

Insider

For June 17, 2009

By Kim Burger

We've all been recounting the horrendous experiences of last summer's storms and flooding over the last couple of weeks and I can't help but do the same regarding the Sturgis Falls Celebration and Cedar Basin Jazz Festival. Last summer organizers of both events reluctantly resigned themselves to the fact that drastically scaled back events were in the best interest of all concerned, but this is a new year and they are more than ready to be back at full capacity next week, serving up the kind of quality community celebrations we've come to expect – and frankly, what we deserve!

The Cedar Basin Jazz Festival will welcome Blue Street Jazz Band and Rasin Babies Jazz Band from Fresno, California; Igor's Jazz Cowboys from Tempe, Arizona; West End Jazz Band from Chicago; Ballyhoo Foxtrot Orchestra from Des Moines; and of course, the Saints Dixieland Jazz Band from Cedar Falls to the stage on The Green in Sturgis Park by the Ice House Museum. Performances will also take place at the Holiday Inn in Cedar Falls and at Bourbon Street Restaurant.

All the bands except the West End Jazz Band were scheduled to appear last summer, and due to the stellar reputation the Jazz Festival's board has cultivated with these entertainers, they returned deposits from last year and rebooked appearances for this year. The same can be said for the outstanding support the Festival receives from local sponsors like Dan Deery Toyota. Other loyal and very much appreciated major sponsors include 1st Insurance Services, Bourbon Street, Signs and Designs, Humble Travel and many others. After limiting the Dixieland offerings to a mere few hours each day, the Jazz Festival board is pleased to be back in their park and gearing up for a great weekend beginning Friday, June 26th and ending Sunday, June 28th.

Organizers of the Sturgis Falls Celebration feel the same way and plan to be "Dancin' in the Streets as well! Highlights include the Quantico Marine Band who will perform at Overman Park on Saturday evening. This is a different group than we've had in the past, although many of the band members are the same. The band has traditionally played in the parade as well and will not be able to do so this year. Hosting the Marine Band is a very big deal that many communities are unable to pull off, but the extra efforts on the part of Jay Stoddard, sponsorships from the Mudd Group and Lincoln Savings Bank, and hospitality offered by Brad DeHoff and many others, have made it possible them to be here. Given the current circumstances of our county, we are extremely pleased to welcome them for the time they are able to spend with us.

An exciting and professional new stage will grace Tourist Park and Confederate Railroad will give it a test ride on Friday night. The location of Friday's Fireman's Dance and Saturday's Third Annual Car Show and 50's and 60's dance, which is a free Buddy Holly Tribute performed by Ricky Lee, has been changed to Gateway Park due to the condition of the Boat House in Island Park.

Complete schedules for both events can be picked up at a variety of locations around town including the Visitor Center, or can be downloaded from www.cedarbasinjazz.org or www.sturgisfalls.org. We hope you'll plan to spend the entire weekend of June 26th through the 28th with us in the parks!