

Cass City
Freedom Festival
July 4 - 6, 2013

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

Freedom Festival finances forecast favorable

by Mason Doerr
Staff Writer

In order to have a successful Freedom Festival, it's necessary to have a strong backing from community support. Especially in terms of donations. Without this help, the Freedom Festival would not be possible.

Freedom Festival Treasurer Carrie Luana and Co-Chair Emily Phillips, along with the rest of the board, have been working hard to make sure everything is set for this year's events. Last year the festival was able to gather some extra funds which helped with this year's planning.

"Last year we had a great year. It allowed us to have some extra funds this year to get started with," Phillips said. "Typically we start with a couple thousand dollars and this year we started with six (thousand). Which is good because every year, right up until the event, we're worried that we aren't going to have the funds to meet the expenses."

"Finance wise, I think the continued support of the community is very important. Without the community this event wouldn't continue," Phillips added.

Along with having a successful year last year, the Freedom Festival committee has also been doing very well with gathering donations this year.

"This year, donations have been coming in really good. We have the Lion's Club again, they've been a wonderful sponsor for the event for several years," Phillips said. "Without their support, this festival wouldn't be going on for as long as it has."

"We (also) have Walther Farms, they have really taken the lead on the parade and we're really grateful for that. Thumb Cellular helps with the golf tournament. Reggie Ignash sponsors the pool, which is really great to help the kids cool off," Phillips said. "Dave and Nancy

Barrios have done a phenomenal job with sponsoring and getting everything around for the Little Miss Pageant. Thumb National Bank is co-sponsoring the kids' area where we're going to have some great inflatables this year. The Ministerial Association is going to provide glow bracelets for kids in the kids' area. All of this is great, along with various other local community donations from businesses and individuals alike."

Along with the typical events that are going on during the festival, the committee has added a couple of new ones.

"New to the events this year, we're going to have monster truck rides (made possible by R.J. Wentworth) and we're going to have the LifeNet helicopter display at the football field," Phillips said. "That will be a nice addition."

"The entertainment tent (at Rolling Hills) is new this year, too," Phillips added. "We are having a new addition of Windfall (a band). They will be playing down in the park on Saturday evening before the fireworks. They're a pretty popular band."

In an attempt to further cut costs, the committee made the decision this year to take bids from companies for the annual fireworks display.

"We are actually going with a different company this year. We got bids from three different people to make sure that we are keeping the cost affordable and still providing a quality show," Phillips said, while mentioning the fireworks will cost roughly \$7,000 this year. "It is the biggest expense that we have, next to the parade."

Despite the surplus in funds at the beginning of the year, the committee is still planning on spending frugally in an attempt to secure a safe-net.

"We're seeing that the economy is getting better. Last year we did have a good year, but

the couple years before that we did see a dip in donations. Donations seem to be increasing, though," Phillips said. "Unfortunately because of the rising cost of all the expenses, every year things cost a little bit more, so until we have a little bit more of a solid surplus at the start of the year we are just looking to grow that fund balance so we can add more things (in the future)."

"It's just that we don't want to put the cart before the horse and add a bunch of events and then not have the funds to cover it," Phillips added.

One of the major expenses that had to be covered by the general fund was the kids' play area. This year the committee secured approximately \$2,400 worth of inflatables, including a waterslide, for children in the vil-

lage to enjoy.

"As always, this festival is designed around family. We like to see all of the people that come into the village of Cass City," Phillips said. "Seeing Main Street filled with people for our parade and all the people down at the park and all the parents playing with their children is awesome."

"As always, it's a great festival for the community and for spending time with your family around the fourth of July holiday," Phillips added. "Having people come to our town and be proud of the festival that Cass City puts on is what we aim for. We need to thank our local police department and the village of Cass City, along with all of the volunteers and organizations that help, for all their extra effort in order to see this festival is a continued success."

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Cass City VFW
Post 3644



Cass City's 35th Annual FREEDOM FESTIVAL Schedule of Events July 4-6, 2013

Thursday, July 4th, 2013

•4th of July Golf Tourney- Cash prizes, 50/50, Hot Dogs at the turn & Dinner at Rolling Hills Golf Course - Noon
(Sponsored by: Thumb Cellular)

Friday, July 5th, 2013

•Festival Begins - 12 p.m.
•Craft Show - 12 to 9 p.m.
•Food Vendors - 12 to 9 p.m.

•Pool Open for FREE swim to the Public - 12 to 9 p.m.
(sponsored by Reggie Ignash Insurance / Farm Bureau Insurance)
•Petting Zoo & Pony Rides - 12 to 9 p.m.

•Methodist Church Ice Cream Social at South Pavilion - 4 to 8 p.m.
•Little Miss Pageant at the Gazebo in the park - 4 to 7 p.m.
(sponsored by Chris Barrios State Farm Agency)

•Minor League Boys' All Star Game at the North Ball Diamond - 5 to 7 p.m.
•Classic Car Show at McDonald's - 6 p.m.
•Music in Rotary Park 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

•Little League Boys' All Star Game at the North Ball Diamond - 7 to 9 p.m.
•Cass City Car Cruise - 7:45 p.m.
•Entertainment Tent - Featuring DJ/Karaoke by Mike Wilson at Rolling Hills Golf Course - 9 to 1:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 6th, 2013

•Hills & Dales Rehabilitation & Fitness 5K & 8K Race - 8 a.m.
•Parade Entries meet at Garfield Street - 9:30 a.m.

BEFORE THE PARADE

•Women's Life #887 Snacks - Donation - in front of Baker College (proceeds go to Baker College Scholarship Fund)
•Kids' parade line-up for Decoration Contest at Chemical Bank- Charlie Wallace - 9:30 a.m.
GREAT PARADE - 10:30 a.m. (Sponsored by Walther Farms)

•Cass City (CCRC) Airplane & Helicopter Display and Demo at the softball field in park 12 to 5 p.m.
•AAUW Kids' Area Paint-In at Gazebo in Park 1 to 3 p.m.

AFTER THE PARADE

•Cass City Lions Club BBQ Chicken Dinner - Lions Pavilion
•3-on-3 Basketball Tournament in park
•2-Cycle Tractor Display in park
•Thumb Smokin' BBQ Competition in park
•Excel Dance Studio Dancers at Baker College

•Monster Truck Rides - Standing Tall/R.J. Wentworth (\$5.00 per person) in the park
•Thumb Area Tail Waggers in the park - After the parade to 5 p.m.
•Eastern Michigan Music Makers in the park - After the parade to 3 p.m.
•LifeNet Helicopter Display in the park- After the parade to 4 p.m.
•Kids' Area - FREE in the park - After the parade to 8 p.m.

(Co-sponsored by Thumb National Bank & Local Community Donations)
•Cass City Pool FREE swim to public - After the parade to 7 p.m.
(sponsored by Reggie Ignash Insurance / Farm Bureau Insurance)

•Craft Show in the park - After the parade to 9 p.m.
•Petting Zoo & Pony Rides- After the parade to 9 p.m.
•Food Vendors in the park - After the parade to 9 p.m.

•Bounce House & Glow Bracelets in the park- After the parade to dusk.
(Provided by Ministerial Association)

•Thumb Smokin' BBQ Food Judging in the park - 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
•MT Pocket Pullers Tractor Pull north of park - 3 to 9 p.m.
•The band "Windfall" at Lions Club Pavilion - 8 to 10 p.m.

DUSK - GRAND FIREWORKS!!! (sponsored by Cass City Lions Club)

•Entertainment Tent - Featuring Live Music by Trigger Happy & DJ-Kronic Entertainment at Rolling Hills Golf Course - After fireworks to 1:30 a.m.



Thank you to our Platinum Sponsors: Cass City Lions Club, Thumb Cellular, Thumb National Bank and Walther Farms. And, a special thank you to all of our sponsors!

3rd annual smokin' BBQ set to be a sizzler

by Mason Doerr
Staff Writer

This year's Freedom Festival will feature the third annual Thumb Smokin' BBQ competition which is sure to leave mouths watering.

The competition will be held north of the DPW building in Cass City on Saturday, July 6, after the parade. There is a \$25 entry fee, which allows competitors a chance to out-grill their foes in any one of the four categories (pork shoulder, brisket, ribs and chicken). Competing in additional categories will cost each participant another \$25 per category.

According to Thumb Smokin' BBQ Chairman Blaine de Beaubien, last year's event went well and he is hopeful for another great year.

"Everything went really well last year, we had a really positive turnout," de Beaubien said. "The only issues we had last year was (due to the fact that) there wasn't any BBQ food for sale, but we're going to remedy that this year."

Old Red's Backyard BBQ, which has been the victor in brisket each year, will be vending food to people in the park all weekend.

"The only stipulation for the BBQ vendors is that they don't sell chick-

en," de Beaubien said. "That way it won't conflict with the Lion's Club chicken sales."

Last year the cookout had 12 teams in competition, however, de Beaubien believes this year that number will be slightly smaller.

"I don't know if we're going to have the number of cooks that we had last year," de Beaubien said. "Some of the contestants that were participating last year have a conflict in schedule with this year due to the date."

Three years ago this event began when de Beaubien had the idea to create a new event for the Freedom Festival that was something all people would enjoy.

"Very few people don't enjoy barbecued food," de Beaubien said. "The number one reason that I wanted to start this was because I've been to other BBQ events and they always draw large numbers of people."

"My underlying idea was to get people to come into town," de Beaubien added while mentioning that it's also a great way for citizens to pick up tips from the cooks. "A lot of people around here like to cook and there are some pretty good ones. Anyone that comes down and mingles with the crowd can generally

pick up any BBQ information that they want from people that know what they're doing. If you're not familiar with it and you want to get into it, there are a bunch of guys that will tell you what to do."

Last year's winners include: Richard Van Lander from Camp Run-a-Muck in the chicken division, as well as the ribs division; Steve Meeker from Meek's Meat in the pulled pork division, and Kurt Russell from Old Red's Backyard BBQ in the brisket division.

Aside from the sampling, de Beaubien mentioned that handing out the trophies is his highlight of the event.

"It's fun to stand there and hand them (trophies and prizes) out. Everyone is always dying to find out what I'm going to read off," de Beaubien said. "That's probably my favorite part."

Despite this event being a fun experience for de Beaubien, this will be his last year heading the competition.

"This is the last year that I'm going to do the BBQ, so basically friends and family are going to be on the judging table. The Freedom Festival is going to be taking over (after this year)," de Beaubien said. "That was

my original plan, create an event, get it going and turn it over to the Freedom Festival."

"I'm really hoping that whoever runs this in the future has some enthusiasm with it. I think it's a really good thing. If Cass City ever wanted to expand on this, it would

take a little bit of work, but it could be done," de Beaubien added. "I'm hoping that somebody from our little community has enough vision to say, 'let's try and capitalize on the fact that there is no longer a Pig-Gig'. It could become a really, really big thing."



MATT LITTLE of Little's Smoke-n-BBQ was checking his ribs during a previous year's "Thumb Smokin' BBQ" competition.

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Vendors and crafters to occupy park

by **Mason Doerr**
Staff Writer

Vendors

This year's Freedom Festival will feature some of the popular vendors that served in previous years, along with some new vendors that are sure to be palate pleasing.

"For food vendors, we do have a couple new ones this year, C.J. Concessions and Fabes Family Concessions," said Carrie Luana, Freedom Festival treasurer and vendors/crafts coordinator. "Basically their (C.J.'s) main thing is that they are a cotton candy vendor. Which is something that we haven't had in the past."

"Also coming back this year is Becklers. We also have Hoppes Concession. And we also have Sunshine Concessions," Luana added. "We also have the Lions

Club, they're doing their chicken barbecue (again) this year."

Along with keeping the traditional food choices for those walking about the park, Luana said it's important to continue to bring in new vendors to provide an extensive array of choices.

"We look to find a variety of things," Luana said. "I did contact Gibby's and they are hoping to come to our festival next year. They were already booked for this year."

"We're really hoping to have them next year, that would be awesome," Luana added.

Crafters

Another popular activity for Freedom Festival goers has been the craft tables where merchants sell their goods to shoppers during the festival.

"We have the antique photo

coming back again this year," Luana said while mentioning that this is always a big hit amongst Cass City citizens.

Luana also mentioned that most of the crafters don't apply for a table until very close to the dead-



line. Which can sometimes be a problem when attempting to project the total number of tables that will be set up.

"Last year I think we had 67 crafters. So far, (this year) we have like 20," Luana said. "They are coming in quicker now that it's getting closer to the festival. Dee (Mulligan) has been helping out with that."

"Last year they all came in within the last two weeks. At this time, we're down on crafters, but I'm positive that that's going to increase."

The Freedom Festival committee is also searching for someone to take over with the vendor/crafting responsibilities for this coming year.

"We are looking for a crafter chairperson for next year. We did have a lady, that has done it for the past couple of years now, that has decided not to do it this year," Freedom Festival Co-Chair Emily Phillips said. "We are looking for someone to take it over. If anybody is interested

they can visit our website."

Despite lacking the needed support to get everything up and running, Phillips mentioned that the Freedom Festival's new website has been a lifesaver when it comes to getting information out to the community.

"It is (website) new and it's awesome. I think it's very beneficial to have our own website. People can go right to it," Phillips said. "We've uploaded all the applications right there and with everyone dealing with the internet more often, it kind of allows us to get our name out there more and provide people with the resources they need to participate in our festival."

"We're always looking for more volunteers," Luana added.

For more information on any of the food vendors or the crafters, or any other Freedom Festival information, please go to www.ccfreedomfestival.org.

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PATRIOTICALLY DRESSED was Chesney Wenzlaff, daughter of Dan and Carol Wenzlaff of Kingston. She was the winner of last year's Pageant in the Park in the Sparkler division, which was for girls ages 3 to 5. This year's pageant is set to be another impressive event.

2nd annual Pageant in the Park set to charm crowd with pizzazz

by Mason Doerr
Staff Writer

It's not a Honey Boo Boo thing.

After a good turnout last year, the Pageant in the Park will be showcasing the beautiful people of Cass City once again on Friday, July 5, at 4 p.m. at the gazebo near the basketball courts. Last minute registration will begin at 4 p.m. on the day of the event. The entry fee will cost \$5.

"Last year I did get a lot of very positive feedback. The only negative that we had was that the speaker system wasn't loud enough for some people," said Nancy Barrios, coordinator of the pageant. "But we're working on that this year. The Freedom Festival committee is working on getting the speaker system for this year. So hopefully that will be an improvement."

Barrios also mentioned there will be another change with this year's winners.

"What we're going to do instead of having a float is we're going to have the older contestants ride in cars in the parade," Barrios said. "We have nice little signs (that will be on the cars)."

This year's event will also feature some additional entertainment.

"I am going to have a young lady that is going to be singing in-between the events to make the time go by a little bit faster," said Barrios while mentioning the lady will be Amanda Light from Munger, who has sung at weddings and other events.

The categories for this year's event include: Beautiful Baby Boy and Beautiful Baby Girl (ages 0-1), Terrific Toddler Boy and Terrific Toddler Girl (ages 1-3), Tiny Miss (ages 3-5), Young Miss (ages 6-8), Junior Miss (ages 9-12), Teen Miss (ages 13-16), Miss (ages 17-21) and Ms. Golden Dynamite (ages 62+).

Although last year the event saw a great turnout, there was a division that had no competitors. This is something Barrios hopes will change.

"I'm hoping this year that we have candidates in the Ms. Golden Dynamite category. We didn't have anybody in that category last year," Barrios

said. "I think people think it's just for young kids, but it's really not. It's for whoever is young at heart."

Barrios created this event as a way to get kids involved with the Freedom Festival, as well as drawing larger numbers from the festival into the park.

"Besides the children's games in the park, there isn't a lot of activities. What I intended to do with this, was to have something in the park that would bring people to the park who then would participate in the games and with the vendors," Barrios said. "It was an intent to have something fun that's not cumbersome or difficult."

Barrios is not new to dealing with pageantry, her daughters competed around the state. She believes that there are underlying skills that the contestants gain from participating in an event such as this one.

"It's just a fun thing where kids have an opportunity to get a little bit more familiar with being up in front of people and I think that's important," Barrios said. "Thinking on your feet and making you more comfortable in front of people (is important)."

"One of the main benefits of this program is that it provides young ladies with an opportunity to think on their feet and speak extemporaneously in response to the judge's question," Barrios added. "That's important today, because schools no longer seem to require students to take a speech class, and face to face communication is a critical life skill."

Barrios is hoping this year's event will see another great turnout and is excited to see the contestants participate.

"Every participant is a 'winner', and those who receive a crown are 'winners with responsibility'", Barrios said. "They represent our community at the Cass City Freedom Festival."

This year's judges will include Village President Carl Palmateer, Marilyn Mastie and Barb Kim.

"Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy yourself," Barrios said.

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Fun facts for Independence Day

by Mason Doerr
Staff Writer

The first official Fourth of July party was held at the White House in 1801.

Presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe all died on the Fourth. Adams and Jefferson died on the same day within hours of each other in 1826.

The song "Yankee Doodle" was sung originally by British officers making fun of backwoods Americans.

50 flags are flown 24 hours a day at the Washington Monument.

Only John Hancock actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. All the others signed later.

The Fourth of July commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. It was initially adopted by Congress on July 2, 1776, but then it was revised and the final version was adopted two days later.

Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national animal but was out-voted when John Adams and Thomas Jefferson chose the bald eagle.

The stars on the original American flag were arranged in a circle to ensure that all colonies were represented equally.

The words "under God" were not added to the Pledge of Allegiance until the year 1954.

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Entertainment tent offering live band

by Mason Doerr
Staff Writer

New to this year's Fourth of July festivities will be the entertainment tent, which will be held at Rolling Hills Golf Course on Friday, July 5, and Saturday, July 6, from 9 p.m. until 1:30 a.m.

On Friday, Mike Wilson will be the DJ and karaoke will be offered to those interested in showing off their vocal talents. On Saturday, the clubhouse will be featuring Kronic Entertainment for their DJ and the band Trigger Happy will also be playing out in the tent.

Last year, Rolling Hills had a small event inside their clubhouse for the Fourth of July, but this year they are stepping things up in hopes of drawing a larger crowd.

"Last year we just had a fireworks after party. We just opened things up for people to come hang out; families came and it was awesome," said Amy Lowman, event coordinator. "After the fireworks were over, inside the clubhouse, it was 21 and

up and we had a DJ." "It went very well, we had a ton of people out to watch the fireworks here and we had the clubhouse packed with people dancing and having fun," she added. "We're hoping to have a little something for everyone this year."

Lowman and her husband Ryan, decided to host this event because they felt like there weren't enough fun options for people to participate in during the later hours of the festival.

"We have a 40x100 foot tent with a stage for the band and a dance floor. After the fireworks there is going to be a \$5 cover charge," Lowman said. "I think we will draw more people (than last year), I think people have been looking for something fun to do on Saturday night during the Fourth of July festival and hopefully we can give them a little bit of entertainment, and fun, and make it a good meeting place for everybody that comes home for the holiday weekend."

"I just feel like people want to go someplace that's not too far away,"

she added.

For those who have a little too much fun, the Ministerial Association will be providing safe rides home for those who have exceeded their limit.

"We have an organization that is going to have cars up here that is going to offer rides home," Lowman said. "I think they may have a couple of cars just in case somebody gets in a situation where they can't drive. Obviously we don't condone drinking until you can't drive anymore, but we will have that option out there."

Aside from seeing a packed house, Lowman mentioned that her favorite part of last year's event was seeing all the families running around and having fun while watching the fireworks.

"I think there are so many people that come home that weekend and hopefully they come up here," Lowman said.

For more information about the events planned, call Rolling Hills Golf Course at (989)872-3569.



AN IMPRESSIVE FIREWORKS display marked the end of another great Cass City Freedom Festival last year.

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Plenty of sports offered for action seekers

by **Mason Doerr**
Staff Writer

There will be many different sporting events offered during this year's Freedom Festival. From 3-on-3 basketball action to the golf tournament at Rolling Hills, spectators will surely be able to get their fill of sports for the weekend.

Rolling Hills Golf Tournament

This year's 23rd Rolling Hills Fourth of July Golf Tournament will be held Thursday, July 4 and check-in begins at 12 p.m. The tournament will open with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. The format for this event is a four-man scramble and the entry fee is \$260 per team. This entry fee includes 18 holes of play with a cart, 6 drink tickets, lunch at the turn and a barbeque dinner. Cash prizes will

be awarded to the first 3 places. The field is limited to the first 18 that register. Players can also try their luck in the 50/50 raffle and have a chance to win money through contests. For more information on the event, contact Amy Lowman at (989)551-1141 or visit Rolling Hills for flyers.

3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

Always a popular event during the Freedom Festival are the 3-on-3 basketball tournaments, which are held at the basketball courts next to the football field. The tournament is set to start right after the parade ends. The Fire in the Sky tournament has various age brackets ranging from as young as 8 years old, all the way up to 18 and over. Each team consists of between 3 and 4 players and the games are half-court style play. One point is awarded per basket under 20 feet in length and 2 points are award-

ed to shots ranging over 20 feet. The first team to reach 16 points (must be leading by two) will win, or whichever team is leading after 30 minutes of play will be determined the winner. However, there will be no time limit for playoff games. The tournament is a double-elimination style event and prizes are awarded to the first and second place finishers in each bracket. For more information, visit the Freedom Festival's website at www.ccfreedomfest.org.

Hills & Dales General Hospital Center for Rehabilitation Walk/Run

The 17th annual Hills and Dales General Hospital Center for Rehabilitation's 5k run, 5k walk and 8k run are slated for Saturday, July 6, as part of the Freedom Festival's activities. The events start at 8 a.m., with registration from 6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m., and the course is set to take place within the village of Cass City, beginning at the hospital. To compete, a registration form must be

filled out, along with a \$15 registration fee if signing up early, or an \$18 registration fee the day of the event. There are numerous age divisions in which a person can compete. The age divisions start at 14 and under and range all the way up to 60 and older. All participants will receive a T-shirt. Trophies and medals will be awarded to the top 3 males and females in each division. All participants will also receive free passes to the Cass City fitness facility. A raffle will also be held for memberships to the fitness center. For more information, contact Hills and Dales Center for Rehabilitation at (989)872-2084.

Relay For Life Swim-A-Thon

This year, Relay For Life will be hosting an all night swim-a-thon at the Cass City pool on Friday, July 12. The event will begin at 7 p.m. and will end the following morning at 7 a.m. To take part in the swim-a-thon, swimmers must obtain at least \$25 in donations from individuals or businesses. Participants must be at

least 8 years old to join in on the fun. This all night fun at the pool will be chaperoned by lifeguards and many fun activities are set for the night. Once participants enter the premises they will not be allowed to leave until the following morning, unless a parent speaks with a chaperone that is on duty. For more information, contact Barb Peters at (989)872-5183.

Minor League and Little League All-Star baseball games

The Minor League Boys' All-Star Game is scheduled to take place Friday, July 5, at 5 p.m. and will end at approximately 7 p.m. The Little League Boys' All-Star Game is also scheduled for that same day, and will begin at 7 p.m. and will end at approximately 9 p.m. Both games will be held at the north baseball diamond in Cass City. The top players from each team will be competing for the title of all-star champions. The event is fun to watch and always has a great turnout.

A red, white and blue treat

Fourth of July celebrations usually include a mix of summer activities, from swimming at the beach to taking in the requisite fireworks. All these activities are of course accompanied by food. In the spirit of the holiday, serve up something red, white and blue ... or perhaps blueberry. Guests will savor this "Red, White and Blueberry Cheesecake Pie," courtesy of the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council.

Patriotic red, white and blue cupcakes

1/2 cup dried cherries
1 package French vanilla cake mix
1/2 cup applesauce
3 eggs
1 cup water

2 cups (about) small fresh blueberries, divided use
8 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
1/2 cup confectioners' sugar or to taste
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1 roll red-colored fruit snack or fruit leather

Preparation:

Soak dried cherries in hot water for 15 minutes to plump. Drain thoroughly, then dry with paper towels. Set aside.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line standard-size muffin pans with foil or paper muffin cups.

Combine cake mix with applesauce, eggs, and water, mixing on low speed for 30 seconds. Increase to medium speed and beat another 2 minutes. Fold in cherries.

Divide batter evenly into 24 paper-lined muffin cups. Drop 5 blueberries on top of the batter for each cupcake. Do not mix or press the blueberries into the batter.

Bake 18 to 20 minutes, until lightly browned. Cool to room temperature on wire racks before proceeding.

Beat cream cheese with confectioners' sugar and vanilla extract until smooth and creamy. Spread cream cheese frosting on tops of cooled cupcakes.

Using remaining blueberries, stud cupcakes with blueberries in rows (for stars) over the upper left quarter of the cupcake.

Cut the roll of fruit leather snack into strips 1/8 inch wide and 2 inches long. Place red fruit strips across the remainder of the cupcake surface in rows (for stripes) over frosting. Refrigerate to set frosting.

These are fun for the kids to decorate for 4th of July, Flag Day, or Memorial Day.

Yield: 24 cupcakes



Standing Tall

by **Mason Doerr**
Staff Writer

Take a ride on the wild side.

This year's Cass City Freedom Festival will feature monster truck rides for youngsters and adults alike. R.J. Wentworth will be giving rides for a fee of \$5 after the parade on Saturday, July 6, downtown at the park.

Wentworth, who travels around the Thumb to different events in his monster truck, stated that people always seem interested in going for a ride when he drives by.

"We've actually done weddings and things like that and had people stopping off the street wanting to go for a

ride," Wentworth said.

Although Wentworth does a lot of traveling with his truck around the Thumb area, this will be the first time he's been in Cass City in quite some time.

"It's been quite a while since we've been up there (Cass City). We've already got people fighting for a seat to ride in the parade," Wentworth said. "We're going to run through the parade and right after we'll start running (people)."

Standing Tall, a beefed up '78 Ford Bronco, which has seats along the sides in the back that can hold six adults and two kids, along with 3 kids up front with him, is Wentworth's main monster machine, but it's not his first.

"This is the eleventh monster truck I've owned. I've built all but the first one," Wentworth said. "We've just got the one truck right now, but we have plans running to get another."

Wentworth has plans on building a Ford F-350 limo monster truck at some point in the future.

Wentworth has had a passion for monster trucks since a young age. At 15 years old he was trying to put together a truck and eventually bought his first monster truck in 1989.

When asked why he had decided to come to Cass City for the Freedom Festival, Wentworth's short reply summed up his reasoning perfectly. "Kids love monster trucks."



STANDING TALL is the '78 Ford Bronco monster truck pictured above. R.J. Wentworth will be offering rides to local area residents for a small fee of \$5 at this year's Freedom Festival. Wentworth travels to different events around the Thumb area and is excited to offer his services to children and adults this year.

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Intern's notebook

Seriously, don't be "that guy"!

by **Mason Doerr**
Staff Writer

Don't be that guy!

Fireworks and Fourth of July go hand in hand. Most cities around the nation put together some sort of sanctioned fireworks display for the entire city to see. People enjoy that.

What people don't enjoy is their neighbor attempting to impress his friends with \$500 worth of firecrackers, Roman candles and quarter sticks of dynamite. You know, that person that spends an entire paycheck on fireworks, but not a single one has the capability of reaching a height of over 3 feet off of the ground.

In my experience, these types of fireworks can be extremely fun, but in the right setting and at the right time. I'm certain your 90-year-old neighbor isn't the slightest bit excited when you light an entire brick of firecrackers at midnight.

So, don't be that guy. Below is my list of personal fireworks etiquette guidelines.

1. DO NOT drink and light.

-No matter how badly you want to light your fireworks after tossing back a few cold ones, you probably shouldn't. After one too many, it's best to delegate the "combustion technician" job to somebody sober.

2. DO NOT shoot fireworks at your friends.

-Despite their witty remarks about your crappy fireworks stash, it's still not okay to aim them at anything but the sky. Unless you'd like to spend your Fourth of July holiday in the hospital hoping the doctor in the emergency room can fasten your buddy's fingers back onto his hand, you may want to disregard anything you learned about fireworks from the movie Joe Dirt.

3. DO donate some money to your local fireworks display.

-When times are tough in your local community, it's better to donate a few dollars for your local fireworks display instead of purchasing the last 15 boxes of sparklers at the gas station. Trust me, you'll get more satisfaction from the portion of a firework you paid for that will be lit by a professional, than the 30 seconds of disappointment you'll acquire from the fireworks that have always been legal. Borriiiiing.

4. DO NOT attempt to make your own fireworks.

-No matter how many times you've seen the show MacGyver, or how certain your cousin Bubba is, it's best not to attempt to fabricate your own explosives. Leave the firework forging to the professionals, or leave your consciousness in the hands of medical professionals.

5. DO keep an emergency fire extinguisher or bucket of water nearby.

-Even if you believe you're a seasoned specialist when it comes to setting off your pyrotechnic bursts of celebration, always plan for the worst. No matter how manly you think you may be, I'd bet you'd throw a childish temper tantrum if you caught your newly finished shed on fire.

Regardless of how you choose to spend your Fourth of July holiday, keep my list of etiquette guidelines in mind. You may save a few dollars, your eyebrows and your buddy's new bald eagle shirt that he bought just for the holiday.



GETTING WILD and wet was this group of kids who participated in last year's Relay for Life's Swim-A-Thon, which was held at the Cass City pool. The children participated in the overnight event, which took place from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. the following morning.



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--Francis Scott Key

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<i>Tina Pallas - Digital Media Director</i>	<i>Deb Severance - Composition</i>
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Largest local 4th of July parade to roll without flaw

by Mason Doerr
Staff Writer

This year marks the 35th annual Freedom Festival parade, which is the biggest fourth of July parade in the Thumb, and is set to be another great time for adults and youngsters alike. The parade, which has been sponsored by Walther Farms for many years, will commence at 10:30 a.m., on Saturday, July 6, and will roll through Main Street in downtown Cass City.

Tyler Perry, who took over the role as parade coordinator this year, has been working hard to ensure the parade will run without flaw.

"Right now we have about 60 (entries), but some of them have multiple entries," Perry said. "It (the parade) is going to be about an hour to an hour-and-a-half."

New this year, will be the amount of music that is being played during the parade.

"There is going to be quite a bit of music this year. We have four groups that are playing music, I don't think we've done that before," Perry said. "We have the Tittabawassee Valley Fife and Drum Corps, Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps, the Cass City (high school) marching band and then there is a local band that is going to be playing too."

"They are a punk band, they will be rocking out on a float," he added.

The beginning of the parade will feature a wreath laying ceremony to honor our local war veterans, this has always been an important aspect of the parade.

"I think it kind of refocuses everything. We can get carried away with the fireworks and the parade, and all that, but it really brings it back to why we have the freedoms we have, because of the men and women who laid down their lives for our freedom," Perry said.

Although being a relatively small town in comparison to some places in the Thumb, Cass City is still able to put on a grand parade due to several reasons, according to Perry.

"You can have a town and not be a community. Our community sticks together and we can work together on something like this, and ... a lot of the volunteer help makes this possible," he said.

Despite the parade entries all wanting to be as close to the front as possible, the head of the parade is always reserved for certain groups.

"Veterans are always first, and there is protocol. The VFW has to be first, and then you have other groups like the American Legion and Ladies Auxiliary follow, but the veterans are always first," Perry said. "I do veterans first, and then I try and get as many groups that have walkers or kids on their floats towards the front. Then I try to disperse the bands and things like that throughout, so there is music at different points. I tried to keep all the cars together and tractors together. And after that it's just kind of first come, first served."

So far, everything has been running smoothly for Perry and he is hoping to make the parade something to remember.

"We're pretty much right on track, I've had a lot of volunteer help, so that makes my job a lot easier," Perry said. "We can have last minute entries (for the parade), but I really need you to contact me right away if you want to do that."

"Thank you, to the community, for being so supportive of the parade and volunteering time," he added.

For more information about the parade, or entry forms, visit the Cass City Freedom Festival's website at www.ccfreedomfest.org.



LAST YEAR'S grand parade was another great day for local families to celebrate the Fourth of July. This year's parade, spearheaded by a new coordinator, Tyler Perry, is set to be another spectacular sight.

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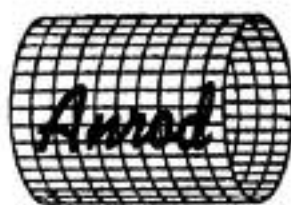
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Large country home on a paved road. It has nice kitchen and bathroom cabinets. A lot of updates have been made to this 4 bedroom home including new windows, drywall, some flooring and interior doors. There is still some of the old woodwork to add appeal. Priced to sell. Sandusky schools. S-170

Great hunting or recreational property located on the Cass River. 10+/- acres at the end of a dead end road with electricity to property. Storage buildings that could possibly be converted over to that perfect hunt camp. Call agent for all the details. A-573

Whimsical and cute. This home is well taken care of. It has a galley kitchen with all the appliances, dining area and hardwood floors throughout. Two bedrooms are on the main floor and there is a large bedroom upstairs. The basement is semi finished with plenty of storage. Backyard deck even has the white picket fence. Call today to have a personal preview. Must be prequalified and show approval letter with any offers or proof of funds. CCT-497

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Car show slated to be a roarin' good time

by Mason Doerr
Staff Writer

Take a car ride back to the past. This year's Classic Car Show will be held next to McDonald's on Friday, July 5, at 6 p.m.

Last year's show featured a very high number of vehicles and was a great year for the event. This year, Jim Perry, the event coordinator, is hoping the show will showcase another large number.

"Last year we got up to over 100 (cars) and we're looking at getting 75 (this year)," Perry said. "We expect to have a good turnout."

This year's car show plaque will feature Chester Gaszczynski and his 1972 Pontiac.

"The club elected to have him on the plaque," Perry said. "We have a club meeting every month and about a month ago we were searching around to find

what local car would be on the plaque, and we chose Chester."

Although Perry is looking forward to another good year, he knows that the weather is a huge factor in the event's success or failure.

"If we have a nice day, we'll have a nice crowd. That's the way I look at it," Perry said. "It's nice when it's warm because the heat lasts into the evening and people can stay around without being chilly."

Along with being something fun for kids, Perry noted that the event is also a great opportunity for car enthusiasts to meet.

"It's a time for like-minded people to get together with other ones, involving their cars and you meet people that you maybe haven't seen in years," Perry said. "I just like to see all the people that I haven't seen in quite a long time. It's just nice to see the people come in and have a nice time."

During the event, Perry also draws names out of a hat from those who registered to

hand out prizes.

"We go around town and get donations from the businesses and they give us all different kinds of things. Then we give them away," Perry said while mentioning that the event is free for those who register. "People can start to register around 6 p.m."

Perry stated that less than half of the vehicles that participate in the show are from Cass City. The remainder travel here from all over the Thumb and outlying communities.

"They come from Saginaw, Kinde, Bad Axe, Caro, Sandusky," Perry said. "In the Cass City area, I would say we would draw

maybe a third of them (cars), maybe less."

"There are a lot of cars around here that you don't see every day," Perry added.

Perry also made it a point to mention that the car show is not related in any way to the cruising of cars after the event.

"It's strictly a car show. There is no cruise involved with it at all or anything like that," Perry said. "At 8 o'clock they cruise around, but they're on their own. It's not organized. An organized cruise is hard to handle."

"I just hope we have a nice day. We have yet to ever have a bad one, but a rain out would be a real disaster," Perry said.



CHESTER GASZCZYNSKI and his 1972 Pontiac will be featured on a local car club's plaque for the Freedom Festival's Classic Car Show. Last year, Gaszczynski was one of over 100 people who entered their cars in the car show next to McDonald's during the festival.

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