

DORCHESTER DAYS TURNS 50

With Dorchester Days will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this summer, June 12-15, organizers are going big in 2008 to make it a memorable event.

For the past 50 years Dorchester Days has funded local organizations such as the fire department, EMS, Lions Club, Lioness Club, VFW, Legion Auxiliary and Dorchester's beautiful park.

"This year the Dorchester Days committee has decided to go 'all out' and really give back to the community with top-notch entertainers from all over the country and the always popular National Tractor Pulling Association (NTPA)," said Dorchester Days president Jared Younker.

New additions to this year's celebration include fireworks Saturday night and a parade on Sunday morning, as well as expanding the festival to four days of fun.

"We really want to emphasize the entertainers, NTPA, fireworks and parade," Younker said. "We feel these events will be our biggest attractions."

Food stands and the beer tent will be open daily at the Dorchester Days grounds. In addition, there will be a "Happy Hour" each night with free half barrels until gone starting at 6 p.m.

The Dorchester Days softball tournament will take place Friday-Sunday at the Dorchester Park. More information on how to enter your team is available on page 18.

Thursday

Dorchester Days kicks off a day early this year with the Badger State Dirt Flingers breaking in the pulling track at 6 p.m. Fire department water fights are also tentatively planned that evening, Younker said.

"50-cent tickets" will be the special of the night on the grounds. Local DJ favorite Sound Storm will provide music for a street dance that evening starting at 8 p.m.

Friday

The Loyal Mini Rods will take to the track at 6 p.m. The carnival will feature wristband



CHAMPIONSHIP PULL- The Wisconsin State Championship Tractor Pull will be held Sunday, June 15, in conjunction with Dorchester Days.

specials from 6-10 p.m.

National performer Jackie Lawson and the Hillbilly Rockstars will take the stage at 6 p.m.

"If I was to sum up my music, I'd say it's one crazy blonde with a high-energy rock show dumped in a country bucket," said Lawson, a Charleston, Ill., native. She has opened for well-known performers such as Sugarland, Josh Gracin and Craig Morgan.

Performing at 8 p.m. is Hoosier Highway, one of the Midwest's most dynamic live performance bands. The band plays a wide variety of country music, from top-40 to classic, as well as their own original songs.

Saturday

Pulling action begins at noon with the Central Wisconsin Truck Pullers Association. At 7 p.m. the NTPA takes the track with light super stock, heavy super stock, limited pro stock and mini-rods. Fireworks will be shot off immediately following the evening pulls.

For those with a competitive nature, a horseshoe tournament starts at noon, and a beer pong tournament will be held at 3 p.m.

In the carnival, a "1 less ticket" special will be held from 1-5 p.m.

Phil Vaught will perform at 4 p.m. on the main stage, followed by country group Scarecrow at 8 p.m. Playing on the national country circuit, Scarecrow has been winning over fans and sponsors with their diverse and energetic live shows.

Sunday

The final day of Dorchester Days begins at noon with a parade down Center Avenue. A charcoal chicken dinner begins serving at 10:30 a.m.

The official Wisconsin State Championship Tractor Pull begins following the parade, about 1 p.m. Also after the parade is The Chmielewskis. Although the band's forte is polkas and waltzes, they also excel in country and music of the 50's and 60's.

The car and antique tractor show opens following the parade as well, and a wristband special in the carnival will go from 1-3 p.m. Sound Storm returns to help wrap up the weekend starting at 3 p.m.



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