

Family fun planned for July 4

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Teaming up to provide an afternoon and evening full of Independence Day activities and family fun are the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce, City of Holyoke and 4-H council. Among other events, the Chamber will be hosting its sixth annual Consumers and Producers Appreciation Day at Homesteaders Park from 3-7 p.m.

Activities kick off at 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 4 with free swimming available at Holyoke Swim Pool. Due to overcrowding at last year's free swim, the City of Holyoke is emphasizing that children under 8 years old must be accompanied by an adult 18 years or older. Also, the pool will only be open for two hours, from 1-3 p.m., instead of four.

After drying off, head over to Homesteaders' Park to watch the lighting of the grills in the Chamber of Commerce sponsored steak grill-off. Community members will be showing off their grilling skills, and everyone is encouraged to purchase a steak dinner to see for themselves who the best cook is.

Participating in the steak grill-off this year are the Dan Denbo Family, Lance Williams, Matt Winterrowd and Russell Adels. The rib eyes will be served at 4 p.m. and judges will evaluate the steaks at 5 p.m. with awards to follow.

First place will be determined based on appearance, degree of doneness, tenderness and taste. The traveling trophy will be passed on to this year's winner and Holyoke scrip will be the prize for subsequent places.

Competing in their own hot dog cookoff at the Park on Saturday afternoon will be Jorge Bencomo and Casey Blake. The hot dogs, as well as watermelon, will also be sold.

Alternate site for the dinner, in the case of inclement weather, is the Peerless Center gym.

While waiting for the steaks to cook, kids can work up an appetite by enjoying the bouncer and participating in the kids games that will be offered by the 4-H council from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

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Sponsoring the prizes for the kids games is Holyoke Community Federal Credit Union.

Having enjoyed a steak dinner, be sure to waddle over to the grandstands to take in the stock car races. These will include IMCA BST modified series, street stocks and hobby stocks, starting at 6 p.m.

In traditional Fourth of July spirit, the Holyoke Volunteer Fire Dept. will be shooting off fireworks for the community to enjoy. However, the show will take place in a different location from last year, with the firefighters shooting them off in the fields south of City Park when it gets dark.