

Run for the Roses is 2014 MMHF Legacy Event theme

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Run for the Roses, a Kentucky Derby type theme, has been announced for the 2014 Melissa Memorial Hospital Foundation Legacy Event.

This fourth annual event has been moved to April this year, a change from the printed community calendar.

Run for the Roses will be staged Saturday, April 5 at the Phillips County Event Center. Organizers indicate this is possible because Partners in Education gave up their April 4 carnival at the Event Center and postponed it to Friday, April 11.

“Run for the Roses” is actually a song on the album “The Innocent Age,” written and recorded by singer/songwriter Dan Fogelberg in 1981. It was released as a single the next year and peaked at No. 18 on the Billboard Hot 100.

Since that time, it has been used as an unofficial theme for the Kentucky Derby. According to Wikipedia, the song alludes to “the chance of a lifetime, in a lifetime of chance,” describing the experience of horse racing and life itself.

Building on the success of the past years’ Mardi Gras theme, Western Splendor and Roaring ’20s, the Legacy Event committee anticipates another fun evening of support for the local hospital.

Horse racing will be part of the fun. For full details on how this will happen, individuals and businesses are encouraged to reserve tables for the annual fundraiser.

The Legacy Event has become the MMH Foundation’s major fundraiser of the year. Instead of hosting multiple smaller events, the Foundation has rolled all into one evening of food, fun and good times.

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Funds from the 2014 event are tentatively set to go toward the Grow Our Own Physician initiative, hospital equipment and the Foundation scholarship fund.

All funds raised by the Foundation are for the benefit of Melissa Memorial Hospital.

Each year, more people dress the part of the Legacy Event's designated theme, adding to the evening's fun.

Co-chairs Steve and Kim Young encourage attendees to use their imagination in dressing for the Kentucky Derby. Hats seem to fit the bill for either men or women. Either vintage or modern Kentucky Derby attire are options, and some might consider dressing as jockeys.

Those who don't care to dress in costume should don their formal attire and join the festivities.

The evening will begin with a social and will include horse races, dinner, a live auction, silent auction and dancing to music by a disc jockey.

A raffle for a trip for two, from three destination choices, was such a success for the last two years' Legacy Events, that organizers are planning a similar raffle again this year.

One lucky person and their guest will win a trip, including a three-night stay and airfare.

This year's three trip choices include:

—Churchill Downs VIP Experience with a private jockey club suite, race named in one's honor, trophy presentation and stay at the Hyatt Regency in Louisville, Ky.

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—New York Amazing Long Weekend, with choice of a Broadway show, dinner at Tribeca Grill and stay at Hilton New York Hotel.

—Cosmopolitan Las Vegas VIP, with VIP seating at one's choice of a top Vegas show, and stay at The Cosmopolitan.

One of the live auction items this year is a Fairmont Hotel trip with some fantastic destination options for the highest bidder.

As folks arrive at the Legacy Event April 5, a photographer will be on hand to snap photos for those wanting to remember their Run for the Roses night.

Success of the annual Legacy Event keeps building, and tables of eight are being sold.

Anyone wishing to assist with the Legacy Event or to purchase tickets can contact Steve Young at 970-466-2133, Kim Young at 970-520-4876, MMHF executive director Jessica Johnson at 970-854-5341 or any committee member: Linda Alberts, Erica Ayoub, Ardie Besse, Kayla Kafka, Brenda Brandt or John Ayoub.

Holyoke Enterprise January 16, 2014