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## Eclectic acts, old favorites, newcomers all part of 74th annual Sweetcorn Festival

As chairman of this year's National Sweetcorn Festival, like his predecessors, PJ Clingenpeel got to pick the theme of the event, *Shucking Open a New Door*, and the logo for the event, homage to the Cubs' 2016 World Series championship.

There's one more thing he'd like to rename: the activities at center stage during this year's festival.

"I want to rename it "Callie's Eclectic Collection," Clingenpeel said, chuckling about what fellow Jaycee Callie Lankford has in store. "There's all kinds of random stuff going on over there," he added.

New center stage acts begin Saturday with Julia Silver singing at 12:45, followed at 1:30 by Drums Alive. Registration will be at 2 p.m., for a joke-telling contest that begins at 2:30 in front of Center Stage. At 3:30, Hot Iron Sting Band will perform.

On Sunday, Lankford's selections include a Mr. Legs contest (registration at 12:30 p.m., contest at 1 p.m.), Hoopeston Area vocal ensemble at 1:30 p.m. and Doc Ashton and the Root Canals at 3 p.m.

The 80s will make a comeback at the noon Pigtail, Ponytail, Braid, Mullet and Mohawk contest (registration at 11:30 a.m.), followed at 12:30 by music by Willis Monroe Clayton.

Rounding out the day are a kids pie eating contest (registration at 1 p.m., eating at 1:30 p.m.) and Alex Jenkins and the Bomber music at 2 p.m.

The big entertainment draw this year is Saturday's Jo Dee Messina concert. Messina is scheduled to perform at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25.

Helicopter rides are a last-minute addition to this year's activities, Clingenpeel said. Rides will be given during daylight hours, roughly from noon-6 p.m., in the northeast corner of the park annex. A not-quite five minute ride will be \$20.

Fun family entertainment is scheduled for the local crowd that attends Thursday and Friday. A kiddy tractor pull is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday (registration starts at 5 p.m.) and the midway will feature a bracelet night ride special.

Bracelet specials will be held daily throughout the festival. Bracelets are \$20 each day.

The Jaycees hired a different rodeo company this year and moved the event to Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the annex.

Also on Friday, Rockin' Roy DJ will be in the beer garden from 10 p.m.-1 a.m., and for those who like to sing, a karaoke contest will begin at 11 p.m.

Another local, Nick Gonzalez, will be featured in Sun-

day entertainment when the band, Hurricane Creek, plays in the beer garden at 9 p.m.

This will be the second year of the new National Sweetheart Pageant, which does not feature runners-up from state pageants. Twenty-four girls are in this year's crop of beauties, Clingenpeel said, adding that since only one girl is chosen from each state, some girls had to be turned away as five or six had multiple applications.

This year's Saturday car show will use a different format than has been used and will be run by the Milford Car Club. Proceeds from the show will be donated to The Harbor, a teen youth center, he said.

On Sunday, the Jaycees will pay tribute to the man who was last year's grand marshal of the Grand Parade.

Mark Drollinger, Hoopeston's police chief, who died of oral cancer on July 6, will be honored with a Salute to the Chief at 2:30 p.m. State Rep. Tom Bennett is expected to attend, joined by other dignitaries.

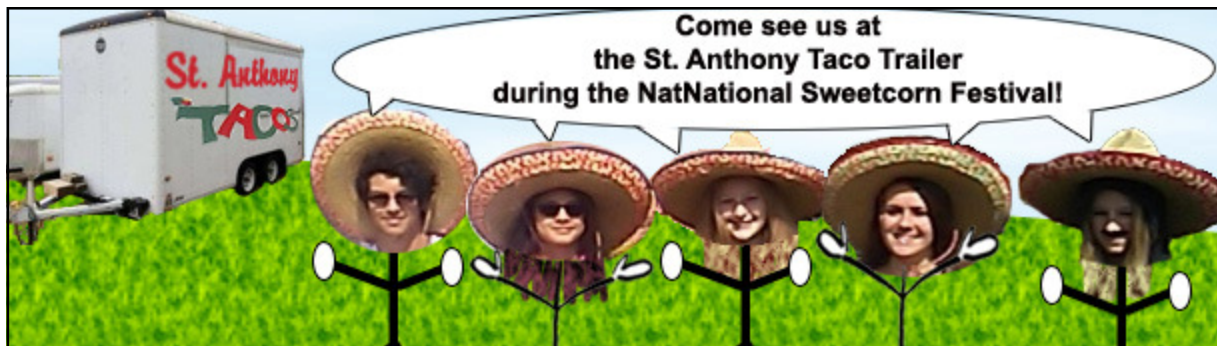
Admission to McFerren Park has not been raised in several years and remains at \$3 per person. Children seven and younger are admitted free.

The fee is a sticking point for some residents, but Clingenpeel said it helps the Jaycees fund many of their annual programs, like Underprivileged Children's Christmas, post-prom activities and the annual Easter egg hunt.

An added bonus, the Jaycees "share the wealth" with organizations that man the gates, giving them a percentage of the gate fee to use for their own programs.

This year's main gatekeepers will be the Star Lodge, Clingenpeel said. The Masonic lodge has taken on the task of finding other organizations to help man the gates during the festival.

Speaking of gates, the Jaycees have had large maps printed of the park that show the areas where activities



See FESTIVAL on other side

# THE NATIONAL SWEETCORN FESTIVAL 74TH CELEBRATION

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 31

5 p.m. Gates, Display Area, Midway, open  
 5-6 p.m. Kiddy Tractor Pull Registration (Annex)  
 5-10 p.m. Ride Special - Bracelet  
 6:30 p.m. Kiddy Tractor Pull (Annex)  
 Beer Garden opens (Annex)  
 11 p.m. Midway, Beer Garden close

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

5 p.m. Gates, Display Area, Midway open  
 5-10 p.m. Ride Special - Bracelet  
 7:30 p.m. Pro Rodeo (Annex)  
 Beer Garden opens (Annex)  
 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Rockin' Roy DJ (Beer Garden)  
 11 p.m. Karaoke Contest (Beer Garden)  
 1 a.m. Beer Garden closes

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

6 a.m. Flea Market opens  
 7:30 a.m. 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk (Honeywell School)  
 8-1 p.m. Car Show registration (SE McFerren Park)  
 8 a.m. Bill Orr Memorial 5 K (Honeywell School)  
 8:45 a.m. Little Corn Eaters Run (Honeywell School)  
 9 a.m. Gates Open  
 10:30 a.m. Grand Parade (Downtown Hoopeston)  
 12 p.m. Midway, Display Area open  
 Ride Special - Bracelet all day  
 12-5 p.m. HA FFA Petting Zoo  
 12:45-1:15 p.m. Julia Silver Music (Center Stage)  
 1:30-2 p.m. Drums Alive Hoopeston (Center Stage)  
**1:30-5 p.m. FREE SWEETCORN**  
 2-2:30 p.m. Joke Telling Contest registration (front of Center Stage)  
 2-3 p.m. Tammy's Dance Arts Center (Center Stage)  
 2:30 p.m. Joke Telling Contest (in front of Center Stage)  
 3 p.m. Car Show Awards presented  
 3:30-5 p.m. Hot Iron String Band (Center Stage)  
 6:30 p.m. National Sweetheart Pageant Preliminary (CC)  
 7 p.m. Beer Garden opens (Annex)  
 7:30 p.m. Jo Dee Messina concert (Annex)  
 11 p.m.-1 a.m. Forgotten Highway (Beer Garden)  
 11 p.m. Midway Closes  
 1 a.m. Beer Garden closes

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

8 a.m. Flea Market opens  
 9 a.m. Gates Open  
 11 a.m. Children's Fishing Derby signup (Crabtree Shelter)



12 p.m. Midway, Display Area open  
 Ride Special - Bracelet all day  
 Children's Fishing Derby  
 12-1 p.m. Steven Hill Music (Center Stage)  
 12-1:30 p.m. Sweetheart Autograph Session (CC)  
**12-4 p.m. FREE SWEETCORN**  
 12-5 p.m. HA FFA Petting Zoo  
 12:30-1 p.m. Mr. Legs Contest

registration (by Center Stage)  
 1 p.m. Mr. Legs Contest (Center Stage)  
 1:30-2 p.m. HAHS Vocal Ensemble (Center Stage)  
 2:30 p.m. Tribute to the Chief  
 3-5 p.m. Doc Ashton and the Root Canals (Center Stage)  
 5 p.m. Demo Derby (Annex)  
 •Lawn Mowers & Power Wheels 4:30 p.m.  
 •Main Feature 7 p.m.  
 Beer Garden opens (Annex)  
 6:30 p.m. National Sweetheart Pageant Finals (CC)  
 9 p.m. Pageant Reception (CC)  
 9 p.m.-12 a.m. Hurricane Creek Band (Beer Garden)  
 10 p.m. Midway closes  
 12 a.m. Beer Garden closes

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

8 a.m. Flea Market Opens  
 9 a.m. Gates Open, Display Area Opens  
 9-9:45 a.m. Cream of the Crop Pretty Baby, Twins, Triplets & More Contest registrations (CC)  
 10 a.m. Cream of the Crop Pretty Baby Contest, Twins, Triplets & More contest (CC)  
 11:30 a.m.-Noon Pigtail, Ponytail, Braid, Mullet and Mohawk Contest registration (by Center Stage)  
 12 p.m. Midway opens  
 Ride Special - Bracelet all day  
 Pigtail, Ponytail, Braid, Mullet and Mohawk Contest  
**12-4 p.m. FREE SWEETCORN**  
 HA FFA Petting Zoo  
 12:30-1:30 p.m. Willis Monroe Clayton Music (Center Stage)  
 1-1:30 p.m. Kids' Pie Eating Contest registration (by Center Stage)  
 1:30 p.m. Kids Pie Eating Contest (Center Stage)  
 2-4 p.m. Alex Jenkins & the Bombers (Center Stage)  
 9 p.m. Midway closes

### Gate Fee \$3 per day - 7 & younger FREE

Please bring your own chair to sit at the Center Stage  
 HOOPESTON JAYCEES HAVE THE RIGHT TO ALTER THIS SCHEDULE

## From the Blotter

**George Eleopoulos**, 51, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 2:11 a.m. Tuesday to the 400 block of East Honeywell for a domestic disturbance. Wanted on a Cook County warrant, he was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await extradition.

**No tickets or injuries** were reported in an accident at 3:36 p.m. Tuesday in the 100 block of East Orange. Theresa Saldana, 27, of Hoopeston, in a 2003 Pontiac, and Gretchen Warren, 56, of Georgetown, in a 2010 Chevrolet, were westbound when Saldana struck the rear of Warren's vehicle.

**Thad A Finnell**, 24, of Hoopeston, was arrested after

police received a complaint of a reckless driver at 9:17 a.m. Tuesday. He was charged with reckless driving and operating an uninsured vehicle and was released on notices to appear in Vermilion County traffic court.

## Festival continued from other side

are held. Maps will be available at each of the gates.

As Clingenpeel goes down the checklist, he realizes he's just about ready for this festival to begin. Going back to the slogan and logo, "I got to do the cool stuff," he said, then giving recognition to the chairman of the various parts of festival, like the parade, the pageant, vendors and others.

"The hard stuff is done by the same people year after year," he said. "That's what makes the chairman's job easier. Things automatically get done."

The National Sweetcorn Festival opens Thursday and runs through Monday at McFerren Park.

## Weather

Mostly sunny, slight chance of thunderstorms today. High 77. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 53. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 71, low 51.

## Classifieds

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**CISSNA PARK:** Clean and quiet 2BR/1Bath for rent. /Fridge furnished. Washer/Dryer hookup. Available Now. Rent \$425 plus utilities and deposit. References required. Mike 312-371-8585

### HELP WANTED

**NAPA Hoopeston** is looking for a full time Counter/ Delivery person. Responsible person is very knowledgeable of automotive and truck parts. Must be able to answer phones and wait on customers. Must have very good knowledge of computers. Must do daily and monthly paperwork. Must be capable of doing all activities that the store manager would do in case of their absence. ASE certified counter person preferred but not required. Pick up a application at NAPA 226 E Main St. Hoopeston.

**Pizza King** taking applications for lunch and evening help. Apply in person 111 E. Main, Hoopeston.

### HOUSES FOR SALE

Property for Sale in Hoopeston: 3 bedrooms, 4 full baths, finished basement, large Great Room, heated in ground pool and much more. Large barn with great rental income. More information at [www.1111eastthompson.com](http://www.1111eastthompson.com) or call 217-304-6547. Asking Price, \$349,000

**Hoopeston:** 2 story 4 BR, 1 1/2 bath, 1 car detached garage, Pool, storage shed, on Main Street. Front and back porch, full attic, basement. Asking \$98,000. Call Teresa at 217-474-9527

for more information. Leave message.

**Hoopeston:** 4 bedroom, 1 1/2 baths, 1 car detached garage. Large rooms, newer roof, great neighborhood close to Maple School. Asking \$40,000. Call 217-304-6547 for more information.

### RUMMAGE SALES

**HOOPESTON:** 531 E. Thompson. Fri. & Sat., 8-1. Tools, toys, tables, suitcases, lamps, linens, collectibles, antiques.

**HOOPESTON:** 710 W. Main. Thurs & Fri., 8-1. Multi family sale. Furniture, books, household items, TONS of baby clothes, baby shoes, baby accessories, girls, women's men's clothes & more!

**HOOPESTON:** 631 Trego Dr. Thurs. 3-7, Fri. 8-5. Boys & girls, men and women, household, holiday decorations, misc.

**HOOPESTON:** Corner Rt. 1 and W. Honeywell. Fri. & Sat., 8-? Handkerchief red, white and blue tablecloths, clothes, craft items, homemade candles and jewelry, 2 pack & play pens and netting, Bouncy Seat, learning walker and many other baby items.

**HOOPESTON:** 625 S. Fourth St. 89 years' accumulation Estate Sale! Fri, 8-5, Sat., 8-3. Unique items: furniture, antiques, Hoopeston memorabilia, collectibles, vintage hunting/fishing calendars, sewing supplies, vintage bike, household items & much more!