



Thursday, September 5, 2024

Arts Board Pufferbilly Days Events Includes BBQ Cook Off, Scavenger Hunt

With preparations for this year's Pufferbilly Days in full swing, the city's Arts Advisory Board, has added a Barbeque Cook Off competition and a citywide scavenger hunt to the lineup for festivities as part of Art in the Park, chairperson Holly Heartso said.

"Both events are going to add to the fun and excitement of Pufferbilly Days' traditional events. We're so happy for all the support that Art in the Park has received from sponsors, vendors and volunteers," Heartso said. "Board members could not be happier with the way things are going as we lead up the big weekend."

The board has taken on responsibilities – such as recruiting vendors and food trucks – from the Boone Chamber of Commerce for this year's Art in the Park at McHose Park as part of the Pufferbilly Days festivities, which run from Friday, Sept. 20, to Sunday, Sept 22.

Heartso noted the board exceeded its goal of securing 45 vendors for the event. "We ended up with 52 vendors, plus four food vendors – Pho Wheels & Sushi, The Outside Scoop, Jeff E Pop and Sweet & Savory," she said. "We're also excited that the community mosaic will be available all day for folks to paint a tile and make their mark. And Art in the Park will feature from The Boone Jazz Trio and Drew Demery and Friends."

The citywide scavenger hunt will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 20 and run until 1:00 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 22. Throughout Pufferbilly Days weekend, participants can work solo or in groups to follow clues to different sites around the city. Printed scavenger hunt sheets will be available at local businesses.

"At each site, there will be an artsy photo op where they can take a selfie and post it to this Facebook event page for posting. Each photo equals one raffle entry, and the raffle will take place once the event is over," Heartso said. "The more sites a participant or group visits, the more entries they'll get into the raffle."

Raffle prizes have been donated by local businesses, including the Boone Theater, Lavender Basket, Ema's Elegance, Soda & Pop's, the Boone Community Theatre, and others.

The Boone Arts Advisory Board BBQ Cook Off at Art in the Park, which will take place from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22, is sponsored by the Iowa Pork Producers Association and Stecker Concrete. Judging will follow the Kansas City Barbeque Society criteria and the decisions of the panel of five local judges will be final. Registration forms are available at <https://forms.gle/oeBdX9uJSKeac6SY6>.

Rules for the event state that all meat categories may be prepped outside of the competition but must be cooked on site on the event day. No boiled or fried meats will be accepted. All Pufferbilly Days Backyard BBQ Cook-off contestants are responsible for observing accepted and prudent temperature and sanitary requirements. Contestants can't sell samples to the general public.

Cash prizes will be \$250 for the grand champion; \$150 for first place and \$50 for second place in each category. For the People's Choice Pork Loin event, a pork loin will be distributed to cooks

when they arrive Sunday morning. The public will participate in sampling and voting via ticket. The People's Choice Award is excluded from the grand champion.

"We also have an exciting new competition category called 'Steal the Show Side' for individuals outside of the barbeque meats world. Anything goes from potato salad to pie and everything in between," Heartso said. "If your friends and family love it, be sure to enter. Any 'Steal the Show Side' entry may be prepped beforehand but final assembly or cooking must happen on site the day of the event."

The cook off schedule is as follows:

- 8:00 a.m.: Registration and pork loin pickup,
- Noon turn-in: People's Choice Pork Loin
- 1:00 p.m. turn-in: Steal the Show Sides
- 1:30p. turn-in: Chicken
- 2:00 p.m. turn-in: Ribs
- 2:30 p.m. turn-in: Beef
- 3:30 p.m.: Awards presentation

Heartso said the board is also seeking a few more volunteers to help make Art in the Park a success. Sign-up information is available of the board's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/BooneArtsAdvisoryBoard>

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