

School MATTERS

Titusville School District Newsletter



Celebrating Student Success: A Year of Achievement, Creativity, and Community

Stephanie Keebler
Superintendent

*Spring Issue
May 2025*

As we close out another remarkable school year, we pause to reflect on and celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of our students across the district. From academic excellence and athletic triumphs to artistic expression and service to others, our students have demonstrated resilience, talent, and a commitment to making their schools—and the world around them—better.

Academic Excellence

This year, our students continued to reach new academic heights. Across the district, our students experienced engaging activities such as Wilderness Quest, Rocket Manufacturing (Student Run Manufacturing Enterprise), Venango Technology Center program-ming, Dual Enrollment College Courses, PA Trout in the Classroom, Creek Connections with Allegheny College, Model UN, Arbor Day presentations, and so much more. Several school teams and students excelled in academic competitions such as the Scholastic Scrimmage, the 75th Annual Western PA Spelling Bee, Reading Competitions, the Fluid Power Action Challenge, Crawford County Envirothon, TASD Elementary Spelling Bee, Skills USA, and some students earned the Seal of Biliteracy to name a few.



Our classrooms were also buzzing with innovation. Students engaged in hands-on coding and STEM projects, published creative writing in local publications, and developed solutions to real-world problems through project-based learning initiatives. We had students named as Chief Science Officers that provided support to elementary students while other students experience real work experience through Cooperative Education placements with our local businesses. These achievements are a testament to the hard work of our students, the dedication of our educators, and the support of our families and community.



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Athletic Achievements

From the first kickoff in fall to the final whistle of spring, our student-athletes brought energy, teamwork, and sportsmanship to every game. The varsity football team made history by winning their first-round playoff game, only the second team do this in 158 years. The all-time leading rushing record was broken by Jaxon Covell. During the winter season, the Boys and Girls Swim Team sent nine swimmers and one diver to the PIAA State Championships. Joe Herman, Isabella Mucha, Olivia Mucha and Evan Slocum qualified for individual events. Many of our THS records were broken this season. With our spring seasons ending soon, THS will send two athletes to PIAA Track and Field Championship this weekend, Aaron Burrows and Lane Ongley. Both THS baseball and softball teams qualified for the playoffs and will play in the next few days.



A new tradition that was started this year is a formal signing night to recognize student athletes who have committed to play at the collegiate level. Beyond the trophies and titles, our athletic programs emphasized leadership and perseverance—lessons that our students will carry with them long after they leave the field.

Artistic Expression

The arts came alive this year with vibrant performances, exhibitions, and creative milestones. Our district's high school musical, *Hadestown-Teen Edition*, and middle school musical, *Finding Nemo Jr.*, dazzled audiences and involved over 100 students in



roles ranging from actors and musicians to set designers and crew members. In addition to the annual art show at Titusville High School, the art teachers of our District were celebrated this spring with a gallery show at the Education and Training Center at Pitt-Titusville.



Music programs flourished as well. There were three students who qualified for the PMEA All-State Festival this spring. Jenna Crocker qualified for the All-State Wind Ensemble on percussion. Luke Keebler performed as a tenor I with the All-State Choir and Evan Slocum qualified on the Euphonium in the All-State Concert Band. The Titusville Area School District was recognized again for 2025 from the NAMM Foundation as one of the Best Communities for Music Education. Elementary, middle and high school students performed concerts through the year as well as a special concert in March celebrating Music in Our Schools Month. Through every brushstroke, note, and step, our students expressed their unique voices and brought joy to our community.



Community Service and Collaboration

Perhaps the most inspiring part of the year was the way students gave back. Collectively, students across all grade levels provided community service. From organizing donation drives and volunteering at community agencies to tutoring younger students and participating in roadside clean-up events and working as student poll workers for our local elections, their efforts made a meaningful impact.

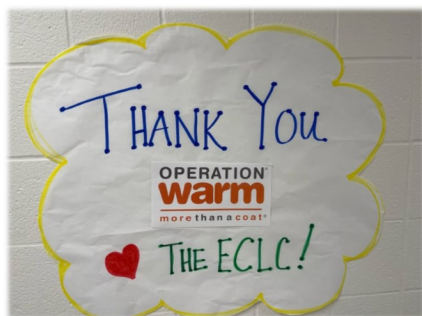


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Titusville High School welcomed Yu-Wei Tai, a foreign exchange student from Taiwan, through Rotary Youth Exchange. This experience for Yu Wei, his American family, the Fielys, and the students of our District has been inspiring.

The Titusville Area School District is extremely grateful for the community support for our students. Students have enjoyed presentations from area organizations for bike and pedestrian safety including free helmets donated through the Elks Club. The Veterans of Foreign Affairs (VFW) presented flag etiquette to our 5th grade students. The Elks and Rotary gave dictionaries to all of our 3rd grade students. PNC works with the ECLC to provide coats and books to students. These examples are just a few of the activities that have benefitted our students from generous organizations in the Titusville community.



Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, we are filled with pride and optimism. This year's accomplishments reflect the incredible potential of our students and the strength of our school community. We thank our teachers, staff, families, and local partners for supporting our learners every step of the way.

To our students: your success this year has inspired us all. We can't wait to see what you'll do next.

WELCOME TO WONDERLAND

Prom night was a journey down the rabbit hole, where Wonderland came to life in a whirlwind of color, charm, and curious delight. From mushrooms, lights, and picture perfect backdrops, every detail invited guests into a dreamlike world where nothing was quite as it seemed. With cards acting as invitations to the madness, each attendee held the Key to Wonderland—unlocking a night of enchantment and endless memories. The dance floor sparkled as students were dressed in their most whimsical attire. As the night unfolded, the highly anticipated moment arrived—the crowning of Prom King and Queen. With crowns fit for royalty straight out of the Queen of Hearts' court, Jason Sampson and Abigail Colie ruled the night with grace and charm, a perfect match for the magic around them.



Pictured (Left to Right):

Front row - Claire Emminger, Anna Mehlenbacher, Abigail Colie, Lauren Ongley, Addison Bish, and Graci Sampson
Back Row - JJ Miller, Jason Sampson, Joe Herman, Josiah White, Cameron Kerr, and Jake Hauptman

ECLC NEWS



READ-A-THON FUNDRAISER

The PTG held this year's Read-a-Thon in March. Students set a goal of how many books they could read in the month. Certificates and prizes were distributed to students who: read 100 books or more, to the top reader from PreK and Kindergarten, to the PreK and Kindergarten classroom with the most participation, and to all students who participated. The treats and class parties will occur at the teacher's discretion. This is always a great way for us to motivate students to read and reward families that do this daily as part of their routine. This year we raised more than \$3700. Thank you to all of the students and families who participated.



WRITING CONTEST

Mrs. Johnson's students have been learning the art of writing all school year and have become quite good at it. Mrs. Johnson opted to participate in a writing contest through the Erie television station, WQLN. Two students submitted entries. The story entries were to have a minimum of 50 words and a maximum of 200 words with 5 original illustrations. There were 255 entries this year, and one of the ECLC students won second place.



This young lady attended a reception held on May 1st for all of the winners. Congratulations to both girls!

BIKE HELMETS FOR KINDERGARTEN

The Elks are going to graciously donate bike helmets to the ECLC Kindergarten students again this year.

They have secured a grant that allows them to purchase the helmets for early childhood learners.

They elect each year to do this for the ECLC Kindergarten students. This year they will also donate one bike per Kindergarten classroom. We will hold a bike safety assembly with the School Resource Officer to promote safe riding this summer. The bikes will be given away the day of the assembly through a random drawing.

PNC VOLUNTEERS PLANTING PROJECT WITH PREK

On April 28, 2025, PNC Banks' Michelle Schrimper came to the ECLC to promote the "Grow Up Great" Program. This program focuses on developing the love of learning with the age group of birth to five. The PreKindergarten students learned about how to plant seeds. They really focused on vocabulary in the story "Grow, Grow, Grow" like gardener, soil, sprout, and blossom. Then, we ventured outside to plant our own seeds. The students filled their cups with potting soil, a seed flower, more soil, and water. Hopefully, in a few weeks, the students will see wildflowers blooming in their flower pots. Thanks to PNC for all the activities and learning opportunities that they bring to the ECLC. You are great partners and we appreciate you!



HYDETOWN HAPPENINGS

HYDETOWN MEMORIAL WALK/RUN



Hydetown Elementary hosted their 4th annual 5K Benefit Walk/Run on Saturday, May 10th. This event acts as a celebration recognizing all those businesses and individuals that donated to our PTC. The event itself was free with donations accepted to help fund future field trips, school activities, and building improvements.

The weather was absolutely beautiful and we had a wonderful turnout for the event, handing out over 100 bib numbers! A huge thank you goes out to all students and families who participated. We would also like to thank NovaCare for providing pre-race stretches, fruit, and water. This wouldn't be possible without our teachers and PTC getting everything in order.



DAIRY FOR DAYS

This year Miss McFall's 4th grade class participated in the Discover Dairy Adopt-A-Cow program. They "adopted" a calf named Milkyway and each month would receive updates and pictures! Last month, the class got to be part of a live chat with Kurtland Farms in Elverson, PA where Milkyway lives! Students were able to see Milkyway and talk to Farmer Paige who shared what happens on a dairy farm!



Speaking of dairy farms, ice cream parties have become quite popular here at Hydetown! Students can use their Eagle Bucks to purchase this experience and invite three of their friends to join them during lunch. There they can build their own ice cream sundae adding sprinkles, chocolate syrup, and whipped cream. It was nothing but smiles from those individuals who turned their positive behavior into a sweet treat!

LEAVING A CREATIVE MARK

Several of this year's 5th grade learners began this year with the goal of earning 350 Eagle Bucks to design and paint a ceiling tile. Once completed, these tiles are placed throughout the building allowing students to leave a lasting mark before moving on to the middle school.



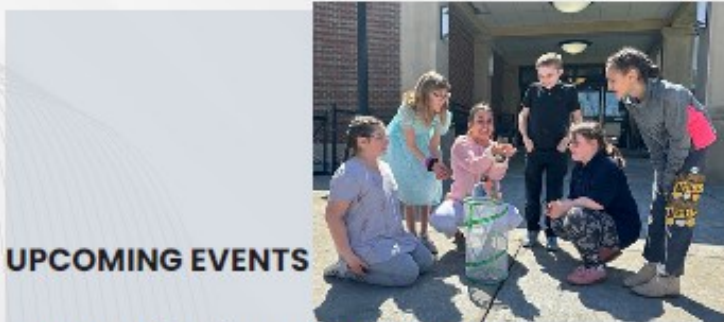
SPRING Newsletter

Main Street Elementary School



THE WEATHER COOPERATED!

4th Grade students traveled to Scheide Park from all Elementary schools. This was in celebration of National Arbor Day. Students left with seedlings of their own!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 19th: 5th grade field trip
- May 20th: 2nd grade field trip
- May 21st: 4th grade field trip
- May 22nd: 1st grade field trip
- May 30th: 3rd grade field trip
- June 3rd: Track and Field Day
- June 3rd: 5th grade banquet at 5:30PM



Spring Events

Students celebrated the arts with students showing their talents in the music concert and art show. The other half of our students will perform on May 29th!



Testing is Complete!

3rd, 4th and 5th grade students finished up their state testing on Thursday, May 1st! 5th grade welcomed everyone with their energy on Day 1!

Pleasantville

Let the Celebration Begin!

The students at Pleasantville once again had a reading competition to celebrate Read Across America. The goal was to read 100,000 minutes for the entire month. Students competed within their grade level to see who could read the most and there was a homeroom competition to see which class could read the most as well. Students worked very hard and spent a great deal of time reading to the point where we surpassed our goal by reading over 106,000 minutes. As a reward for all of their hard work, we had a celebration day on April 17th. Students competed in a "Price is Right" type game show. One student per grade level would be called down to compete in a trivia-style competition. The kids had so much fun and all of the extra reading they have done has paid off as the teachers have seen gains across the board with student's reading scores.



It's a Jungle out there!



Each year at Pleasantville, the school establishes a theme and this year's theme is "Jungle". The teachers and staff throughout the year decorate the building in this theme and there are various activities that center around the theme. As part of our jungle theme, Jungle Terry was invited to come and put on a presentation for the students and their families. He brought numerous animals and educated those in attendance on these animals in a fun and interactive way. The students were able to come up and pet several animals and be a part of his performance. It was a lot of fun for students and the adults seemed to enjoy him just as much.

~ The Last Chapter ~

With only a few short weeks left of school, there will be many different activities and events that will be taking place. Starting the week of the 12th, all students will be taking their final DIBELS assessment. Students will be able to show all the progress they have made over the year with their reading. May 19th will



begin our class field trips with fifth grade headed to Splash Lagoon in Erie. Second grade will be going to Keystone Safari in Grove City on the 20th. Fourth grade will be going to the Erie SeaWolves game on the 21st. First grade will be going to the Erie Zoo on the 22nd. Last but not least, Third grade will be going to the Olympic Fun Center in Hermitage on the 30th. On the 27th, all students and staff will be going down to Corky's to have a little ice cream followed by our Track and Field day on the 29th. Then as we move into the last few days of school, the fifth grade banquet for the students who will be moving onto the middle school next year will be on the 3rd. On June 4th, we will have our final Shining Star assembly to recognize all of the accomplishments the children have made throughout the school year. The last day of school will be June 5th with students getting out 3 hours early that day. It has been a very good year and we would like to thank all the families for all their support.

Titusville Middle School

TMS Mission Trips: Splash Lagoon and Oil Creek Campground

At Titusville Middle School, our quarterly Mission Trips are a cornerstone of our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program. In Quarter 3, students enjoyed a rewarding day at Splash Lagoon, and Quarter 4 brings a trip to Oil Creek Campground. These trips are earned by students who demonstrate excellence in attendance, academic achievement, and behavior. We're proud of our students for their hard work and grateful to the district for supporting our PBIS efforts throughout the year.



Fluid Action Challenge

Our 7th and 8th-grade students recently participated in the Fluid Action Challenge, where they connected their classroom learning to real-world engineering problems. All students had a fantastic experience, with one team earning two awards and coming close to a first-place finish. Events like this help our students see the relevance of what they learn every day. This is what we truly want from all of our classes. We want to connect the real world to our classrooms. The Fluid Action Challenge allows for that to happen in a great way, and we look forward to future participation in it and the continued exploration of making our classrooms real each day.

Spring Sports Success

Spring has been an exciting season for TMS athletics. The girls' volleyball team had a strong showing this year, while the boys and girls track teams continue to impress. The boys' track team, in particular, has had a standout season with two second-place finishes at invitational meets. We're proud of the dedication and sportsmanship our student-athletes demonstrate every day.



Transitioning to New Beginnings

TMS plays a vital role in helping students navigate key transitions. Our 8th graders recently visited Titusville High School to explore their next academic chapter. At the same time, 5th graders from all three elementary schools are visiting TMS to get a preview of middle school life. Additional events this summer will support both students and parents as they prepare for this important step. As TMS is in the middle, we are committed to making these transitions smooth and supportive for all families.

Spring Band and Chorus Concerts

Our talented band and chorus students are ready to shine in their spring concerts this week. Our music students have done an amazing job of growing throughout the year. Their Spring concerts are an opportunity for them to show this growth and share their talents with their families and the school community. We're incredibly proud of how far they have come and can't wait to see them perform.



Transitioning to Summer and Celebrating the Year

Summer is a time to relax, recharge, and apply what has been learned throughout the year. As lifelong learners, we encourage students to carry their growth into the months ahead. On June 3rd, we'll celebrate the end of a successful school year with a fun tailgate party. We're also looking ahead to our second annual back-to-school tailgate in August to kick off another great year together.



High School

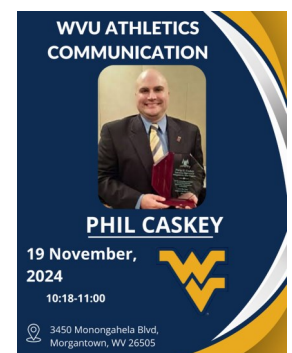
Business Department new Sports Marketing/Management class

This year, Titusville High-School's Business Department introduced a new Sports Marketing/Management class into the curriculum. Teaching this class is Mr. Andrew Pikna, who joined Titusville High-School in the 2023-2024 academic year. Prior to coming to THS, Mr. Pikna was a Division I baseball coach at Winthrop University. Before his stint at Winthrop, he worked for West Virginia University Athletics Marketing while earning his Master's degree in Sport Business. During his time at WVU and Winthrop, he made several connections in the industry that he continues to maintain.

Mr. Pikna has brought back 16 of these industry professionals to be Guest Speakers for his Sports Marketing/Management class this year, with more scheduled to speak. When asked why he felt this was important for his students, Mr. Pikna said "the opportunity for these students to hear from these industry professionals is invaluable. My goal of the Sports Marketing/Management class was to introduce the students to a career field that doesn't get a ton of exposure at the high-school level. These students are hearing first-hand accounts from several different segments of the industry and receiving cool and interesting stories from those who have lived it, along with an insightful dynamic learning experience."

Scheduled to appear after the publication of this newsletter are Bailee Tucker, Brian Pruegger, Nolan Harvath, Suraj Batheja, and Andrew Wright. Bailee is currently a news anchor in Charleston, WV, but is coming from a graduate position at Syracuse and undergrad experience in Sports Media at West Virginia University. Brian was Mr. Pikna's academic advisor at Charleston for his Sport Business program, and had held several other positions in sports after receiving his doctorate from Florida State. Nolan is currently the strength and conditioning coordinator for WVU football. He also is the co-founder of Teambuildr, a strength/conditioning app that THS uses across several athletic programs. Suraj is the co-founder of The Manifest Company, a yoga mat company in the mindfulness category. However, Suraj has worked in sports previously and is most known for generating millions of dollars in revenue for the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York. Andrew Wright is currently the Minor League Field Coordinator for the Boston Red Sox. Andrew was Mr. Pikna's college baseball coach, and Mr. Pikna speaks very highly of him. He came to speak last year for a few of Mr. Pikna's classes, and the feedback was resounding from the students. His experience and overall attitude on life is one to be studied and leaves quite an impact on anyone he speaks with.

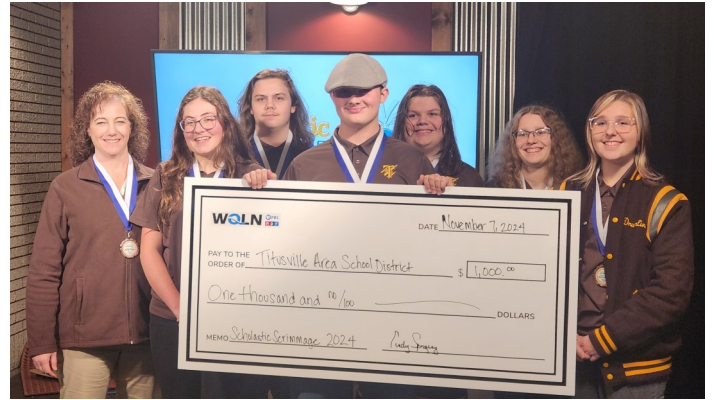
The over-arching message to the students from all these industry professionals was to pay attention to detail, be willing to do and try everything, model servant leadership, take pride and accountability in what you do, practice self-discipline, and network. To be successful in any line of work, it is important to do the small things with high importance. As a young professional, nothing should be below you and you should be open to trying anything. It is important to lead from the front, and always be searching for ways to serve those around you. It is important to take pride in what you are doing, regardless of what it is you are doing. You have to hold yourself accountable, before you can hold others accountable. Discipline leads all aspects of life, and without self-discipline, progress will suffer. Lastly, make connections! It is vital to make and maintain connections as you continue to navigate the professional world.



Gifted Competitions

WQLN Scholastic Scrimmage

Now that the PBS station WQLN has aired its Scholastic Scrimmage program, we are finally able to announce a secret we've been keeping since November 2024! The THS Academic Challenge Team participated in the WQLN Scholastic Scrimmage tournament and won 3rd place and a \$1000 cash prize! The tournament consisted of 16 teams from high schools in the WQLN service area. Participants had to be knowledgeable about various subject areas such as US and World History, Geography, US and British Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mythology, Music, and Fine Arts. If you want to see our students compete, you can watch them on WQLN under Scholastic Scrimmage.



Pictured Left to Right: Left to right: Mrs. Hollie Tainton (Advisor), Laurel McKellop, Ethan Morgan, Aden Winans, Adam Morgan, Aubrey Schmude, Charlotte Winger

Chief Science Officer (CSO)

This year THS students Owen Vincent, Ian Hironimus, and Adam Reynolds joined other students around the world in becoming Chief Science Officers. The Chief Science Officer (CSO) program gives students the opportunity to become student leaders, promoting STEM activities in their school and community. CSOs are required to interact with their community through organizing a STEM related program at which others learn about science. The CSOs taught TASD fifth grade students about earthquakes. After a lesson about earthquakes, students built their own buildings. The buildings were then tested on an earthquake shake table to see how well they could stand up to the force of an earthquake.



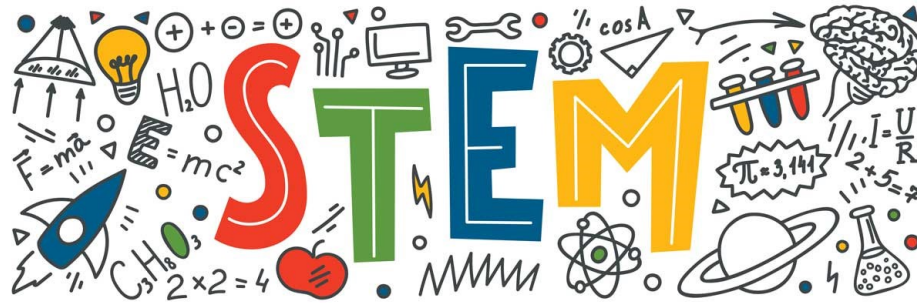
Gifted Competitions cont'd

Model United Nations (MUN)

In April, THS students attended a Model United Nations (MUN) conference at Westminster College. MUN is a simulated international diplomacy conference where students role-play as delegates representing different countries. Participants engage in debates, draft resolutions, and negotiate solutions to global issues such as climate change, international security, and managing refugees in areas of conflict. MUN helps develop skills in public speaking, critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership. THS students attended the event as the Swedish delegation.



Pictured left to right: Aubrey Schmude, Addy Edwards, Haedyn Nichols, Charlotte Winger, Jesse Nordin, and Aiden Patterson



STEM Day

In April, Titusville High School students, Sara Kaminski, Nick McQuiston, and Arik Yochum attended a STEM Day held at Smith and Nephew Robotics in Pittsburgh, Pa. Throughout the day, they participated in STEM activities related to robotics and biomedical engineering. The highlight of the day was watching a knee replacement surgery simulation in which the physician was assisted by a robot and then being permitted to handle the tools necessary to perform such an operation.



Pictured left to right: Sara Kaminski, Nick McQuiston, Arik Yochum



Important Dates

Vo-Tech Graduation	Wednesday, May 28, 2025	12:30 p.m.	At Vo-Tech
THS Academic Awards	Thursday, May 29, 2025	6:00 p.m.	Colestock Auditorium
THS Athletic Awards	Thursday, May 29, 2025	7:00 p.m.	THS Cafeteria
Graduation Practice	Tuesday, June 3, 2025	7:55 a.m.	THS Gymnasium
Senior Banquet	Tuesday, June 3, 2025	6:00 p.m.	THS Cafeteria
Last Day of School for Students	Thursday, June 5, 2025	3-hour early dismissal	All Schools
Adult Ed Graduation	Thursday, June 5, 2025	5:00 p.m.	THS Gymnasium
THS Baccalaureate	Thursday, June 5, 2025	6:00 p.m.	THS Gymnasium
THS Graduation	Friday, June 6, 2025	6:00 p.m.	Carter Field (THS Gym as rain location)
Summer Program	Friday, June 13, 2025 - Wednesday, July 2, 2025		

District Information

1. Summer Office Hours - 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. - June 9, 2025 to August 8, 2025
2. All District buildings will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2025
3. The first day of the 2025-2026 school year for students is Tuesday, August 26, 2025

community EVENTS



Titusville Summer Theater production:
THE ADDAMS FAMILY

June 26, 27, & 28 @ 7:00 pm



Oil Festival 2025

August 8 - 9, 2025

Celebrate Titusville's rich history with us and enjoy arts and crafts from local artisans, kids activities, a down home parade, an antique car show, live music, delightful foods, brew fest, wine walk, fireworks and more!

