

Tenth annual event on July 4 holiday includes water, food, fun, prizes

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Many of the familiar, fun and free events featured in previous years at the Helen Fanning Memorial IVFD Fun Day will return for next Thursday's July 4 event.

This year marks the 10th annual Fun Day, held in memory of Helen Fanning, who gave generously to the Imperial Volunteer Fire Department and other emergency responders.

It replaces the Fireman's Ball dance the IVFD used to sponsor. The Fun Day is designed to include the whole family, said chairman Craig Loeffler, and a way for the department to say thank-you to area residents for their support throughout the year.

In addition to fun and familiar events such as the water fights, free food and IVFD demonstrations, the department will be accepting donations for one of their own.

This year, a fireman's boot will be out for donations earmarked for the Bruce Wheeler family of Imperial. Parents Bruce and Sherri Wheeler are in Aurora, Colo., with son Travis who is receiving treatments at Children's Hospital for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL).

The firemen will match donations up to \$1,000 made next Thursday at the Fun Day, all of which will be given to the family.

Travis' dad, Bruce, is a retired IVFD member and had served 20 years. Fire Chief Nick Schultz said Wheeler was a very active member of the IVFD and retired a few years ago to spend more time with his family.

Fun Day events many

The Fun Day will run from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Wellington football field.

The water fights for teams of three, 12 and older, get underway right away at 1 p.m. Bunker gear will be provided for teams.

Also starting at 1 p.m. is a rope tug-of-war contest for teams of four, age 12 and older.

Winning teams in both events will earn Chamber Bucks.

At 2 and 3 p.m., the Jaws of Life and rope rescue demonstrations begin there on the grounds.

Those attending will also have the chance all afternoon to view the IVFD and Imperial EMS equipment set up on site.

Kids will have the chance to stay cool in a play area, and also keep IVFD members and other volunteers out of the heat at the dunk tank.

T-shirts will be given away throughout the day, and music provided for the afternoon by Night Sounds Entertainment by Jason Kimble.

Hot dogs, watermelon and water will be served all day.

Mud volleyball continues

As part of the Fun Day, the Imperial FFA is sponsoring its annual mud volleyball tournament once again in the northeast part of the football field.

Advisor Jason Speck said a maximum of 16 four-person teams (two men, two women) will compete in the single elimination tournament, in which the top three finishing teams will win Chamber Bucks.

Registrations are now being taken by calling Speck at 882-5526 or 882-6943, or Advisor Jeremy Vlasin at 882-1511. Sign-up continues at 12 noon the day of the tournament. Play starts

at 1 p.m.

Last year, teams flocked to the volleyball tournament as temperatures soared into the 90s. The playing surface has a sand base with water on top.

Fireworks show July 3

The IVFD will provide the manpower for the annual city fireworks display on Wednesday, July 3, starting about 9:15 p.m. at the fairgrounds.

The show is presented with funding from the city of Imperial and individual donations.

The goal of raising \$5,000 in donations still needs some additional support from the public. As of Wednesday, about \$900 had been donated.

Donations toward the show are being accepted at the city office or Imperial Republican office.

Parking for the fireworks show is available on the north and south sides of the fairgrounds.