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First Annual Freedom Festival Promises to be a Blowout

ABILENE, TX – Patriotic community boosters have joined forces to launch a new summer tradition: The Abilene 4th of July Freedom Festival & WestTex Connect Fireworks Spectacular.

"We want Abilene to be a great place to celebrate Independence Day every year," said Gary Grubbs, who co-chairs the non-profit group's steering committee with partner in patriotism Kelly Jay. "Because we didn't have a fireworks show last year, a group of people decided we didn't want that to happen again. Abilene is a patriotic town, and we're proud of our heritage. Let's show West Texas how it's done."

WestTex Connect owner and experienced rocket launcher Rodney Amonett, stepped up to do the fireworks show, promising more blasts than any display north of Houston.

Abilene's New Car Dealers Association, a group of four local dealerships, have signed on to be the presenting sponsors. These generous underwriters are a collaboration among Arrow Ford, Star Dodge, Lawrence Hall Chevrolet and Lithia Toyota.

The extravaganza will start the evening of July 3, when a Stars & Stripes Parade will march through downtown. That night will bustle with children's activities and a patriotic film at the Historic Paramount Theatre.

Thursday, July 4, the action moves to the Taylor County Expo Center grounds, which will burst with vendors, live music, folks showing off impressive cars and bikes, a VIP tent and tailgate parties.

Clubs and business owners can join the communitywide effort: Show your flair in the parade, book a \$200 vendor space or underwriting. Volunteers are needed, too.

Cost to attend Freedom Festival will be \$7 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6 to 15. Active and retired military pay \$5 at the gate. Tailgate parties cost \$20; all parking on the Expo Center grounds will be \$5.

Check out the website at abilenefreedomfest.com or follow the event's page on Facebook. Show your national pride or get more information, by emailing: questions@abilenefreedomfestival.com.



Schedule

July 3 - 6:30 p.m.

Stars & Stripes Parade

July 4 -

10 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Taylor County Expo Center

Food Vendors

Merchandise Vendors

Kids Activities

Car Show

Bike Show

Tailgate Parties

Noon - Live Music Starts

2 p.m.

Car Trophy Ceremony

Bike Trophy Ceremony

6 p.m.

V.I.P Tent for fireworks

10 p.m.

WesTex Connect

Fireworks Spectacular

Launched east of Festival Gardens
in Grover Nelson Park