

AIRWAY HEIGHTS AUGUST 23RD 2025 DAYS



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Airway Heights Days: 2 days of family fun

By JAY GUNTER

AIRWAY HEIGHTS — Sunset Park at Lawson Street and 8th Avenue, will be a scene of family fun and community celebration August 22-23. Airway Heights Days will once again offer both locals and visitors a variety of games, activities and entertainment for attendees of all ages.

Some of the more notable attractions for the annual event are the watermelon races (soap box racers inside real watermelons), live music from bands like Atomic Jive, Eternal Jones, and the Tamarack Ridge Band, and the Pharoahs Car Club Show and Shine featuring a great line of classic cars. Entrance to the event is free to the public.

Here is a schedule of events for both Friday and Saturday:

FRIDAY AUGUST 22ND

Kiwanis Watermelon Races
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Kiwanis Beer Garden Sponsored by West Plains Brewing 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Movie in the Park, "IF" 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY AUGUST 23RD

Color Guard Opening Ceremony 10:00 am

Pharoahs Car Club Show & Shine Sponsored by CAL Cars
10:00 am – 4:00 p.m.

Vendors / Exhibits 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Live Music: Atomic Jive

10:00 am – 11:30 am

Kids Zone Inflatables & Games Sponsored Billie's Diner & ICCU 11:00 am – 4:00 p.m.

Cornhole Tournament Sponsored by Grocery Outlet 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

2nd Chance Ranch Petting Zoo Sponsored by La Presa Mexi-

can Restaurant 11:30 am – 3:30 p.m.

Kiwanis Beer Garden Sponsored by West Plains Brewing
10:00 am – 5:00 p.m.

Live Music: Eternal Jones
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Live Music: Tamarack Ridge Band 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Monday to Friday

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

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Watermelon Races a messy but fun tradition

Racers join Watermelon Pit Row

By JAY GUNTER

AIRWAY HEIGHTS — Friday August 22 at Airway Heights Days will begin with a crazy, creative annual event: the Watermelon Races, sponsored by the city Kiwanis Club.

Contestants can grab their pit crews and get set to compete in one of the messiest summer-time races ever.

The spectacle begins Friday



night at 5 p.m. with a 4:30 p.m. contestant check-in time. After that, Sunset Park is transformed

into Watermelon Pit Row.

Each summer this event brings families and businesses together for a fun and action-packed community contest. It's a celebration of teamwork, creativity, ingenuity, diversity and fair play in the quest for the Championship Plaque. Businesses can issue official challenges to other businesses for the ultimate prize: bragging rights.

Handcrafted watermelon racers are built following official Watermelon Racer Rules, which you can find on the Airway

Heights Days web page. Racers are placed side by side and then let loose down the race ramp. The first racer to the finish line wins and moves on to the next round.

The loser gets smashed with the "Mallet-O-Justice" by their competitor. Sometimes they're granted amnesty.

All races are single elimination, so be sure to build a racer that can withstand multiple races.

Watermelon Race hopefuls can register online at the Airway Heights Days web page.



Airway Heights Day first for Pharoahs Car Club

Club to bring greats in classic cars

By JAY GUNTER

AIRWAY HEIGHTS — The Pharoahs Car Club Show and Shine is expected to be a big part of the Airway Heights Days festivities according to Andy Gardner, City Parks and Recreation Deputy Director. The show, which is sponsored by Cal Cars, will be all day Saturday, August 23 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the Sunset Park ball field. It is the first to be presented by the Pharoahs.

Those with classic cars wish-

ing to display their rides can register online, or on the day of, from 8 a.m.-9:45 a.m. Part of the proceeds from the registration fee will go to the CARES non-profit Youth Recreation Scholarship Program.

Gardner said, "The Pharoahs Car Club really wanted to blow up the car show in the numbers of cars that will be there. There's actually a lot of new sponsors and new partners we're trying this year."

According to the event web page, the new car club will present some of the best classic vehicles to be found in the West Plains area.

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West Plains Brewing to serve grownup refreshment



By JAY GUNTER

AIRWAY HEIGHTS — Airway Heights Days, August 22-23 at Sunset Park is looking to be a warm time in the Summer sun. West Plains Brewing, one of the event's sponsors, will be a source of cool beverages for older attendees. This is something Matt

Swanson, the brewery and pub's owner, is proud of.

"We're pretty excited to be an Airway Heights Days sponsor," Swanson said. "We've worked with a number of city groups, including a food drive with Cleone's Closet, and the local Meals on Wheels. Both of those organizations are absolutely important in what they do. We think Airway Heights Days is important for the community as well."

West Plains Brewing will sponsor the event's Beer Garden, and supply attendees over the age of 21 with beer and seltzer drinks.

"I'll be there personally to help pour beverages for customers," Swanson said.

Swanson is quick to encourage people to attend both days of the event, beginning Friday from 5 p.m.-9 p.m., and continuing Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

"We'd love for adults to come and grab a beer in beer garden. And for kids and younger folks to

enjoy the games and attractions like the Kids Zone and cornhole tournament."

Swanson said, "The great thing about Airway Heights Days is it's a time for the whole community to come together and do something fun."



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Live music presented by 3 local bands

BY JAY GUNTER

AIRWAY HEIGHTS —

August 23 at Sunset Park will be a day of rousing live music, for all audiences and a wide range of musical tastes. Beginning at 10 a.m. and going through 4 p.m., Airway Heights Days will feature three entertaining local bands, two from Spokane and one from Coeur d'Alene.

Each band will play a 90-minute to two-hour set.

The first band will be Atomic Jive. The Spokane band's social media pages describes its music style as "foot-stomping, hand-clapping,

hip-swaying Boogie Blues, vintage R&B and undeniably cool Soul."

The second band from Spokane, Eternal Jones, describes itself as "Rock and Blues dance music with some surprises."

The third band, playing a two-hour song set, is the Coeur d'Alene-based Tamarack Ridge Band. According to their website, the band placed first in the 2024 Inlander Best of Readers Poll and took second place in 2025. Also according to its website, the band is a "... blend of Country, Rock, and a touch of everything in between ...".

Kids Zone includes fun, friendly petting zoo

Zoo delights kids, helps animals

BY JAY GUNTER

AIRWAY HEIGHTS — The

Kids Zone at this year's Airway Heights Days will include inflatable "bouncy" attractions, games and activities, according to City Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Andy Gardner.

Also according to Gardner, there will be a free petting zoo, presented by Joy Chance of Second Chance Ranch, for kids and

families to enjoy.

"Joy does small pony rides. She's brought goats, pigs, chickens, bunnies. There may be different kinds of dogs, and cats."

Chance provides animals from unfortunate circumstances a second chance to receive positive attention from friendly kids and families.

"She does a great job of giving animals a sense of purpose," Gardner said. "We've been partnering with her for events like this for years."



Cornhole tournament: a test of aim and patience

BY JAY GUNTER

AIRWAY HEIGHTS —

Cornhole is a game of teamwork and skill. It's a game that will test the aim and accuracy of players at this year's Airway Heights Days, Saturday, August 23 from 12 p.m.-3 p.m. The game, sponsored by the local Grocery Outlet, is played by attempting to toss small beanbags into softball-sized holes in a wooden board..

The game is guided by exacting rules published by the American Cornhole Association. Those rules can be found at the Airway Heights Days web page, along

with registration instructions and forms.

City Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Andy Gardner is hopeful that area cornhole enthusiasts will register in time for the Airway Heights Tournament. According to Gardner, registration and registration fees are currently strictly online. However, there is a small chance registrations and fees may be accepted there at the event on the day of, depending on how many teams have registered online. Gardner encouraged teams to register as early as possible.



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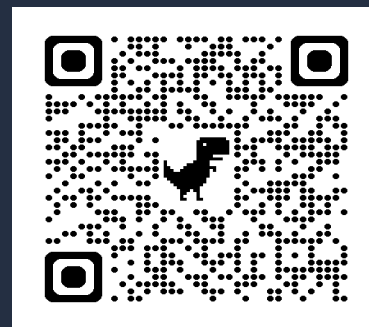
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