

Here's your guide to the 36th Annual

**Free
Popcorn**

**Carnival
Rides**



POPCORN



**Arts
&
Crafts**

**Food
Booths**

Friday, September 1 - Monday, September 4

Courtesy of the Casey Westfield Reporter, Marshall Advocate and many fine area businesses

Popcorn Festival Schedule of Events

The 36th annual Popcorn Festival starts on Friday, September 1st. At 4 p.m., the Beer Garden will open, followed by the food stands, carnival and Butterfield Market opening at 5 p.m.

Balloon rides will begin at 5:30 p.m. and at 6:30 p.m., the Illinois State Horseshoe Pitching Association (ILSHPA) Doubles tournament will begin.

The band Feudin Hillbillies will take the Main Stage at 7 p.m., and XKrush will perform at the Beer Garden starting at approximately 9 p.m.

On Saturday, Sept. 2, the KZ5k Fun Run/Walk will begin at 7 a.m. and at 8 a.m.,

the ILSHPA tournament starts. The Popcorn Festival Parade Barrel Race and Pole Bending Show presented by the Casey Saddle Club will both start at 10 a.m.

At 11 a.m., the food stands, carnival and Butterfield Market open. Also at 11 a.m. will be the Opening Ceremony and ILSHPA Awards presentation.

At noon, 2 or 5 p.m., catch the Electrifying magic of Jay Mattioli. The Beer Garden also opens at noon.

Saturday afternoon, Paddi's Air Filled Fun will perform as well as demonstrations from chainsaw carvers. At 3 p.m., the Cumberland Divide Open Mic sign-ups will begin.



Tethered Balloon Rides will begin at 5:30 p.m.

At 7 p.m., the Well Hungarians will open on the Main Stage, followed by Josh Gracin. The Well Hungarians will also perform at 9:30pm in the

Beer Garden.

On Sunday, Sept. 3 at 8 a.m. will be more ILSHPA action. At 10:30 a.m., a Community Worship Service will be held.

Food stands, carnival and Butterfield Market open at 11 a.m. as well as the Lions Club Jonah Fish Fry

At noon, the 30th annual car show will begin.

Also at noon, Jake & Mikayla will perform at the Main Stage, and the Beer Garden opens. At 1 p.m. -- Paddi's Air Filled Fun and Chainsaw Carvers will begin.

At 1:30, 3:30 and 6 p.m., you can enjoy the Electrifying magic of Jay Mattioli.

At 2 p.m., enjoy more fun with the Saddle Club, and at 4:15pm, will be the Cumber-

land Divide Open Mic. Balloon Rides will start at 5:30pm

Levi Riggs will perform at 7 p.m. with the Abbi Scott Band on the Main Stage. Fireworks will immediately follow the performance.

The Abbi Scott Band will perform at the Beer Garden starting at 9:30 p.m.

On Monday, the Clark County Sheriffs Association Breakfast will begin at 7 a.m. At 9 a.m., the Kids Fishing Derby will begin. At 11 a.m., the food stands, carnival and Butterfield Market open. At 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., Jay Mattioli will perform his Electrifying Magic Show. At 11 a.m. don't miss the 1st Annual Jeep Jam Fundraiser. The Beer Garden opens at noon. The Kids Pedal Tractor Pull will be at 12:30 p.m.

At 2 p.m., the Crush Bon Jovi Experience will take the Main Stage. Rotary Club Bessie Bingo will be held at 2 p.m. The festival closes at 6 p.m.

Great selection of food vendors

There will be something for everyone at this year's Popcorn Festival. The following food vendors will be participating;

Anna Maries Fajita Shack, BHS INC (Bee Happy Snow), Boba Time, Oriental Foods, Chum Chariot, Clark County Farm Bureau, Cobblers & Cream, Daisy Mae's Treats

on the Go, Favorite Cajun Things and LLC, Fry Guys LLC,

Also, JB's Twisted Catfish, Lickin' My Chicken, Pullin' My Pork, Mel's Carousel, Old Time Salt Water Taffy, Pork Producers, Rollin smoke BBQ, Rosie Jean's Sweet Tea & Jesus, Sati Babi, Taco Luv, Three Lunch Box, The Great-house of Pizza and The Flip-pin' Crepe.

Rotary Club to hold Bessie Bingo Monday

The Casey Rotary Club will hold a Bessie Bingo 2 p.m. on Monday. 144 total tickets will be available. The cost per ticket will be \$20.

Club members will mark off 144 1'x 1' squares, and Bessie the cow will be put into

the pen. Whichever square she poops on, wins \$1,000. Money raised will go in to the Rotary Scholarship fund.

Tickets are first come, first serve. If you would like to purchase a ticket, contact Shane Todd @ 217-276-7886.

Chainsaw carvers

On Saturday and Sunday, September 2 and 3, you can check out the chainsaw carvers, always a favorite at the Popcorn Festival. Come see them in action from 1 to 5 p.m.

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Butterfield Market to feature 40+ vendors

This year's Butterfield Market will consist of over 40 merchants.

There will be something for

everyone. Be sure to come and check out these 2023 vendors:

The Traveling mug, Dm

Gems, Indiana Flag Man, Handmade Jewelry by CB, Meraki Glass, SK Designs & More, LLC, Strange Crafts,

Native Nomad Boutique, Harmony Lavender Farm, Rhialistic Inc., Lil Buds & Blossoms Boutique, Second Verse Pho-

tography, JP's Treasures, Sunno's Dazzlers-Snap Jewelry, Poop's Kettle Corn, Awareness of Trafficking, Pink Zebra, Earth Bird- Plant Powered Fuel, Hurrican Creek Metalworks, A&K Tot Lot, M&M Wooden Flowers and Erin's Essential Elements.

Also, Gideons, Michigan Backyard Naturals, Whispering Pines Farm, Jaz's Glass, Kingdom Inspired Designs, 22 Rounds- Joey Tibbs, Tupperware, Casey Candle company, Jamm'on Jaleigh's, B & M Creations, Model Tees, LLC, Heartland Children's Ministries, All in the Family, Henry & Shorty's, Ruby Rose Boutique, Choices Pregnancy and Health, Cini Norton Art, We Li Kit Farmstand, Grafton Graphics, Big Boy Blades, Chelsey's Kandy Shop, Rings & More, K Krafts and Olive Tree Market Place

Feudin Hillbillys on the Main Stage Friday

For the past several years, The Feudin Hillbillys have taken their unique sound all over the Midwest, opening up for the likes of Luke Bryan, Neal McCoy, Montgomery Gentry, Mark Chestnut, Tracy Lawrence, Diamond Rio and several other artists. Their style and professionalism are unmatched.

They are THE hardest working band out there with a strict focus on raising expectations of what a live band should bring every time we take the stage! Their professionalism, entertainment quality, and production guarantees



that the bar will be raised.

Quite a bit of country with a little pop, some classic rock

and 80s favorites along with a touch of funk, will keep the crowd entertained for hours!

The Feudin Hillbillys will perform on Friday at 7 p.m.

Beer Garden returns to Popcorn Festival

Are you ready to celebrate Labor Day Weekend with family, friends and the Casey Popcorn Festival?

We know we are! Here is some information about the beer garden:

The Beer Garden will be open on Friday 4 p.m. to 12 a.m., Saturday and Sunday

12 p.m. to 12 a.m. and Monday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

There is a cover charge.

Monday there will be no charge.

Alcohol will be allowed in

all entertainment areas (main stage seating area and beer garden)

Beer and mixed drinks will be served alongside with some awesome bands to keep us all entertained throughout the night!

You MUST be 21 to enter and no outside alcohol is permitted.

Have a great time at the Popcorn Festival!

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Wishing everyone a safe and fun experience at the Popcorn Festival!

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X-Krush to perform in the beer tent on Friday

X-Krush will perform in the beer tent on Friday, September 1 from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.

For over 25 years, X-Krush has remained a favorite by delivering a high energy per-

formance, excellent musicianship and a song selection that has crowds all over the Mid-

west singing along, dancing and rocking out start to finish.

Rooted in Rock N Roll, X-Krush does not limit themselves to one genre.

You might hear a punk rock standard or a country classic back to back with an old school hip hop tune or a current pop song. 90s grunge, 80s synth pop and hair bands really get the crowds moving at the X-Krush shows and the heavier tunes that X-Krush is well known for has everyone jumping and screaming along with every time.

No matter how they construct their play list on any given show, you can count on it being a fun night full of great tunes delivered in a way that is unique to X-Krush

Over the years X-Krush has been a go-to for talent buyers looking for a profes-

sional support act and/or a quality act for events featuring national artists.

Some of the more notable artists X-Krush has shared the bill with include Skid Row, Warrant, David Allan Coe, 30 Seconds to Mars, Saliva, Firehouse, Jackyl, Tone Loc, Sebastian Bach, Jesse James Dupree, Rare Earth, Pop Evil and Sevendust. Likewise, there has been more than one celebrity join X-Krush on stage while hanging out at a show. Kevin Martin of Candlebox, Pete Byrne of Naked Eyes, Franky Ballard and Tenacious D's Mike Bray have all rocked the mic with X-Krush.

X-Krush includes Steve Wills on lead vocals, keyboard, and lead guitar, Jeff Markland on drums and vocals and Matt Ellis on bass and vocals.

Carnival pre-sale tickets are now available

Carnival pre-sale tickets are now available for \$20 each per session. You can pick up at the following local businesses or contact any board member!

Tickets are available at the following locations: City Hall,

Preferred Bank, First Neighbor Bank, Casey State Bank, Model Tees, Tetzl Prime and Headcandy Salon.

The pre-sale wristbands are being sold up until Wednesday, August 30. After that, wristband sales will go up

to \$25 per wristband.

The hours for each wristband are:

Friday - 5 - 10 p.m.;

Saturday and Sunday - 11 a.m. -4 p.m. (1st session) and 5 - 10 p.m. (2nd session) (2 sessions total each day) and Monday - 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

There will be lots of food and over 20 rides and games!

Barrel race and pole bending show

On Saturday, September 2 at 10 a.m., the Casey Saddle Club will host a barrel race and pole bending show.

On Sunday, September 3, bring out the entire family for a fun show which will feature local riders who just want to have some fun! There will be games and even a free class for ANYONE who has a stick horse. Everyone in the community is welcome to participate.

Both of the shows are free. The Casey Saddle Club

hosted 12 shows in 2023. They typically have shows on the 3rd Friday and Saturday of the month, May-September plus two Labor Day shows.

Over the last three years, they have invested nearly \$60,000 into the Fairview Park facility, \$25,000 into it this year alone with plans to spend another \$12-15,000 next year. All of these upgrades and changes were made possible thanks to the community, sponsors and two grants (Heath and IEPB).

They are selling raffle tickets for a half hog and another raffle that will have three winners (black stone griddle, \$250 Casey's card and a cooler filled with items and gift certificates from local businesses). These raffles will be available at the local shows. The proceeds from these raffles will go to help fund club projects.

The Saddle Club is non-profit - any donations or sponsorships are greatly appreciated and tax deductible!

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Josh Gracin, Well Hungarians to perform Saturday

Josh Gracin is coming to the 2023 Casey Popcorn Festival with the Well Hungarians on Saturday, September 2nd in Casey, Illinois!

Josh Gracin's hits include #1 "Nothin' to Lose," Top 5's "Stay with me (Brass Bed)" and "I Want to Live."

The Well Hungarians will be opening for Josh. They are one of the nation's hottest acts, delivering a "high octane" sound with over 200 unforgettable dynamic live performances each year. Well Hungarians® have performed for well over 3,000,000 fans since 1993.

The Legendary Well Hungarians®, originating from the St. Louis/Southern Illinois area, have performed in concert with many music greats! The band charted four consecutive singles from their very popular album "Sorry 'Bout The Mess" and look to con-

tinue that streak with the current album "Bona Fide." Their songs have received airplay in the U.S. and ten other countries worldwide. Well Hungarians® were given the Country Group of the Year Award 2006 by *New Music Weekly Magazine* in Hollywood, California.

Performances include great original music as well as country, rock, pop, Motown, and classic cover songs ranging from the Charlie Daniels Band and Zak Brown Band, to Bad Company and Lynyrd Skynyrd, to Ed Sheeran and Maroon 5, to Bruno Mars and The Chainsmokers.

Their musical repertoire covers a wide spectrum of songs from the 1970s to current day hits. The vibrant, luxurious vocal harmonies of Well Hungarians® separates them from other music acts, and are reminiscent of such musical icons as the Eagles,

Restless Heart, Alabama and Crosby Stills, & Nash.

Well Hungarians members are seasoned, talented musi-

cians and veteran performers.

They perform both original shows and full cover-material shows spanning a wide variety

of musical genres and styles.

They will be in the beer tent on Saturday at 9:30 pm as well as opening for Josh Gracin.

Car Show to be held on Sunday

The Casey Popcorn Festival will hold its 30th Annual Car Show at Fairview Park in Casey Illinois on Sunday, September 3, 2023.

The Wabash Valley Rodders Car Club will sponsor the event. Club cars will not be competing. Registration will start at 9 am to 1 pm. The cost to register will be \$15. There will be 75 awards this year, plus five special ones: Best of Show, Mayor's Choice, Festival Choice, Charity's Choice and People's Choice.

There will also be a 50/50 raffle, door prizes and dash plaque raffle. The award presentation will begin at 3 p.m.

All the proceeds will go to

Casey Community Christen Toy Fund.

If you have questions, contact Donna Busch (812) 466-

6462 dkb1221@aim.com or Charlie Tipton (812) 446-2612 justcruisin95@aol.com



Jake & Mikayla to perform Sunday

Jake & Mikayla will play at the Popcorn Festival on Sunday, September 3 at noon on the Main Stage.

Jake & Mikayla are growing more and more in popularity. Based out of central Illinois and Nashville, Tennessee, the musical duo has impressed audiences throughout the Midwest and beyond with their tight harmonies, impressive instrumentation and amazing stage presence.

The duo provides a high-energy Country Music show, with elements of Outlaw, Rockabilly, Gospel, Bluegrass and more.

The married couple has been performing onstage together for eight years now. They have played stages throughout Indiana and Illinois as well as Branson, Missouri, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee and Nashville, Tennessee.

When not on stage, you can find them writing and recording new music.

In 2023 Jake and Mikayla

released their brand new album entitled "Roots"

their band, Jake and Mikayla bring an unforgettable experience to every single performance.

You won't want to miss Jake & Mikayla, so come on out Sunday to the Main Stage!

at Midamerican Records in Nashville, Tennessee.

Whether it's an intimate acoustic show with just the duo or a full production with

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Money raised will be used for local projects and to help pay for hearing aids and glasses.

The Casey Lions Club will have an all-you-care-to-eat fish fry on Sunday, September 3 from

Best wishes for another great Popcorn Festival!

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Levi Riggs on Main Stage Sunday

With a voice pure and powerful and an approachable, childhood friend-like persona, fans are no more won over by a sweet summer breeze than by country artist Levi Riggs. It's that Midwest simplicity and relatability that stuns in an industry often filtered a million times over. After years spent discovering



who he is as an artist, Riggs found he had to look no further than his home and life in

rural Indiana.

"I'm a family man, through and through," said Riggs. "Regardless of what I pursue in life, my family is always going to come first. But I'm also a farmer."

I understand that 'fly over state life, that mentality. Those are the people I make music for - and I am those people. I think that

makes my relationship with fans something really special." This level of realism is evident

in his upcoming releases - a series of refreshingly relevant new tunes that touch on experiences shared by both Riggs and, certainly, many of his fans.

"I want anyone listening to feel they're living a bit vicariously through me - but in a way that allows them to connect and say, 'yeah, I get that. I've been there, too.'"

Abbi Scott Band to perform Sunday

Dirty rock, an edgy sound, and a soulful magic carpet ride of music that will take you on a roller coaster of an all genre feel that you cannot put your finger on, but you will want to share with your friends is exactly what explains the Abbi Scott Band. It's a holy rock 'n roll vibe show!

Abbi will perform on the main stage of the Popcorn Festival on Sunday, September 3rd with Levi Riggs at the beer garden at 9:30.

Abbi was raised up on traditional country and classic rock that cultivated where you will find her today with her very own dirty rock sound. Abbi is a tried-and-true Mid-Western girl but has traveled the country playing for live audiences at county fairs, sporting events, dive bars,



and for thousands of people who genuinely love music.

Sharing the stage with some of the biggest names in music and writing with Grammy winners has been a dream for Abbi, but you will never hear her shouting of her

own accolades.

Abbi has opened for some of country music's biggest stars including Luke Bryan, Dierks Bentley, Cole Swindell, Maggie Rose, Dustin Lynch, Confederate Railroad, Josh Thompson, Jana Kramer, Trick Pony, Bucky Covington, Phillip White, Hairbangers Ball and many more.

"I have never been nervous performing on stage. It just comes naturally to me," Abbi explains. "The stage is home to me. I love to entertain, which goes hand-in-hand with singing and songwriting. I love being in front of people and making them smile with music."

Abbi moved to Nashville, Tennessee in 2014 to study under some of the most talented songwriters in the business. In 2015, she released her first three singles: "Flying," "Got My Own Shotgun" and "Yesterday's Daisies." After playing countless shows on Broadway and in other states, including CMA Fest, Abbi released "Love Wasn't Ready for Me," co-written by Eric Paslay, in 2016.

In 2018, Abbi graduated from Lipscomb University, where she served as the school's CMA ambassador, following in the footsteps of Dustin Lynch, Thomas Rhett and Kelsea Ballerina.

Abbi released "This is Me" in 2019 with well-known producer, Sal Oliver (producer of PINK). This EP was the necessary transition that Abbi had worked so hard to attain. "I've never felt more myself than I do now," said Scott. "I've learned a lot from being in Nashville, and I'm so ready for each step that greets me along the way."

"My fans, the lovers that come for the music, the people that we make friends with along the way, and everyone that just wants to hang in for one more song, you mean everything!"

Abbi continues to play famous venues and little dive bars across the country, proving her tireless dedication to the music industry has not gone unnoticed.

Have a poppin' good time at the Popcorn Festival!

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Minnesota and Texas gave Riggs an eclectic and well-rounded approach to his craft. As he performed out more and more, Riggs found a champion in a fan who connected him with several Nashville-based industry veterans. He began writing, recording, and releasing music, starting with his debut singles, "My Best Friend's a Girl" and "I'm Good," both of which laid the groundwork for Riggs at country radio.

His song "Tailgate Time" furthered his vocational footprint, leading to opening spots for country greats Justin Moore, Brett Eldredge, the Band Perry, Josh Turner, Colt Ford, Travis Tritt, and Alabama (to name a few) after a performance at the American Tailgaters Association's Super Bowl party. And in 2018, Riggs released his debut EP, "She's Everything."

Despite the difficulty that the 2020 global pandemic brought for the music industry at large, Riggs continued to power forward.

He leaned into some of Nashville's top songwriting talent for new material in preparation for 2021.

"It's all about the song," said Levi. "As much as I like to write, I always feel the best song should win - whether I write it or not." A moment of calm in a normally hectic lifestyle, the slow-down gave Riggs the opportunity to reassess his career - and take steps that were sonically refreshing while even more, at core, who Riggs truly is.

Tot-Rod Pedal Pull Monday afternoon

Be sure to come up to the Popcorn Festival on September 4 at 12:30 p.m. to sign up for the Kids Pedal Pull, which starts at 1:00 p.m.!

Tot-Rod Pedal Pulls is a family-oriented entertainment

show that provides fun for young and old alike. The owners' son has competed in this sport since he was three years old and has had many memorable times. It was a natural fit when they started this busi-

ness and their entire family is thrilled to be a part of it.

They want to expose as many kids as possible to this wonderful sport, giving them a better sense of competing with kids of their own age. We

strive to build a positive self-esteem and bring smiles to all the kids' faces. They offer the most fair and enjoyable pedal tractor pull available, while maintaining a safe event for both participants and spectators.

Crush Bon Jovi Experience to perform Monday

The Casey Popcorn Festival is excited to announce that Crush Bon Jovi Experience will perform at the Main Stage on Monday, September 4. Have fun listening to some of Bon Jovi's greatest hits!

Crush Bon Jovi Experience have been wowing audiences with their live stage show and authentic musical renditions of Bon Jovi's greatest hits for the better part of a decade! Crush is led by front man and lead singer Doug Shepard, who strongly resembles Jon Bon Jovi and captures not only Jon's look but also his energetic showmanship!

On lead guitar, Andrew "Drew" Goodpaster plays all



of the signature Richie Sambora riffs. His monstrous guitar tone and signature talk box licks help make Crush's live show one that Bon Jovi fans

go wild over.

The heart and backbeat of the group is Brian Barchman on drums who captures all the rhythmic drum grooves and

steady beats of Bon Jovi setting Crush apart from other tribute acts.

Completing the lineup are Robin Altmeyer on bass along with Chip McGurer on keys and Anna Martinez Shepard

on backing vocals, violin and percussion. They help to fill out the legendary sound of Bon Jovi, making Crush Bon Jovi Experience like no other.

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Cumberland Divide Open Mic

Cumberland Divide is an acoustic country duo made up of Cory Hanley from Casey, Illinois and John Beck from Toledo, Illinois.

Cory and John started hosting open mic nights around 10 years ago which later led to

the formation of Cumberland Divide. They now perform locally as a duo, but they also continue to host regular open mic events as a way to support local artists and give them a platform to share their musical talents with the commu-

nity. You can follow Cumberland Divide on Facebook to get notified when they are performing or hosting open mic events.

They will host two open mic events this year, at 3pm Friday, then again on Saturday at 4:15.

Race Among the Giants

The Race Among the Giants 5K Run/Walk will begin and end at 200 E. Main (next to the World's Largest Rocking Chair) on Saturday, September 2 at 7am.

Casey in Action will also host a virtual run/walk. The virtual run/walk can be any

time from anywhere. You can start the virtual run as soon as your registration is submitted up until September 2.

There is a \$30 entry fee that must accompany the registration form. Checks can be made payable to Casey in Action.

Jeep Jam Toy Drive

The Casey Popcorn Festival will hold a Jeep Jam on Monday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hang out with fellow

Jeepers and enjoy free popcorn, events for all ages and support a great cause! Please bring a new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.

About the festival

The Casey Popcorn Festival has run over the Labor Day weekend since 1987.

Held at the 40-acre Fairview Park in Casey, Illinois, the popcorn festival features three full days of free music, live entertainment, a variety of craft vendors, plus a car show, festival foods, and other activities. FREE popcorn -- Illinois' official snack food -- is available each day of the festival.

A committee of three Casey residents founded the

festival based on the idea of good old-fashioned family fun. The co-founders were Bernie Morgan, John McDaniel and Rube Howe.

Today, the festival has grown and expanded, adding a full carnival, mainstream entertainment acts, beer tent, and a newly-redesigned Butterfield Market. Members of the festival board include Chalin Maulding, Shane Todd, Jeremy Mumford, Jen Baysinger, Kristy Duniphan and Katie Yukich.




Kristi Esker, DNP
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