who is also in charge of the Christmas parade and will begin working on that project as soon as the Freedom Festival parade is over.

Clydesdales parade favorite

One of the biggest attractions at the Fourth of July Freedom Festival are Clydesdale horses, featured in the grand parade.

“We started doing it in 2000, and have only missed one year,” said Pat Perkins, owner of Glenview Clydesdales.

When they first started participating they brought 4 Clydesdales, later increasing that number to 6 and, now, 8 horses.

“Hearing the people’s response on how big they are, (is my favorite part of the parade),” Perkins said.

Todd Radermacher is the hitch driver for the Perkins’ Clydesdales, and also stays at the ranch in Harrisville to take care of the horses.

“He is very well qualified,” Perkins explained. “He drove (the Clydesdales) at Budweiser for years.”

At Glenview Clydesdales, the Perkins have 30 horses. Perkins

noted that taking care of them is a lot of work, especially when show season approaches.

“The show horses have to be driven every day, and they only get to be outside for 3 hours a day or their coat will start to bleach,” she explained.

The Perkins have 10 show horses; some that are retired, some that are pasture horses, 6 mares and one stallion.

Perkins said it was her husband, Glen, who had the idea of getting horses 12 years ago.

“I was afraid of horses, and he wanted big ones,” she recalled. “But they are so gentle and I became attached very easily.”

They started with just 2 horses, and have never sold one. Currently, their youngest is 5.

The Perkins had the joy of watching their granddaughter, McKenna Nye, show for the first time last year.

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Local scouts help raise funds for Freedom Festival events



Due to a money crunch with the Freedom Festival, Boy Scout Troop 294 is being called to duty.

The scouts will be walking the parade route beforehand, asking for donations to go to the general fund for the freedom festival.

This year the festival committee has been tight on money due to a grant the committee usually relies on, but did not receive, and because of a lower-than-expected number of

sponsors.

“(The Boy Scouts) are excited,” said Jim Baker, scoutmaster of Cass City Troop 594 group and district commissioner. “It’s a great opportunity to help out.”

The scouts also assist in other ways.

“The troop has spent hours at the park doing service projects and cleaning up litter after the festival,” Baker pointed out.

The scouts will also be showcasing their Century of Values Tour — honoring the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of

America — at the Freedom Festival.

The tour includes displays focusing on things that are monumental to the Boy Scouts, such as mountain climbing, crafts and a history museum, Baker said.

The scouts are always proud to do anything

that can help out the community in some way.

“Walking for the pre-parade will improve the availability to continue (the festival). It is important to Cass City and the youth of Cass City,” Baker said.

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 This year the Freedom Festival will be hosting its 14th annual Hills and Dales Center for Rehabilitation Health and Fitness 5K run/walk and 8K run.

"It is important for people to participate for general physical fitness and to encourage the importance of a healthy lifestyle," said David Wohl, director of rehabilitation.

The run/walk will take place Saturday at 8 a.m., with 3 ways to register.

Participants can stop by Hills and Dales, pick up a registration form at local businesses or the run/walk sponsors, or go online to the website to register, Wohl said.

The cost is \$15 for early entries and \$18 on the day of the race.

"We are expecting about 75 to 80 participants this year," Wohl said.

He explained Frankenmuth usually hosts its run/walk on the Fourth, but this year they are having it on Saturday as well.

"When the races are on the same day, our attendance is usually down," he noted.

The run/walk will consist of a 5K walk, 5K run and an 8K run, with many divisions for the participants to take part in said Ann Ypma office coordinator for the Hills and Dales Center for Rehabilitation Health and

Fitness Center.

The different divisions are for racers to have comparable races, Ypma said.

The divisions include: ages 14 and under, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59 and 60 and older.

"We started the race 14 years ago because we wanted to participate in the festivities," Wohl said, "As a fitness group we decided a run/walk would be the best way."

Ypma said the race will begin at the Medical Arts Building, located at 6190 Hospital Drive.

"It's not a true circle, but there are maps in case the runners want to run ahead of time," Ypma said.

The 5K and 8K run and the 5K walk will start at the same time, according to Ypma.

"It usually takes about an hour and a half to complete the race," she said.

T-shirts will be awarded to all participants along with a free pass to the center.

Ypma said trophies will be awarded to the first-place runners, and medals will be given to the second- and third-place winners in each age division and for both male and female.

Ypma said there will be a drawing after the

race is completed.

The prizes will include free membership passes, a 2- and 3-month pass, gift cards and more.

Also during the run/walk, runners who are 18 years or older will be eligible to be one of 300 participants to run over the Mackinac Bridge on Labor Day, Wohl said.

There will be a lottery for the runners to sign up for, he added.

Wohl believes this event is the only event in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac counties where runners may qualify for the Mackinac Bridge Labor Day event.

The event will be professionally timed by Miller Race Management.

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 --Francis Scott Key

As we celebrate Independence Day, we are once again reminded that freedom is not free. Just as America fought for Independence in 1776, American troops continue to defend freedom around the world today. July Fourth is a day to honor the men and women who have sacrificed so much to protect our liberty. It's a day to proudly celebrate our great country and the ideals it represents.

Happy Birthday, America -- let freedom ring forever!

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M-T Pocket Pullers set to compete July 3

The M-T Pocket Pullers will return to this year's Freedom Festival in Cass City, and everyone is invited to experience the action Saturday.

The event will take place at 3 p.m. and will last between 2 1/2 and 3 hours, said Melissa Richardson, M-T Pocket Pullers' treasurer.

"We welcome anyone with a tractor (to participate)," she noted.

The entry fee is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.

Richardson explained they pay back half of the class registration fees to the winners, and the rest of the money goes towards insurance and prizes.

The Tractor Pull draws anywhere from 40 to 55 participants, she added.

The tractor classifications include: 0-13hp kids, 0-580cc Ultra Light, 0-13hp Garden, 581-800cc Ultra Light, 14-20hp Garden, 0-13hp Mod Stock Garden, 14-20hp Twin Garden, 50 Cube, 801-1200cc Ultra Light, 0-240cc Multi, V-6 Class, V-8 Class, ModV-8Class and Ultra Light Outlaw.

This year, there will be a new class added to the list.

The Pocket Pullers will be featuring an E-class (ethanol class) for tractors

that are fueled by ethanol, Richardson said.

"There are just 2 participants right now (for

the E-class). We don't know if it will grow

(before the Freedom Festival), but we are

hoping it will take off," she added.

Prizes are awarded for first, second and third place of each class, with more awards given out to the kids' classes.

"The kids are the future (of the M-T Pocket Pullers' Tractor Pull), so we encourage them more," Richardson said.

There are a couple hundred people that come out to watch the event, she said. "We've always been very excited (to come to the Freedom Festival) because there are tons of spectators."

The M-T Pocket Pullers have been a featured attraction at the Freedom Festival for about 7 or 8 years.

Richardson has been involved with tractor pulls all her life. "It's my sport," she said. "(I'm) a woman in a man's world."

She said her favorite part is the adrenaline rush she gets when she waits to compete.

"The best way I can describe it, is like waiting for a roller coaster," Richardson said. "I wait in line, then the butterflies come when I'm next, and it lasts about the same amount of time a roller coaster lasts; it's awesome."



ALYNN HUDSON OF Decker has been pulling with M-T Pocket Pullers for 9 years with his tractor, "Wild Farm Monkey". He pulls in the 581-800cc Ultra Lite Class. Wild Farm Monkey is unique in its class because the tractor is powered by a snowmobile motor.

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Sit...stay! Now dance!
This year the Thumb Area Tail Waggers will not only be making an appearance in the parade, but they will also be performing afterwards.

Festival-goers will be able to catch a glimpse of what the Tail Waggers can do Saturday at 2 p.m. in the village park, adjacent to the gazebo.

"(Mostly) new kids and dogs doing agility, free-style routines and obedience with music, also known as 'doggy dancing,'" Connie Sutter, group leader, said of the performance.

The Thumb Area Tail Waggers is a 4-H youth dog training club.

"We teach kids how to train dogs and to do dog sports," Sutter explained.

The performance at the Freedom Festival will feature 7 to 10 kids, with some of them showing multiple dogs that will perform.

"Altogether, there are about 15 dogs," Sutter said.

There is a \$10 registration fee for the participants, who must be between 8 and 19 years of age. A majority of them are from the Cass City area.

After kids go through the Tail Waggers 4-H program, they have many opportunities to

participate in various activities, according to Sutter.

"There is so much they can do (such as) dog training, professional handling or even become a veterinarian," Sutter said. "There are tons of opportunities."

Sutter pointed out that training a dog takes a lot of time and work. Many people do not realize the amount of work that goes into training a dog, she said. A person has to work at it every day.

"You have to make it part of your daily routine," she added.

Examples of ways to incorporate dog training into a person's daily routine including making a dog sit through a commercial or having them do a trick before giving them their food.

Sutter said all of the training techniques used by the Tail Waggers emphasize positive reinforcement.

"We don't make the dogs do anything they don't want to do," she said.

Sutter said the best thing about training a dog is the bond the owner develops with the dog.

"(The owners) enjoy seeing the dog grow and mature," Sutter explained. "It's building a bond with them."

Sutter's favorite part about coming to the

Freedom Festival is seeing all the people and the reactions from the crowd.

"The dogs love the attention. People will come up and pet the dogs and talk to them. (The dogs) really love it," Sutter explained.

Sutter said one of the youngest dogs they have right now is 8 months old and the age ranges up to about 15 years old.

"We have a pretty good variety of dogs. From mixed breeds to purebred, (along with) collies, shelties and more," Sutter said.

The Thumb Area Tail Waggers has been a part of the Freedom Festival in some way for as long as Sutter can remember.

"They have been so good to us, everything is always set up and ready for us," she added.

MAPLEWOOD PETTING ZOO

The community will also have the pleasure of enjoying more animals during this year's

Freedom Festival.

From 4 to 9 p.m. on Friday and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, the petting zoo will be located in the park, said Robert Peters, owner of the Maplewood Petting Zoo.

Peters said some animals that will be brought to the Freedom Festival will include ponies, sheep, a goat, a donkey, mini-horses, bunnies, chicks, ducks and a llama.

"There will be pony rides for \$2 and possible cones of food to feed the animals," he added.

Peters explained the biggest attraction is usually the smaller animals.

Peters and his girlfriend Nicole Peterson took over Maplewood Petting Zoo earlier this year in February.

This will be Peters' first year at the Freedom Festival as owner.

Peters said he looks forward to seeing the people and seeing them happy about the animals.

ExcelDancers to perform during and after parade

Five...6...7...8!

The ExcelDancers are taking the stage again during this year's Fourth of July Freedom Festival.

Dancers from ExcelDance Studio of Arts will perform Saturday in the Baker College parking lot following the parade, said Jeralyn Herp, studio owner and director.

Many dancers will also be performing throughout the parade on a float, which is very challenging to do, Herp noted.

"There are between 50 and 60 dancers who perform (at the event)," Herp said.

Dancers come from all over the Thumb area to dance at the ExcelDance studio. "(There are dancers) from all 3 counties," she added.

The dancers will be performing about 10 different styles of dance during the Freedom Festival, including tap, ballet, jazz, creative motion, lyrical, hip-hop and more.

"Usually the show lasts about 40 to 45 minutes," Herp said.

The ages of the dancers who perform range from 3 years old to adults.

Herp said everything — the dances and costumes — are new this year.

"It gives Cass City a chance to see how hard (the dancers) work and how good the dancers are," she added.

Usually there are about 40 to 60 people who come to watch the dancers, Herp said, adding her favorite part about performing during the Freedom Festival is seeing all the familiar faces in the crowd.

Herp explained the ExcelDancers have recitals throughout the year and also participate in about 5 parades across the Thumb area.

Herp took over the dance studio from Sally Doerr. "This is my eighth year as a studio owner and tenth year as a dance instructor," she said.

Herp has also taught dance at a couple of small studios in Saginaw.

At ExcelDance, Herp teaches and offers many classes for the community to take.

"I offer creative movement, tap, jazz, ballet, hip-hop, acrobatic tumble, fitness classes, pilates and zumba," she noted.

Her newest class she will be offering is ballroom dancing, which will take place on Wednesday nights. The classes are open to anyone who would like to participate.



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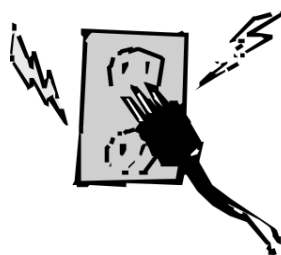
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Cass City, MI



THIS RED 1951 Ford Tudor will appear on the plaque given to car show participants during this year's Freedom Festival. Cass City residents Jim (left) and Geri Perry, who own the classic, said being on the plaque is nice.

Spotlight on '51 Ford Tudor

Antique car show popular

Although there is not going to be a classic car cruise at this year's Freedom Festival, the show must go on!

On Friday, at 6 p.m., Cass City will still hold its annual car show in the field by McDonald's, said Jim Perry, coordinator of the car cruise.

"Anyone who has an older vehicle can show up and we will give them a spot and have them register," Perry said.

He explained there will not be a cruise during this year's Freedom Festival because the cruise was too much of a hassle and too hard to handle.

Perry said there are usually 50 to 55 participants in the show and there are about 55 plaques to give out.

"There is no charge to register, it is completely free," Perry added. "There are also going to be drawings the participants can enter in."

Perry said there will be a wide variety of cars at the car show.

"(There are) Model T's, Model A's, and varieties through the '60s and '70s," he explained.

Participants are from all over the Thumb area, Perry said, adding some have also come from Saginaw.

Perry said he gets some help from his wife, Geri Perry.

"My wife spends about a week to 10 days before the show getting prizes together that are donated and helps get everything together," Jim said.

This year the Perrys were nominated to have their car on the plaque to be handed out to the participants.

"It's a '51 Ford Tudor," Geri said. "We bought it about a year ago."

She added they own a lot of other cars, too, some of which have been on the plaque before.

"We were excited about having (the '51 Ford Tudor) on the plaque," Geri said.

The car club voted earlier this month, she explained. They usually have someone from the club on the plaque each year.

"It was nice (to be voted) because we hadn't had the car very long," Geri said.

3-on-3 draws large crowd

He shoots... he scores!

The 22nd annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament will take place Saturday during the Cass City Freedom Festival.

The tournament will be held at Cass City Recreation Park, with teams composed of players ages 8 to 14 starting at noon, and ages 14 to adult starting at 1 p.m.

Ben Varney, tournament coordinator, said the event always draws a large crowd.

"About a few hundred people watch; it's one of the main attractions (of the festival)," he said.

Typically, more than 30 teams participate, Varney continued, adding there are different age divisions.

They include boys, girls and co-ed teams ages 8 to 10, 11 and 12, 12 to 14, 14 to 16, 16 to 18 and 18 and up.

Divisions are determined based on the oldest team player, with co-ed squads playing in the boys' division.

"There will be first-place trophies and second-place medals (awarded)," Varney noted.

The tournament was originally established as a fundraiser for the Cass City Rotary Club, but it is now a fundraiser for the Cass City Boosters Club, according to Varney.

Registration pamphlets are mailed out and available at businesses throughout the vil-

lage, but teams can also contact Lloyd Schinnerer, Jim Green, or Varney to sign up or for more information.



THE ACTION WAS fast and furious during the 2009 annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament at Cass City Recreation Park.

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Schramke: new fireworks to light up the sky

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a...UFO? At this year's Fourth of July Freedom Festival, there will be new fireworks for area residents to enjoy.

"There (are) new products and different things to see. People might even see a UFO. Who knows?" said Mark Schramke, Owner of Schramke Fire Equipment in Saginaw.

Schramke saw a UFO shell at a fireworks show and said it is something the Cass City area might be able to view during this year's Freedom Festival fireworks presentation.

The fireworks will begin at dusk Saturday and will last about 30 minutes.

"There are about 1,400 shell pieces (for Saturday's show)," Schramke said.

There will also be a preview show Friday night, sponsored by McDonald's, lasting 5 to 10 minutes.

Emily Phillips, festival finance chair, said the preview will cost roughly \$500, and the big show Saturday will cost \$7,500, making the fireworks the most expensive event at the Freedom Festival.

"(The Freedom Festival) is a medium size show," Schramke explained. "Cities like Saginaw and Bay City have some of the bigger shows."

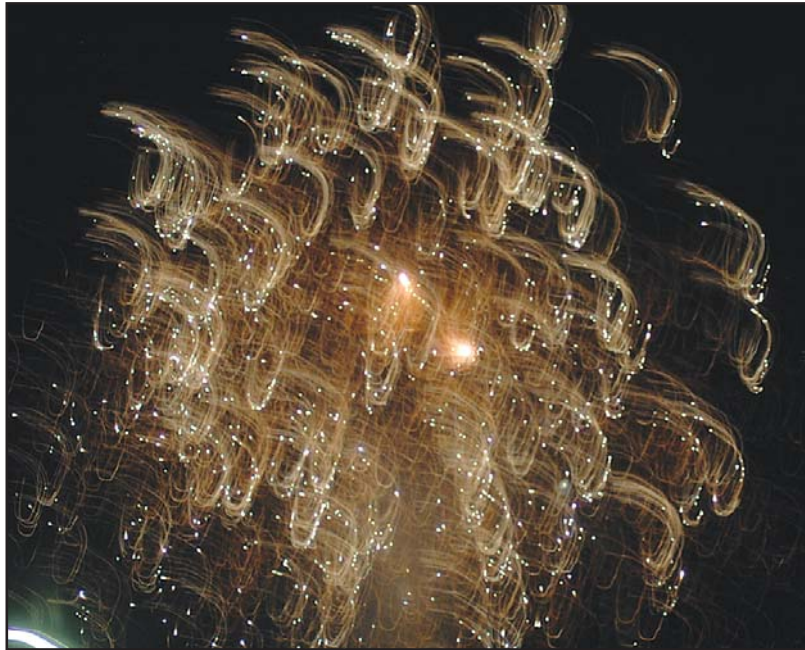
Schramke said this will be his second year doing the fireworks show along with 4 fire fighters from the Saginaw area and one

from Cass City.

"My favorite part is the cheers at the end of the show, to let us know we did a good

job," Schramke said.

He notes his least favorite part is working on a super hot day to put the show together.



FIREWORKS by Mark Schramke will paint the sky as the Freedom Festival's finale Saturday night at dusk.

Schramke said they set up the day of the show and it takes about two and a half to three hours to set up for the Freedom Festival.

Schramke said he gets the fireworks from Wolverine Fireworks in Bay City.

There are 2 types of fireworks under Michigan law; Class B and Class C.

Class B fireworks, which are illegal in the state, include toy torpedoes, railway torpedoes, firecrackers or salutes that do not qualify as Class C fireworks, exhibition display pieces, aeroplane flares, illuminating projectiles, incendiary projectiles, incendiary grenades, smoke projectiles or bombs containing expelling charges but without bursting charges, flash powders in inner units not exceeding 2 ounces each, flash sheets in interior packages, flash powder or spreader cartridges containing not more than 72 grains of flash powder each, and other similar devices.

Class C are considered legal fireworks. They include toy smoke devices, toy caps containing not more than .25 grains of explosive mixture, toy propellant devices, cigarette loads, trick matches, trick noise makers, smoke candles, smoke pots, smoke grenades, smoke signals, hand signals devices, very signal cartridges, sparklers, explosive auto alarms and other similar devices.

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Golf courses to provide fundraising, nighttime fun Thursday and Friday

Fore!
Members of the community will be joining together to help raise money for the Freedom Festival's firework show.

The Rolling Hills Golf Tournament will be held Thursday, with registration kicking off at noon and tee times starting at 1 p.m.

"Whoever I can get (to register is welcomed); it's 4 people to a team," said Don Warner, tournament director.

At last year's tournament, Warner said, there were 72 people who came out to raise money.

Warner mailed out entry forms for people to register and also has them available at the Rolling Hills Golf Course for anyone who wants to participate.

"The cost is \$55 a man or \$220 a team," he explained. "The cost covers the golf, meals and beverages on the course."

Warner added that if a participant wants a golf cart, that will be extra. He said Ben Varney would like it if participants reserve the carts in advance.

The tournament is a 4-man scramble, Warner noted, with first- through fourth-place prizes given out.

He said many of the same people and same groups come out to the tournament each year.

"I don't get to play; it's all work for me," Warner said, "but being with friends" seems to be a big part of the event.

This will be Warner's fourth year organizing the tournament, which he said will feature the same set-up as previous years.

"It's hard to do differently (from year to year). The main goal is to generate money."

When it comes to organizing the event, he continued, the biggest challenges are finding a vendor for the food and figuring out the budget.

Mulligan's Moonlight Golf

Another major golfing event is taking place Friday at Mulligan's Irish Links in Cass City, also in conjunction with the annual Freedom Festival.

The Moonlight Golf will start at about 9:30 p.m. and will cost \$20 a person, said Kevin Mulligan, owner of Mulligan's Irish Links.

"It's a fun and popular event," Mulligan said, adding anyone who is 21 years of age is welcome to come out and participate.

"The cost covers 9 holes of golf and a glow necklace," Mulligan explained.

The event is considered a free-for-all and is very casual, he added. About 30 people attended last year.

The golf course will have glow markers on each tee along with ones on the greens, he explained. There will also be tiki torches marking the hazard areas, such as the pond and ditches.

He pointed out that the glowing necklaces help to show when it is ok for the next team to hit.

"It is so cool to see the glowing necklaces and the meteor balls flying everywhere," Mulligan said.

This will be the fifth year Mulligan's Irish Links has put on the Moonlight Golf Event.

To register, call the golf course at (989) 872-8002.

"There is limited space, so register early," Mulligan said.



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2010 graduates earn scholarships and get one last chance to play

Touchdown!
This year's Freedom Festival will mark the third annual All-Star Football game for Thumb area football players.

The game will take place at 7 p.m. Saturday at the recreation park to play a full, 4 quarter football game.

Ben Varney, tournament coordinator, said approximately 30 schools nominate students to play in the All-Star game.

He adds the students must be 2010 high school graduates to play.

"The kids who play really love football and they really enjoy playing with other good players," Varney said.

He adds, there is a Thumb area all-star committee that picks from the nominated players, along with the assistance of the Thumb area sports writers association.

The students will play on The Greater Thumb West Conference and The NCTL

North Conference to make the North West Team, Varney said.

He adds, Al Dadacki, who played football for Cass City, started the theme to raise awareness for the Thumb area football players to play one last time.

Although there is no cost to play, Varney said each student must submit an essay on what it means to play one last time as part of their nomination.

"To play one last time means a lot (to the players), we will award 2 \$500 scholarships based on the essay," Varney said.

He adds, each student will also get a jersey with their name and number and a most valuable player (MVP) for each team will be named.

Last year the North West Team won the game and more than 1,000 people came out to watch.

"I am hoping (the attendance) grows this year," Varney said.



CASS CITY was well represented at the second annual Thumb Area All-Star Football Game held in conjunction with the Freedom Festival. Members of the Northwest squad included 2009 Red Hawk graduates Adam Osentoski (55), Anthony Middaugh (62), Luke Newton (25), Lukas Varney (2), Blake Messing (36) and Austin Babich (7). The Northwest coaching staff included Red Hawk coaches (back, l-r) Joe Langenburg, Nick Moyer, Tavis Osentoski and Josh Stern.



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RICH POTTS OF Cass City (left), owner of Potts' Pitt, along with assistant, Cal Sochocki of Caro, prepared pulled pork for the 2009 Freedom Festival crowds following the parade.

Food galore promised for festival

From chicken to nachos, drinks and ice cream; it's all at the festival

Planning to attend Cass City's Freedom Festival? Be sure to bring your appetite.

Chris Allen, food vendor chair, said there will be a variety of tasty treats, including hot dogs, hamburgers, nachos, corn dogs, blooming onions, popcorn, kettle corn, barbeque and more.

"If you want something, it will be there," Allen said.

This year's new features will include a New York-style hot dog cart. "The cart will be parked by the light," Allen noted.

There are about 4 vendors that will be par-

ticipating in the Freedom Festival.

Each vendor has to pay a fee of \$30, but they get to keep all the profits they make along with having electricity supplied to them, Allen said.

Along with the vendors, local organizations will have food available.

Videomation will have gourmet popcorn, and the Lion's Club will again be serving up its barbeque chicken, with Potts Pitt setting up afterwards.

Also, the Methodist church will be hosting an ice cream social at the South Pavilion. Baker College will offer items such as coffee, water and popcorn and will be accepting goodwill donations to be given to Relay for Life.

"It's a great and fun time for the residents," Allen said.

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- Door and window alarms can be installed to alert adults if children wander into a pool area.
- Have a phone & emergency numbers nearby.
- Talk to children about not going near water when an adult is not present. Remind them as often as you can.
- Enroll children in swim lessons after age 4 and teach them to tread water, float & stay by the shore.
- Designate an adult to watch the water at all times.
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