

Three hours of family fun planned for Saturday

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Announcement was made this week that the annual Imperial Volunteer Fire Department's Fun Day will be at a new location.

This Saturday's July 4 event will be held at the Wellington Street football field, according to members of the IVFD planning committee.

The IVFD opted to move it from the fairgrounds after a Chase County Fair Board vote June 18 to charge the fire department \$1,000 to rent the fairgrounds this year.

Imperial FFA Advisor Jason Speck said they are debating whether to switch their volleyball tournament to a sand surface instead of mud. They were not certain on the location for the tournament yet.

Only 16 teams will be registered for the tournament. Speck is signing up teams now, or teams can sign up beginning at 12 noon Saturday. The tourney starts at 1 p.m.

Speck said to look for him and fellow Advisor Jeremy Vlasin at the football field with a large sign to register.

According to statements from both fair board and IVFD members, arrangements have already been made to return the Fun Day to the fairgrounds in 2010.

Hours of fun Saturday

Water fights, dunk tank fun, a kids' play area and a free hot dog feed all start at 1 p.m. Saturday at the football field.

Activities continue throughout the afternoon, until 4 p.m., with Jaws of Life and rope rescue demonstrations, tours of fire-related equipment and a dance team performance.

The Imperial EMS will also have tours of its equipment on site that day.

Free T-shirts will be given away. The hot dog feed will be served from 1 to 4 p.m.

There is no charge for the Fun Day activities.

The IVFD uses money from its Helen Fanning Fund for this annual event as a way to thank the community for its support. The department spends about \$4,000 each year for this 4th of July family event.

The IVFD also provides the Chamber Bucks awarded to the winners of the FFA volleyball tournament.

Fireworks show July 3

Area residents are reminded the fireworks show will be Friday night, July 3, starting about 9:15 p.m. at the fairgrounds.

Having the show a day ahead of the holiday frees up the firemen to be available for the Fun Day activities and also allows for a rain date if needed.

Russ Pankonin said the \$4,000 fund drive to help support the fireworks show hasn't reached halfway yet. This week, the donations have reached about \$1,700.

Donations to the drive can be left at the city office or The Imperial Republican office.