

A SUPPLEMENT OF **TIMES NEWS**

35th
Annual

Palmerton Community Festival



Friday, Saturday & Sunday - Sept. 6, 7 & 8, 2024

Palmerton Borough Park

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 6

Opening Ceremonies

Main Stage 5:00-5:15pm

TimeWhys

Main Stage 5:15-7:30pm

AM Gold Yacht Rock

Main Stage 8:30-10:30pm

SUNDAY, SEPT. 8

The Steelworkers Polka Band

Main Stage 1:00-3:30pm

The Rehrig Brothers

Bandstand 4:30-6:30pm

CJ Solar

Main Stage 7:00-9:00pm

SATURDAY, SEPT. 7

Palmerton Community Band

Bandstand 12:00-1:30pm

The Buzz Band

Main Stage 3:00-4:30pm

South Penn Dixie

Main Stage 5:30-7:30pm

M80 Band

Main Stage 8:30-10:30pm

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Fri., Sept. 6th 5:00pm - 9:00pm \$20

Sat., Sept. 7th 1:00pm - 5:00pm \$20

Sun., Sept. 8th 2:00pm - 6:00pm \$20

DAILY HOURS

Friday 5:00pm - 11:00pm

Saturday 11:00am - 11:00pm

Sunday 12:00pm - 9:00pm

Outside food/beverage is prohibited

NO PETS PERMITTED

Palmerton Borough ordinance does not allow smoking or vaping inside the park



Palmerton festival marks 35th year

BY MARTA GOUGER
 MGOUGER@TNONLINE.COM

The 35th annual Palmerton Community festival kicks off Friday in the Palmerton Borough Park and continues through Sunday, with food, entertainment, rides and fun.

The community event started when the Palmer-ton Hospital stopped its fundraising festival.

“It is with great pride that we enter the 35th year of this fine event that was given to the community by the previous Palmerton Hospital,” organizer Susan Arner said.

“Many thanks to their wisdom and vision we remain one of the largest events in Carbon County.”

Calling it 35 years of greatness, Arner said a community meeting was held, inviting people to be a part of establishing the community festival.

Margaret Shinsec was placed in charge, assisted by Fred Reinhard, Scott Siegfried and others “with the task of continuing the great event everyone knew as Palmerton Hospital festival now be-

ing an event for the community run by community members.”

The mission of the festival, which remains true to this day, was to allow community organizations the opportunity to raise funds for their stated causes.

Arner, who was experienced with running the block party at the ambulance building, was asked to join.

Showcasing the community organizations and their needs is the primary focus now, 35 years later.

The event will begin with an opening ceremony at 5 p.m. Friday on the Main Stage.

The Palmerton United Veterans Organization will open the ceremony, followed by the Palmerton Area Girl Scouts singing the national anthem.

Mayor Don Herrmann will offer remarks.

The event will include remembrances of the late Peter Kern, who dedicated his time to the Palmerton community; the late Mike Harleman, who was on the Palmerton Hospital board of directors

and a driving force in the community; and Warren Steigerwalt, announcer for the festival.

Keeping with the theme of Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Arner invited visitors to bring donations of nonperishable foods to donate to the Palmerton food pantry.

Donations can be dropped off at the Bethany Wesleyan Church stand located just below the information booth in the center of the park.

Monetary donations will be accepted as well.

New this year, the Palmerton Area Library will be hosting Storytime in the Park.

The library will be meeting for storytime at 2 p.m. Saturday in the bandstand.

“This is an addition to the entertainment schedule already in place,” Arner said.

“We are thrilled the library wants to offer this service to our event. Reading is fundamental, as we have heard so often, and we are happy the library staff asked to do this.

“It will be a great time

for parents to sit down enjoy a short break while watching their children enjoy story time with the library staff.

“We certainly hope many will take advantage of this free opportunity,” Arner said.

Nearly 50 vendors will be on-site with food and games. AEB Amusements will provide rides, with wristband specials throughout the weekend.

Artisans will feature unique designs for gifts and décor, plus many sweet treats.

There is entertainment for a variety of tastes, from polka to pop, and country to classics.

For everyone’s safety, please refrain from bringing pets, bikes, skateboards or roller skates into the park over the weekend.

When entering or exiting, use the macadam walkways and crosswalks. Handicap parking is available.

For more information, visit www.palmertonfestival.com.

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“Speed is our business”

Craft tent offers variety of gifts, décor

BY MARTA GOUGER
MGOUGER@TNONLINE.COM

It's not too early for Christmas shopping, and the craft tent at the Palmerton festival is the place to start.

New this year is Donna Bauer with sea shell creations; Kresge Kreations with beaded pens, key fobs and more; Torres & Co., with crocheted plushy animals; and Le-high Treats, with freeze-dried popular candy.

Shay Torres is the 20-year-old owner of the Torres & Co. A young mom with an 8-month-old daughter, she entered the world of crochet at age 6. Her grandmother taught her to crochet blankets, afghans, scarves, hats and potholders. She continued honing her skills.

"Last year when I was pregnant I was high risk and I had to quit my job. So I decided to start crocheting again but making it a full-time job," Torres said.

She came across the world of Amigurumi plushie toys.

"Now I crochet anywhere from

3-9 hours a day just working at my inventory," she said.

She sells at Lazy Dog Vintage in Hamburg and other places. Popular choices are loaf cats, my starfish, octos, chickens, turtles and pickles.

Her creations are 2 to 18 inches tall, and prices range from \$4 to \$90.

Brandy Kresge is celebrating the anniversary of the founding of her business, Kresge Kreations.

This is her first time at the festival but she has set up at Palmerton's Christmas in the Park and Slatington marketplace.

"I do a lot of custom orders off my Facebook group," she said.

Corey and Bethany Leonard are returning with Slime Universe. "Last year was amazing," said owner Corey Leonard. "We loved sharing our love for slime with our community. Everyone enjoyed our stand and some came back for a second round."

The business is offering birthday parties, galaxy slime and is more mobile with a trailer.

"We pull right up and you make



These starfish plushies are a popular item for Torres & Co.

slime right outside the trailer. It's the smile on the kid's faces that keep us going."

Sharon Solt is back with Blue Mountain Gnomes. This year she'll be featuring autumn designs.

Solt started making gnomes for her granddaughters for Christmas when COVID hit and shopping in person was difficult. "And then I got addicted to them," she said. She handcrafts all the gnomes. The

See **CRAFTS** on Page 5

Holy Trinity church adds Pineapple Paradise treat

BY MARTA GOUGER
MGOUGER@TNONLINE.COM

The Holy Trinity Lutheran Church stand is known for its molasses tongue cookies, sweet mint tea and mini cheesecakes. Another star is about to be born in the form of a pineapple bread pudding.

Organizer Teri Delich said Pineapple Paradise is normally an Easter recipe so the church tried it for a spring fundraiser. Fifty pounds were sold to rave reviews.

"What I like, it's easy to make and can be served warm as a side to a sandwich or cold as a dessert with cinnamon and whipped cream."

Both versions will be



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church makes miniature cheesecakes with several toppings. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

available this weekend.

Volunteers started baking all their treats this week, making 500 dozen of the favorite molasses cookies. They're sold as

See **SWEET** on Page 5

Palmerton UVO selling veterans memorial T-shirts

BY JARRAD HEDES
JMHEDES@TNONLINE.COM

Visitors to the Palmerton United Veterans Organization tent at the Palmerton Community Festival will have an opportunity to purchase an item that hasn't been in production for over a decade.

Joe Uhnak, of the Palmerton UVO, said the group would be selling T-shirts with the Palmerton Area Veterans Memo-

rial on it.

"We haven't had T-shirts since the Memorial was put up in 2012," Uhnak said. "A lot of people asked us about that and said they would like to purchase it. We're going to have them at the festival this year."

The UVO's presence at the festival started around 2010 or 2011 when it was raising money to build the Memorial, which contains the names

of all those from Palmerton who served from the Civil War to present time.

"We've been at the festival ever since then," Uhnak said. "We're always there to talk to people in case they have any questions about the military, things of that nature."

Located along the park's path that leads to Franklin Avenue near the east end of the property, the tent also served

as a location where anyone interested in joining a veterans organization can do so.

"We also have 50-50 drawings and other items for sale," Uhnak said. "It helps support some of the things we do such as the large flag at the entrance to town. That usually runs us around \$1,200."

The UVO, per tradition, will also take part in Friday's festival opening ceremony.

SWEET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

single cookies, by half-dozen or a dozen. Delich always plans extra but they get gobbled up.

When she is around town people will stop her and say they forgot to buy cookies, or they want more. "They'll be gone by the end of the week," Delich said.

The best part of the cookies is the nostalgia. "Many people come back and say these are the cookies their grandma made," Delich said. "I hear new stories every year."

Then there's the sweet mint tea. No matter how much concentrate Delich makes, she needs more. "Mostly everybody in Palmerton has had a cup or two."

The church also sells miniature cheesecakes made with fresh ingredients and a graham cracker crust. Toppings include cherry, chocolate chip and sea salt caramel.

"Plain Jane" cheesecakes are available with no toppings.

CRAFTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

base is a Styrofoam cone, with felt made from recycled plastic bottles.

She hand-stitches the pieces using a blanket stitch with embroidery floss, then adds wooden balls for hands and wooden plugs for noses. Some have beards and others have braids.

"I'm so excited to have such a variety of talented individuals," said organizer Liz Campbell. Under her Lizzy Sue line, she will be displaying her dog bandannas, chapstick holders and stickers. She is adding landscape stickers the size of a bumper sticker, key fob holders, head bands and painted jute bags.

Other returning vendors include: Green Signs; Taking Deeper Roots with handcrafted home décor and gifts; Hella Good flannels; Down Home Met-



Kresge Kreations offers custom beaded pens and more.

al Designs; Lilly Bean Cottage, candles and soaps; and Donna Balliet, country home décor.

Others include Lyme Tree Designs, unique crafted jewelry; Deb Burdge, hair bows; Sincerely Sarah, nature inspired jewelry; Shane, caricature art; and 3rd St. Studio, 3D printed fidgets and sculptures.

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Concourse Club hosts annual art show

The Concourse Club of Palmer-ton will hold its annual art and photography show in conjunction with the Palmerton Festival at the Sacred Heart Church Hall, Third Street and Lafayette Avenue in Palmerton.

The show will be open on Satur-day from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sun-day from 1-4 p.m.

This year's show will have works in various categories includ-ing painting, drawing, photogra-phy, digital arts and mixed media.

"There is always a nice variety of artwork entered from both adults and students," said Art Show Chair Carol Curcio.

The entries will be judged for

prizes by local artists in their re-spective category and a "Best of Show" winner will be selected by a combined vote of the judges.

Prizes will be awarded on Sun-day afternoon at closing.

Visitors to the show will have the opportunity to select the "Peo-ple's Choice" winner by voting for their favorite piece of adult art in the show.

Each person will be allowed to vote one time, and a \$100 prize will be awarded to the artist who accu-mulates the most votes.

Additionally, this year the club is hosting an art sale for the Palmerton Area Library to raise

See **HOSTS** on Page 7



Door prizes at the Concourse Club annual art and photography show. LYNN SHUPP PHOTO

Lehigh Treats offers a burst of freeze-dried flavor



Freeze-dried candies.

BY MARTA GOUGER
MGOUGER@TNONLINE.COM

An unusual sweet treat is coming to the Palmer-ton festival craft tent.

Vaillette's Lehigh Treats of Slatington is a local producer of freeze dried candy.

"We actually make al-most 50 different candies, and usually have over 36 at any event," said David Vaillette, owner of the family business.

"With 13 flavors of Skiddles, 18 flavors of

Salt Water Taffy and con-ventional candies such as Charleston Chews, Jolly Ranchers, Peach Rings and more, there is quite a variety to choose from," he said.

Just a year old, the business has been at Car-bon County Fair, Wheels of Time and Nazareth Firemen's Carnival. In all, the business has 140 events on the schedule this year. The business has online sales as well.

See **OFFERS** on Page 7



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Take a piece of Palmerton history with you

Looking for a town souvenir? Visit the Palmerton Area Historical Society at the Palmerton Festival.

The society will have items such as ornaments, tumblers, sweat-shirts and T-shirts, a Palmerton throw, postcards, Palmerton plates and thermal bags for sale.

Buy for yourself or as gifts for someone.

In addition to those, for the serious Palmerton history people, there are books available. Just to name a few are the Silver and Golden Jubilee, Palmerton's First 50 years, 100 years, Sense of Touch Booklet and several others.

A mixture of miscellaneous items will be for sale as well.

Palmerton was founded in 1898 and incorporated in 1912. The historical society mission is to create awareness, appreciation, pride and respect for the people, architecture, culture and heritage of the Palmerton area.

Membership forms will be available at the festival. Sponsorship levels include individual, \$20; family, \$25; silver, \$50; gold, \$100; platinum, \$250; and diamond, \$500. People can also make a contribution to the endowment fund.

The group hosts speakers and programs throughout the year.



A coffee mug shows the bandshell in the park. LYNN SHUPP PHOTO

OFFERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Vaillette said the business developed from his hobby of canning and looking into another way to preserve food.

The difference between freeze dried candies and the originals is the texture.

"I describe the Skiddles as having the texture of Cocoa Puffs with an intense Skittle flavor. (Yes, I sell Skiddles, made from Skittles," Vaillette said.)

Salt Water Taffy is now dry and will dissolve in your mouth without chewing.

Gummy products, such as peach rings, become dry crunchy.

The biggest sellers are Original and Wild Berry Skiddles, Happy Ranchers and Peachy Rings.

The business also takes orders for custom party trays and baskets.

Check the website at www.LehighTreats.com or follow them on Facebook at Lehigh Treats.

HOSTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

funds for their operational costs.

Various art pieces owned by the library from renowned local artists will be available for purchase and/or for a silent auction bid.

There are two pieces by Mary Kocher, a Della Bit-

ner, a Helen Siska and two pieces by Rebecca Kerin as well as others.

Raffle tickets will be available for purchase at the show. Door prizes include a silk floral arrangement by Mary Anne Shaffer, a locally handmade quilt table runner, a basket of art supplies and a locally painted folk-art piece. Winners will be drawn on Sunday afternoon

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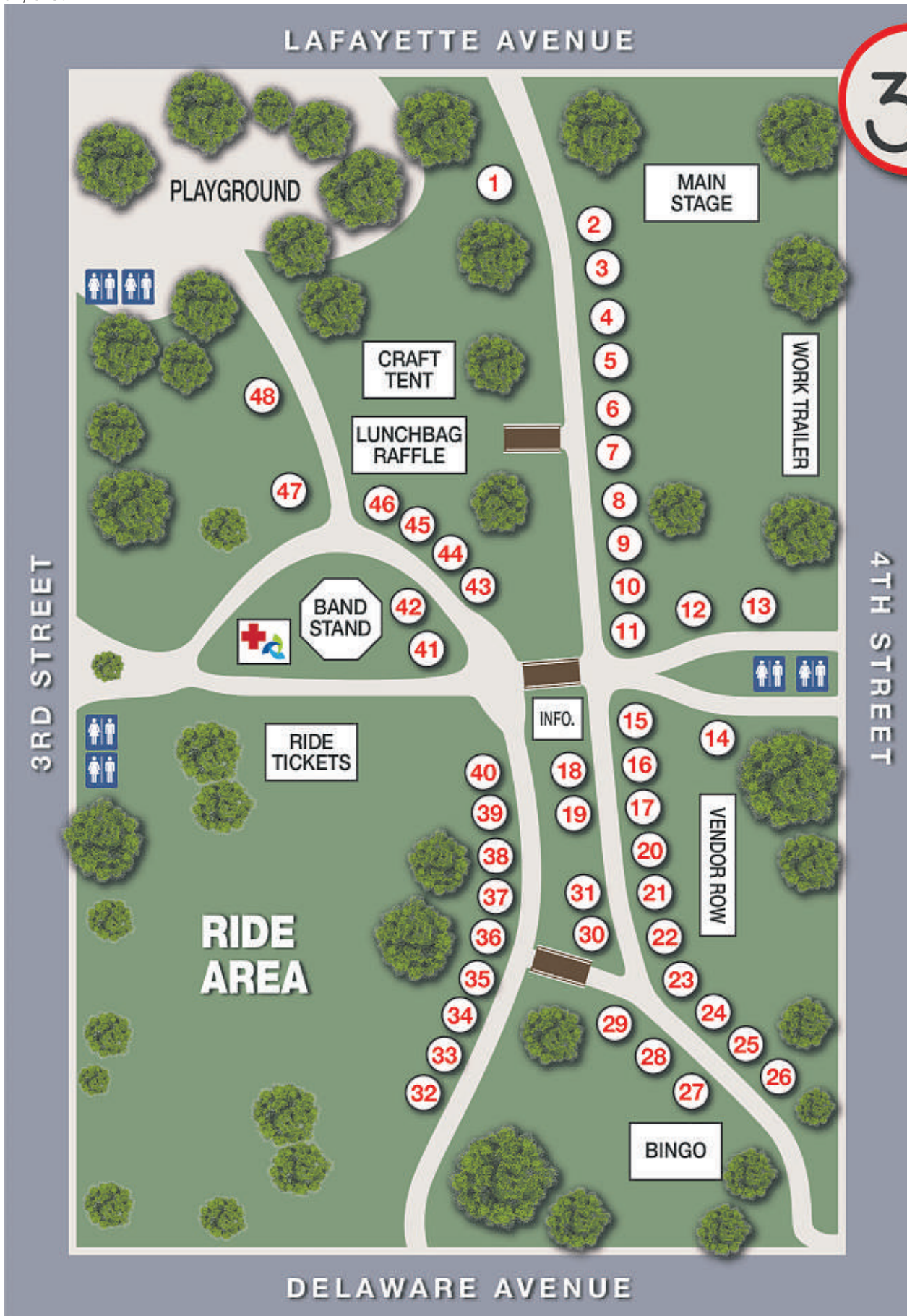
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- 6 Jerusalem UCC**
PA Dutch Filling, Happy Bowls, Chicken BBQ
- 7 HALO**
Gyros
- 8 Palmerton Lions Club**
Waffles & Ice Cream
- 9 Bowmanstown Parryville Lions**
Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Ham & Bean Soup, Meatball sandwiches
- 10 St John Neumann**
Shish-ka-bowls with Meat/Veggies over Rice
- 11 Palmerton Swim Team**
Milkshakes, Apple nachos, Kettlecorn
- 12 Elephant Ears**
Elephant Ears with Toppings
- 13 Nibor's Coffee**
Specialty Coffee
- 14 Palmerton Veterans**
Information, T-shirts
- 15 St Luke's Carbon Auxiliary**
Strawberry Shortcake with/without Whipped Cream
- 16 East Penn Fire Co.**
Tacos, Walking Tacos, Taco Salad
- 17 SS Palmer Parkside PTO**
Fruit Crepes, Apple Dumplings, Peach Dumplings
- 18 Bethany Wesleyan**
Games, Face Paint, Balloon
- 19 Befesa**
Information
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- 21 Dale's Concessions**
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- 22 St. Nicholas Church**
Potato Pancakes
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Molasses Cookies, Pineapple Paradise Mint Tea, Mini Cheesecakes
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Bloomin' Onions
- 33 Green's Dime Pitch**
Game
- 34 Gruber's Goldfish**
Game
- 35 Gruber's Crazy Ball**
Game
- 36 Gruber's Crane Machine**
Game
- 37 Raising the House**
Beef Brisket Sandwiches, Pulled Pork Sandwiches
- 38 Living Hope Lighthouse**
Hand-dipped Ice Cream, Frozen Bananas, Nut Cones
- 39 St. Vincent DePaul Society**
Empanadas
- 40 West End Saloon**
Pizza, Buffalo Wings/Shrimp, Pub Pretzels with Dipping Sauce
- 41 Large Fry, Inc.**
Batter-dipped Veggies
- 42 St. John's Lutheran Church**
Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Specialty Burgers
- 43 Large Fry, Inc.**
French Fries
- 44 Aw Shucks**
Corn on the Cob
- 45 St. John's UCC**
Candy wheel game
- 46 Pa. Department of Health**
Demonstration and information
- 47 Aquashicola Fire Co.**
Big Six Wheel
- 48 Zine City Motorcycle**
Game

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TimeWhys play classics from '60s and '70s

BY TERRY AHNER
TAHNER@TNONLINE.COM

They're all about capturing the essence of decades past and present.

TimeWhys returns for the second year and performs from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m. Friday at this year's Palmerton Community Festival.

"We had such a positive response last year that we were thrilled to be invited back," Tom Drago, lead vocalist/band leader, said. "We absolutely love the warm, welcoming atmosphere and the stunning backdrop of the Blue Mountain range and the Lehigh River.

"The energy of the festival is incredible, and there's always a great turnout of '60s and '70s music fans. The sound company does an excellent job as well, which makes performing there even more enjoyable."

The band plays music

from the 1960s and 1970s, with an occasional 1980s tune mixed in.

Some of the band's favorite songs to perform are those that highlight its harmonies, like "Tell Me Why" by The Beatles and the "Bee Gees Medley." Fans enjoy a David Bowie medley and a "Bubble gum Music Medley" featuring hits from The Partridge Family, Tommy Roe, The Archies and The Ohio Express.

"Our performance will be a vibrant mix of classic hits that showcase our harmonies, and bring a nostalgic vibe to the festival," Drago said.

What sets TimeWhys apart is not only their musical prowess but also their versatility as multi-instrumentalists. Leveraging cutting-edge technology, they summon the sounds of a full ensemble, delivering performances that resonate



TimeWhys is scheduled to perform from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m. Friday on the Main Stage at this year's Palmerton Community Festival. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

with depth and richness.

With a dedicated following of over 2,350 fans on Facebook, TimeWhys has cultivated a community of music enthusiasts who eagerly anticipate their next performance.

In May 2022, TimeWhys opened for the legendary 1960s act, The Cyrkle.

Playing as the house band for the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce annual meeting in 2022 underscored the ability to captivate diverse audiences with the band's timeless sound.

Visit www.timewhys.net or www.facebook.com/timewhys for upcoming performances.

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AM GOLD plays the hit from '70s, '80s

BY TERRY AHNER
TAHNER@TNONLINE.COM

They play adult-contemporary hit songs that have stood the test of time.

Take a trip back when AM GOLD Yacht Rock performs on the Main Stage from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Friday at this year's Palmerton Community Festival.

This will mark the first year for the band at the festival, according to Dan Wintersteen, band leader/drummer.

"We love performing," Wintersteen said. "Yacht rock, all the hits from 1975-1985."

Wintersteen said the band specializes in nostalgic, smooth sounds from the 1970s and 1980s, along with dancing.

The New York City-

based tribute band plays hits from Hall & Oates, Steely Dan, Huey Lewis, Christopher Cross, Lionel Richie and more.

Most of the Southern-California based music recently experienced a revival known to many as Yacht Rock.

AM GOLD formed when NYC drummer Wintersteen threw a Yacht Rock party with musician friends for his 30th birthday.

Yacht Rock was something that resonated with Wintersteen, as he grew up sailing with his father in Western New York and spent his high school years working at the local yacht club.

"One thing I always noticed was that there was always this adult contemporary pop and



AM GOLD Yacht Rock is scheduled to perform from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Friday on the Main Stage at this year's Palmerton Community Festival. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

jazz-rock music playing at the yacht club, so when I heard about Yacht Rock, I was immediately amused and inspired to do something fun with this," Wintersteen said.

He got some of his musician friends together and performed shows in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of New

York City.

The parties were a success and it was apparent there was demand for this kind of music.

Wintersteen joined forces with New York City singer/saxophonist Jonny Hirsch, also raised by a family of sailors, and launched AM GOLD Yacht Rock.

The Buzz does favorites from the '80s

BY TERRY AHNER
TAHNER@TNONLINE.COM

They're a high energy New Wave rock band based out of the Lehigh Valley that's certain to create some excitement.

Expect all that and more when The Buzz performs from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday on the Main Stage at this year's Palmerton Community

Festival.

Jan Kresge, band leader, noted this will represent the band's initial foray at the festival.

"Being that two of our members do live in Palmerton and one is from Lehigh, it is a thrill to be performing for our neighbors," Kresge

See **BUZZ** on Page 14



The Buzz is scheduled to perform from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday at this year's Palmerton Community Festival. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Steelworkers Polka Band making festival debut

BY TERRY AHNER

TAHNER@TNONLINE.COM

Ready to catch the fastest growing polka band in the nation?

Robbie Lawrence and The Steelworkers Polka Band is set to perform from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday at this year's Palmerton Community Festival

Rick Hasonich, drummer, said this will be the band's first time performing at the event, and added the members are "very excited to bring our show to the Palmerton community."

"Being this is our first time, we are excited to be a part of such an amazing, well-known festival," Hasonich said. "We have heard a lot about the great community of Palmerton, and hopefully we leave a lasting impression with them."

Hasonich said they typically play polkas, waltzes, oberek, and some traditional music sprinkled in.

He said the audience may also



Robbie Lawrence and The Steelworkers Polka Band is scheduled to perform from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday at this year's Palmerton Community Festival. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

hear the traditional polka tunes, "Roll Out The Barrel," "Edelweiss," and "The Chicken Dance," and added they bring new line dances with them too, such as the "Fliengerlied" or "Hande Zum Himmel" (which in English means "Hands to Heaven"), a German line dance that has caught on in the area.

Hasonich said their leader, Robbie, is also an accomplished yodeler, too, so they also play a few of those tunes, like "Mit Rukzek" and "De Kufsteiner Lied" to name two.

"We always say, polka music makes people happy; and happy people like to have fun," he said. "So, expect a lot of energy and great dancing and singalong songs."

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M80 Band brings upbeat music to stage

BY TERRY AHNER
TAHNER@TNONLINE.COM

They're a top tier regional touring retro cover band that performs the very best of the 1980s smash hits.

Prepare to come along for the ride when the M80 Band hits the Main Stage from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday at this year's Palmerton Community Festival.

This will mark the band's first-ever performance at the festival, said Bryan Harmony, lead vocalist.

"We were booked last year, but unfortunately the performance was rained out," Harmony said. "We are thrilled to have been asked back, and are looking forward

to an amazing night."

Harmony said the audience can expect selections from artists like Madonna, Toto, The Cars, Duran Duran, The B52's, Billy Idol, Bon Jovi, Def Leopard, and a list of hits that just goes on and on.

In addition to the 1980s hits, the band also plays select '70s and early '90s sprinkled in for a well-rounded performance the entire audience will enjoy.

"An M80 show will consist of a high-energy party vibe, well known singalong hits, audience engagement and nonstop medleys," he said. "The band is family-friendly, and we encourage dancing, toe tapping and taking your song requests."



The M80 Band is set to perform from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday on the Main Stage at this year's Palmerton Community Festival. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Harmony described the vibe of the festival.

"The Palmerton Community Festival is all about bringing the community together for a fun weekend of family, friends, food, rides and great music which we are honored to supply," he

said. The band is in its 19th year of music and plays regularly at casinos and resorts in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, as well as stints in Key West, Florida, two or three times a year.

South Penn Dixie plays country, rock

BY TERRY AHNER
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They alternate between country and rock songs.

Whatever genre of music they play, their fans can be rest assured it will be a real crowd pleaser.

South Penn Dixie is set to perform from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday on the Main Stage at this year's Palmerton Community Festival.

Ricky Bell, lead vocalist/guitarist, said the band has played at the festival for several years, and looks forward to returning again this year.

"Apart from the professional light and sound on that great stage, we really enjoy the people," Bell said. "We aim to connect with the crowd through music, and hope the attendees have as much fun as we do."

Besides Bell, the band

features Marc Bunn on guitar and vocals, who has played at New Jersey venues such as Club Bene, The Stone Pony and The Saint; Mark Bracken, on bass and vocals, who has opened for Eddie Money, America, Gary US Bonds, The Atlanta Rhythm Section, John Cafferty and the Beaver Brown Band, The Turtles and The Little River Band; and John Malachefski on drums, who played in Wilkes-Barre, a wedding and party band in the Poconos and eventually discovered country music.

Bell said the band plays a mix of modern country and country/rock classics, with some of the modern artists they focus on including Luke Combs, Keith Urban, Luke Bryan and Morgan Wallen.

Fans may also hear classics from Tim Mc-



South Penn Dixie is poised to perform from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday on the Main Stage at this year's Palmerton Community Festival. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Graw, Travis Tritt, Toby Keith, and more, Bell noted.

He added that recently, they've been adding South Penn Dixie original songs into their performances as they promote their upcoming debut album, which is set to be released on Sept. 25.

Bell described what the audience can expect from the band's performance.

"A good time with positive energy," he said. "A chance for people to

sit back, relax and enjoy their favorite country singalongs."

Bell added, "The festival is something we look forward to every year, and are grateful for the chance to perform."

The band got its start in 2020 with Bell and drummer Malachefski meeting each other through Craigslist.

They then found bassist Bracken and guitarist Bunn at an open mic night.

The Rehrig Bros. play country favorites

BY TERRY AHNER
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They belt out classic country hits from times of yore.

Get ready to listen to the sweet sounds of the timeless classics when The Rehrig Brothers perform from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday on the Main Stage at this year's Palmerton Community Festival.

Dave Rehrig said the show consists of songs from the '70s, '80s and '90s.

"We do classic country; we take people through memory lane, the years that country music was country music," Rehrig said. "The older crowd, they still like the classic country."

Rehrig said the band has a good time performing at the festival.

"It's an awesome festival; the whole town supports the festival," he said. "A lot of our followers and friends

will be there to support us."

That isn't all Rehrig said the band is looking forward to.

"They got all kind of food," he said. "That's right up my alley."

Rehrig said the band has been performing for 60 years.

The band has performed at a high level for five decades, and is comprised of twin brothers Dave Rehrig (lead vocals) and Dennis Rehrig (steel guitar), along with brother Dean Rehrig (keyboard).

Dave Rehrig said the band plays classic country songs by artists such as Alan Jackson, George Strait, Charley Pride, Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, Randy Travis, a little bit of Elvis, and also does a segment of Conway Twitty hits.

"The Rehrig Family" formed a band in 1963 with their father, Frank "Pop" Rehrig.



The Rehrig Brothers are scheduled to perform from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday on the Main Stage. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

After "Pop" Rehrig retired, the three sons changed the band name to Twitty Fever.

Dave Rehrig took a break from the band in 1989 and Dean and Dennis formed The Midnight Special Band. In 1995, the Twitty Fever band re-formed.

Dennis performs with The Midnight Special Band.

The brothers decided to get together again as The Rehrig Brothers to perform in between their other two bands. Dave Rehrig also does shows with his wife, Brenda, as the "Dave and Brenda Duo."

BUZZ

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

said.

Kresge is no stranger to the festival, however.

"What I enjoy most about the festival is the beautiful Palmerton Park," she said. "(And) bringing together the people of Palmerton and nearby communities for a weekend of fabulous food, friendship and great entertainment."

Kresge said the band plays some of the best 1980s songs along with dance music from bands such as The Pretenders, INXS, Joan Jett, Pat Benatar, Cheap Trick, AC/DC and more.

"What you can expect is that we will spark your interest, and we will be sure to keep your toes tapping and your feet moving on the dance floor," she said.

Palmerton Band playing favorite songs

BY TERRY AHNER
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The Palmerton Community Band is scheduled to perform from noon to 1:30 p.m. Saturday in the bandstand at this year's Palmerton Community Festival.

Director Joe Plechavy said the band will do some selections from the Au-

gust concert because they didn't have that concert.

Plechavy said the band will perform "Old Vienna," "Washington Post March," "How to Train Your Dragon," "Mary Poppins" and "Medley from Mulan."

"This year's performance will be partially directed by Mitchell Hourt," Plechavy said. "I'm hop-

ing that he's going to take over."

The tradition of concerts in the park dates back to 1911, when Stuart Prutzman became leader of the newly organized and incorporated band.

Plechavy said the band is always looking for more members, and that anyone interested may call 610-360-8343.

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CJ Solar brings Southern Rock to stage

BY TERRY AHNER
TAHNER@TNONLINE.COM

He's a country music singer-songwriter from straight out of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Prepare to be taken by storm when CJ Solar performs from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday on the Main Stage at this year's Palmerton Community Festival.

Solar, who is the lead singer/main artist, said he's looking forward to his performance.

"I heard that it's a good town, fun people," Solar said. "It's really just me and I've got a band that tours with me, we play my songs and play my stuff."

Solar said he plays country music with a Southern Rock influenced by Lynyrd Skynyrd, Creedence Clearwater Revival and the Allman Brothers Band, and added that the audience can expect "a

really high-energy show."

"We have some songs I've written that I've put out myself, we have some No. 1 songs that I've written for some other Nashville artists, and then some fun covers thrown in there, too," he said. "A little bit of something for everybody."

Solar said the main hit that he's written is called "Up Down" by Morgan Wallen.

"We want people to have a good time; we're just the high-energy fun songs, get a crowd just kind of not have to think about everything else going on in the world for the time that they're at our show," he said. "Relax, enjoy some music, and maybe do a little head-banging."

Solar moved to Nashville in 2010 right out of high school, and started playing with the drum-



CJ Solar is scheduled to perform from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday on the Main Stage at this year's Palmerton Community Festival. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

mer that's been with him, Nick Gibbens, and guitar player Stevie Campos (six years).

Since then, he's been writing songs in Nash-

ville touring, and has opened shows for Lynyrd Skynyrd, Hank Williams Jr. and Gary Allan, as well as many Nashville, country and classic acts.

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