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Aug. 5-10

MONDAY AUGUST 5

MAIN STAGE

5pm OPENING CEREMONY & FAIR QUEEN CROWNING

6:30 & 8:30pm RICK K Road Trip

SMALL ARENA

7pm SMALL GARDEN TRACTOR PULL

ARENA

8-9pm DJ CHICKEN NUGGET

9:45pm FIREWORKS

TUESDAY AUGUST 6

Children's Day MAIN STAGE

6:30 & 8:30pm ADAM CALVERT

ARENA

6:30pm FIREMAN'S RODEO

7:45pm BICYCLE GIVE-AWAY

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7

Sr Citizen's Day MAIN STAGE

6:30 & 8:30pm JOE BOMSON & COFFEE RUN

ARENA

7pm JUNK CAR RACE

7:45pm SR CITIZENS DRAWING

THURSDAY AUGUST 8

MAIN STAGE

6:30 & 8:30pm NEW INDIVIDUALS

ARENA

7pm DEMO DERRY: Youth, Small & Large car

MIDWAY

Daily GLOBE OF DEATH (Free)

FRIDAY AUGUST 9

MAIN STAGE

6:30 & 8:30pm MYSTERY CITY

ARENA

5pm PALMERTON HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

5:30pm LEHIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

6pm BARNYARD OLYMPICS

SATURDAY AUGUST 10

MAIN STAGE

5, 7, 9pm FABULOUS GREASE BAND

ARENA

6pm MICRO WRESTLING

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- Face Painting (Additional Fee)

AMUSEMENT

MONDAY 4pm-10pm
TUESDAY 4pm-10pm
WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY 4pm-10pm
SATURDAY 2pm-10pm

HIDE SPECIALS

Tuesday \$18, all other days \$20

25th Annual Carbon County Fair

ROOTED IN AGRICULTURE

Aug. 5-10

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Carbon County Fair marks silver anniversary

BY MARTA GOUGER
MGOUGER@TNONLINE.COM

It's time to celebrate, and the Carbon County Fair committee has a full slate of events for its 25th anniversary.

The fair kicks off Monday, Aug. 5 with a special artist singing the national anthem.

It's 15-year-old Lily Andreas, a sophomore at Lehighon Area High School.

Andreas, who began her musical performances when she was just 8 years old, has sung the national anthem at several high school football and basketball games.

The fair committee will have a 25th anniversary ribbon cutting at 5 p.m., crowning of the fair queen and cake at the conclusion of the ceremony.

All vendors who have been with the fair all 25 years are being honored at the opening ceremony.

Pyro Joe will top off the evening

with fireworks, including silver ones for the special anniversary.

This year, the fair will feature wine, beer and mixed drinks.

Half Barrel Brewery in Franklin Township will be selling draft beers, including Pilsner, Vienna Lager, NEIPA, IPA, Summer Splash (a lemon shanty), blueberry and vanilla.

The brewery has been in business since 2018 and this is the craft brewer's fourth year at the fair.

Holy Ghost Distillery of White Haven will be featuring different drinks every day, with a choice of adult slushies made with vodka, old fashioned, cosmos, Pocono Rum Punch, Just Jeff, blueberry vodka tonic, rum and Coke, Gin Ricky and Bourbon Ricky.


A daily attraction is the The Globe of Death, a circus and carnival stunt where riders perform motorcycle stunts inside a mesh sphere ball.

Riders in the Globe of Death can loop both vertically and horizontally, and multiple riders can race in different directions at the same time. The forces acting on the riders in the Globe of Death keep them safe inside the ball. When the riders are upside down at the top of the globe, centripetal force is equal to the force of gravity on the rider and motorcycle, plus the normal force exerted by the globe.

Musicians will grace the main stage daily, with nightly attractions including a junk car race, demolition derbies, Palmerton and Lehighon school bands and the return of Micro Wrestling

The fair is located at 3285 Little Gap Road, Palmerton. Hours are 4 to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and 2 to 10 p.m. Saturday.

Admission is \$7 everyday for everyone 6 years and older. Parking is free.




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Celebrating 25 years with a big bang

BY MARTA GOUGER
MGOUGER@TNONLINE.COM

Pyro Joe will make sure the Carbon County Fair's 25th opening night goes out with a bang.

Joe Pachorkowsky has been putting on fireworks shows professionally for 20 years, but this one is going to be special.

"For us it's a big deal for a number of reasons," Pachorkowsky said. "Literally the first rockets I shot were into the fairgrounds property before it existed."

He grew up on Little Gap Road and his dad worked at Bethlehem Steel. One night his dad came home with a brown Laneco bag and woke him up.

He could see yellow and blue paper towel-like rolls sticking out of the bag. The equivalent of a salute, they were his first introduction to fireworks.

His dad said, "I don't know what this is but we're going to light it," and they did. It was a big fireball.

"As a kid it shook the earth," Pachorkowsky said. They ran inside as if nothing happened.

He lost his dad in 1997, and in 2003 he decided it was time to become certified so he could shoot off fireworks legally.

On Monday night the Franklin Township resident will shoot off 25 rockets somewhere in the show in honor of the 25th anniversary of the fair and those early years with his dad.

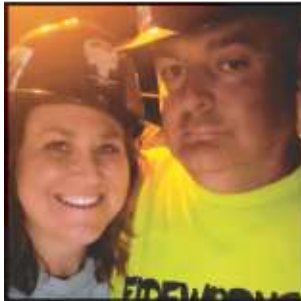
He's been out to fairgrounds measuring and planning for the fallout from the fireworks and making sure all is safe. "It's a lot of planning for something that can literally change in a minute," he said. The wind can shift, the atmosphere can change.

"It's a yearlong affair," he said.

He plans to shoot a few fireballs, a mixture of gas, black powder and chemicals. He describes it as a mushroom cloud, but on a smaller scale. He figures he'll use 30 gallons of fuel that night.

There will be a lot of willow effects — similar

See **25** Years on Page 5



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Children's Day includes ride specials, bike giveaway, balloons

Children's Day at the Carbon County Fair is from 4 to 10 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6.

Children under 18 can purchase a wrist band for \$18 and ride all night.

The night is filled with activity.

At 7:45 p.m., the fair will host a special drawing for great prizes, including six bicycles and electronics. Tickets will be available 30 minutes prior to drawing.

Special guests include representatives of the Pennsylvania State Police, Lehighon ambulance, East Penn Fire Company and Smokey Bear.

Robbie's Balloons & More of Lehighon will be giving out free balloons that day.

Texas Roadhouse is donating tickets to be distributed for a free children's meal with the purchase of an adult meal.

The first 300 children on Tuesday will receive a gift bag filled with goodies.

25 YEARS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

to a weeping willow tree. He'll have palm trees and tourbillions, a type of whistling star that spins in the sky.

Pachorkowsky said they'll be no shortage of silver fountain fireworks in honor of the fairs silver anniversary.

He buys ready-to-shoot fireworks. "They are getting more and more advanced," he said. And more expensive.

"The costs go up, but budgets stay the same," Pachorkowsky said. "We work with the budget to give people a great show."

Pachorkowsky is retired now and concentrates on his fireworks shows and is also a host for Reading and Northern trains.

Right now he does about 10 shows a year. He does have plans to expand next year but he doesn't want to compromise his competent crew.

On Monday at the fair he'll have 10 people helping, fireworks experts from four different states who've been working together for a few years.

Shooting off fireworks sounds like fun, but Pachorkowsky said

it's kind of miserable. "You're in the field all day baking in the sun, exposed to bug bites, dust and dirt," he said.

When it's time for the show they don hard hats, safety goggles, a long flame retardant coat and boots, no matter how hot the temperatures are.

He visits the site ahead of time because Google Earth doesn't give him all the details he needs.

Fireworks are fleeting, but fairgoers can grab some souvenirs.

They'll have a booth at the fair with glow bracelets, other specials and a photo spot. Limited edition fair fireworks posters will be sold at cost.

His wife Mary handles the marketing, the contracts and the booth. He puts in a lot of time with the technical details and says he watches fireworks videos just about every night, which wears on her.

Later this year they are taking the honeymoon they never had and the subject of fireworks is not allowed.

Pachorkowsky said he still looks at swap meets for those vintage fireworks his father introduced him to when he goes to swap meets. He has seen a couple but the colors are not as he remembers them on that first night.

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These burgers are sure to be a ‘smash’ hit

BY MARTA GOUGER
MGOUGER@TNONLINE.COM

If you like burgers, Bubba’s Curbside Cravings is the place to check out at the fair.

But these are not just any old hamburger.

Mike Maacks and Sheri Haley, run the Pocomo-based food truck.

Maacks said, “These smash burgers are not your regular burgers; they are a different type of burger, meaning that a smash burger is made by smashing the ground beef onto the grill or griddle with a spatula.”

Smashing the burger results in a sear on the outside of the meat, which locks in all of the juices and flavor, Maacks explained.

“The ratio of the burger is 80-20, and Bubba’s Curbside ensures we have a crisp on every burger because that’s the smash

burger.”

What’s better than a smash burger? One with special sauce.

Bubba’s sauce is made with mayonnaise, ketchup, sweet chili sauce, sriracha and spices.

“Bubba’s sauce is a little spicy, a little sweet, and a little tangy. It is the perfect balance of flavors for your favorite savory dishes like burgers and chicken.”

Originally hailing from Buffalo, New York, Maacks said he always dreamed of owning a food truck, and three years ago he made it happen.

He has a background in fine dining and has recently opened a brick and mortar location at 139 Camelback Road in Tannersville.

Bubba Jay’s Smash Burgers and More specializes in smash burgers at both spots.

“We’re all about delivering excellence and consistency every single time,” Maacks said. “Whether you visit Bubba’s Curbside Food Truck or Bubba Jay’s, you can count on getting the same top-notch burger. It’s always the best quality.”

The Bubba’s Double Smasher, for example, is served with two patties on a brioche bun with lettuce, tomato and mayo.

The fair menu is going to feature the four most popular smash burgers, which are the double bacon and mozzarella smasher, the cowboy and smash fries.

The smash fries are a crispy bed of fries covered and layered with cheese, topped with two smash burgers. There will be pickles and onion petals on top.

No wonder the food truck’s name includes the



A smash burger topped with cheese.

word cravings.

The food truck, by the way, is named after his 6-year-old son, Bubba. And, yes, Maacks hopes he will take over the business one day.

“We want him to be a part of this journey, which is why we named it after him,” he said.

His ingredients are always fresh, never frozen.

“Bubba’s Curbside will keep you coming back for more, always eager to track us down for your next smash burger fix,” Maacks said.



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Check out the house-

plants, the floral specimens and creative arrangements.

Annuals such as petunias, marigolds and sunflowers are on display, along with perennials from coneflowers to yarrow. Visitors will see a variety of dahlias, floor displays and gnome gardens.

The needlework includes cross-stitch, crochet and hand and machine quilted displays.

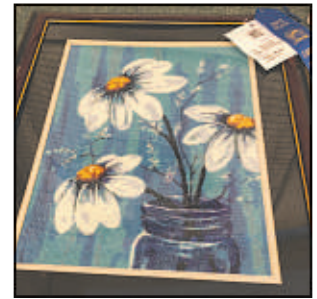
First place entries are marked with ribbons and best of show with rosettes, but make time to see all the displays.



A grapevine wreath on display at the Carbon County Fair.



It's never too soon to think about Christmas. This quilted snowman was on display at the 2023 Carbon County Fair.



This diamond bead painted floral won a blue ribbon in the arts and crafts department in 2024. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTOS



Some of the specialty contest winners from the 2023 Carbon County Fair.

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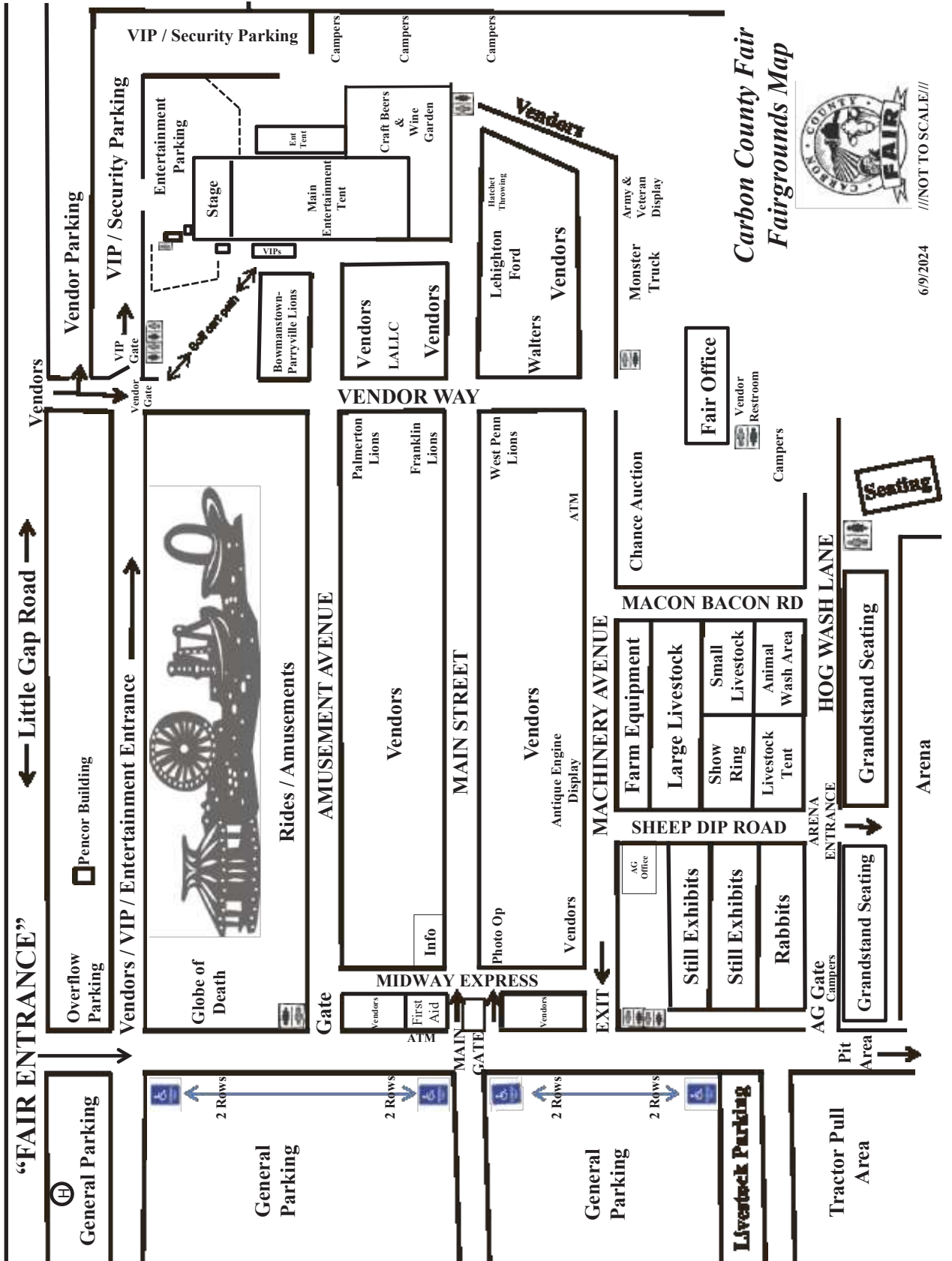
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*Carbon County Fair
Fairgrounds Map*



///NOT TO SCALE///

6/9/2024

New Individuals play hits from '50s through '70s

BY JILL WHALEN
JWHALEN@TNONLINE.COM

Break out your saddle shoes, go-go boots or even your platform heels and get ready to dance to the sounds of The New Individuals.

The band, which plays hits from the '50s, '60s and '70s, will perform on the Main Stage of the Carbon County Fair at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Aug. 8.

Having been started in 1966 by original members Rick Smith and Dave Stranko, The New Individuals have a multitude of hits to choose from.

"The audiences really like everything they do. I couldn't pinpoint any particular songs," said Patsi Smith, who serves as spokeswoman for the group.

She noted that The New Individuals perform

many musically and vocally challenging songs, and their on-the-spot harmonies are featured in a big part of their selections.

The Schuylkill County band features Chuck Cahoe on lead vocals, Tony Palina on guitar and Dale Kauffman on vocals and keyboards. Smith handles vocals and drums, while Stranko sings and plays bass guitar.

"Fans love seeing an exciting show with outstanding vocals, four-part harmonies and great dance music," Patsi Smith said.

She noted that the band's schedule is busy, taking them to county fairs, community festivals, conventions, amusement parks and private parties around the region.



The New Individuals play hits from the '50s, '60s and '70s, and will hit the main stage at the Carbon County Fair at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Aug. 8. Members of the Schuylkill County band are Chuck Cahoe, Tony Palina, Dale Kauffman, Rick Smith and Dave Stranko. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Rising country star to appear on Carbon stage

BY RICH STRACK
 THEEDITOR@TNONLINE.COM

He brings electric energy and a message of love and peace.

Emerging Nashville country music artist Adam Calvert will be performing two shows, at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. on Aug. 6 at the Carbon County Fair.

Growing up in Ohio, Calvert's love for music began when he was 5 years old. He saw a rising star named Toby Keith at a fair and from that moment on, he was hooked and reeled into the world of country music.

Calvert attended a school for performing arts in Cincinnati, where he honed his music and vocal talents.

"I just love to sing and perform anywhere and everywhere," he said. "Recently, I saw some people I went to middle school with and they remembered me singing on the school bus."

His name is quickly rising to prominence in the Nashville scene as an independent artist.

"I don't belong to any record label," Calvert said. "My fiancé books our tours that takes our band and our equipment to the West Coast, to North Dakota and 35 different states. Sometimes my dad drives the tour bus, an old girl that probably has a million miles on her."

In 2023, he and his four-piece band performed 200 shows across America. At the prestigious Josie Music Awards hosted in the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, he won Vocalist of the Year, Rising Star of the Year and Single of the Year awards. His song "City Limits," soon to be released, is targeted to be one of his original hits.

Calvert loves to perform at outdoor venues such as fairs and festivals, where he promotes

the themes of his music.

"We are all about peace, love and good times," he explained.

He's been influenced by many stars in the business, especially superstar Garth Brooks. In the near future he intends to write new music with Brooks' daughter, Allie Colleen.

At his performances, Calvert extends his on-stage high energy to meet and greet with the fans.

"I have met so many wonderful people and I like to reach out to them with my band," he said. "We are hands-on gladiators raging war with love and peace."

He performed recently at Knoebels, where some of his "greatest fans" enjoyed his original songs as well as sets that included classic rock and music that got his audience singing and dancing.

Calvert and his fiancé, Paige Hardwick, have purchased 11½ acres in



Adam Calvert

the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee, where he will find plenty of outdoor influences to create new material.

"It's the way I like to live," he said. "We are all about family, and I love being out in the woods. We have walking trails and jeep paths to drive our four wheelers through that part of our property. We also like to skeet shoot before we fire up the grill for some good times."

This rising star has See **CALVERT** on Page 12

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Get out there on the dance floor

You'll know when DJ Chicken Nugget is on the fairgrounds by the lines of people boot scooting to songs.

He kicks off the fair with tunes from 6 to 9 p.m. Monday, Aug. 5.

A fair favorite for more than five years, he's been a deejay since 2008.

"It's all about playing the right dances and

songs," he said. "Gotta keep them dancing!"

"Fireball" is a crowd favorite now, he said.

He's a second generation deejay. In case you're wondering, he said, "My dad started line dance DJing in the early '90s. His name was DJ Chickenman. When he had me take over, he named me DJ Chicken Nugget!"



DJ Chicken Nugget will be playing tunes from 6 to 9 p.m. Monday, Aug. 5 at the Carbon County Fair. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CALVERT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

shared the stage with iconic country artists Lonestar, Parmalee, Hardy and many more.

"I create my own style of music that resonates with my audiences, but it's still all about me," Calvert said. "I stay true to my roots."

When the weather gets cold, Calvert and his band move his concerts inside to theaters, bars, clubs and even high schools.

"We have a busy schedule, but we make sure there is down time and separation from each other to refresh and re-energize," he said.

Next spring, he plans on releasing his first album. As he continues his unwavering commitment

to express his artistic freedom and experience the music industry on his own terms, Calvert expects to climb the ladder of success.

"I have already reached my goal," he said. "From singing on the school bus and dreaming that I would perform my music since I was a child, I am thankful for all my fans and I just want to keep doing what I'm doing."

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Rock out on Friday night at the fair

Classic Rock Tribute Band Mystery City is ready to rock the Carbon County Fair at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Friday night.

Made up of members from Carbon County and Northeast Pennsylvania, members have been playing in area bands since the 1980s.

The band plays favorites such as Aerosmith, David Bowie, Queen, The Sweet, Blondie, Ozzy and Kiss.

Members includes Chuck Oehler on vocals, Mike Smathers on lead guitar, Rich Hook on rhythm guitar, Albie Coccio on drums, James Bologach on bass. The crew includes Rich Lipshaw, Scott Hossler and Brian Klock.

The band has played deck parties at Penn's Peak, on the stage at Mauch Chunk Opera House and appeared at the Franklin Township Fire Department block party this past weekend.



Mystery City plays favorites from David Bowie, Kiss and Aerosmith, to name a few. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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