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Sternwheel Riverfest offers fun for everyone

by Charlene Hoeflich

POMEROY — “Rally by the River” is the theme of the 2009 Sternwheel Riverfest to be held on the banks of the Ohio River at Pomeroy starting 6 p.m. Thursday and continuing until midnight on Saturday.

The scene will be one of numerous sternwheelers docked at the levee, entertainers taking the amphitheater stage to share their talent with festival-goers, a parade down Main Street, contests galore, cruises and more.

The festival kicks off. on Thursday with opening ceremonies by Drew Webster Post 39, American Legion, on the downtown Pomeroy parking lot. It will be followed by the traditional parade of fire equipment — engines, tankers, rescue units, ladder trucks and boats, not only today’s modern style, but yesterday’s favorites, some restored, others not.

Again this year Howard Mullen is chairman of the parade which will line up on near the Pomeroy football field at 6 p.m. and move out and into downtown at 6:30 p.m. As in previous years, all fire departments in the area are invited to participate and no advance registration is required.

The first public cruise on The Ruble, sponsored by the Ladies of the Meigs County Republican Party, will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. and there will be entertainment in the amphitheater by “Still Standing” from 7 to 10 p.m.

On Friday, the craft and food vendors on the parking lot will be open for business from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Kicking off the afternoon will be music by the Meigs Marauder Band at 2 p.m. Other entertainment in the amphitheater will be “Southern Accent,” “Simba” and “One Knight Stand.” There will four afternoon and evening cruises.

Featured on Saturday will be a variety of activities, entertainment and contests. The chili cookoff will begin at 8 a.m., the line throwing contest will be held at 11 a.m., the corn hole tournament at 3 p.m., and the men’s sexy leg contest at 7 p.m.

There will be plenty of activities for the kids including a sidewalk chalk drawing contest to be held from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday. Several inflatables will be in place including a bounce house and a slide. Use of the inflatables will be free on Thursday night and Saturday morning but the rest of the time there will be a charge.

Entertainment on Saturday will be provided by Insured Sound at 8 p.m. and Paul Doeffinger at 10:30 p.m. There will be two cruises one a 4 p.m. and a second at 5:30 p.m. along with a fireworks cruise at 8 p.m. The fireworks will take place at 9 p.m.

The duck derby sponsored by the Pomeroy Merchants Association will begin at 4 p.m. as will a program on alcohol and drugs geared to kids sponsored by the Health Recovery Services. From 7 to 10 there will be a teen dance on the lower parking lot with D.J. Rockin' Reggie.