

## Super heroes to swoop in for local festival

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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Several new events are on tap for the 98th Harvest Festival Sept. 13-15 with the theme “Super Heroes of Harvest.”

The first is steer roping and barrel racing at the Gothenburg Roping Arena, beginning with a Calcutta at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 14. Roping begins at 6 p.m. followed by the barrel race. Both are sponsored by the Gothenburg Roping Club.

A hot-air balloon display fly-in will color the skies at sunrise, at the Gothenburg Airport, and last until 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 15.

Nebraska Hall of Fame balloon pilot John Kugler is expected to attend.

Another new event, KRVN cash car registrations, is from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. Saturday in front of the Pony Express Station on 15th Street. The event is sponsored by the Chamber tourism committee.

A Superhero movie marathon is set at the Sun Theatre from 2 p.m.-midnight.

A \$10 wristband will admit movie goers to all movies that include Iron Man, Thor, Captain America and The Avengers.

The festival kicks off at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, with a Farmer’s Market on 10th Street and the annual pooch parade/dog show in Ehmen Park at 5 p.m.

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Friday's events, on Sept. 14, begin with the annual kids parade. Judging begins at 5:30 p.m. with the parade set to start at 6 p.m. at the intersection of 16th St. and Avenue F.

Hilltop Estates Care Center will host a free hot dog feed from 5:30-7 p.m. in the park.

Singer and guitarist David Peel will return to the Gothenburg Airport for a barbecue hangar party that begins at 6 p.m.

The public is invited to enjoy the music and barbecue, provided by Lucky Chuck's, with a \$2 donation appreciated. No alcohol will be served.

Local Job's Daughters will host a Tween Dance, for students in grades five through eight, at the American Lutheran Church from 7-10 p.m.

The charge is \$4 per person and concessions will be available.

Saturday's activities begin with local aircraft pilots flying in from 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

Runners and their dogs and runners without dogs will line up at 8 a.m. at the Lake Helen shelter for the 10th annual Dog and Jog, sponsored by Eastside Animal Center.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and proceeds go to the United Fund.

Parade participants and floats will line up 9:30 a.m. for the 10:30 a.m. annual Harvest Festival parade.

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The route is on Lake Avenue, beginning at 20th Street, to Ninth Street. Parade headquarters is at Victory Assembly of God church at 27th Street and Lake Avenue.

Gothenburg Chamber of Commerce officials have selected “Super Heroes of Harvest” as the theme of the festival and chosen the Gothenburg Fire Department as grand marshals for the festival.

“They might be our parents, a good friend, sibling, business associate or employee,” said Chamber director Anne Anderson. “Real life superheroes are people who engage in many different forms of activities. They may not have the ability to fly or have super-human strength but they do have a strong moral code, including a willingness to risk their own safety in the service of good without expectation of reward.”

Various activities will take place in Ehmen Park after the parade including food booths, arts, crafts, kids’ games, a dunking booth and jumping toys.

Also after the parade, the congregation at the United Methodist Church will again sponsor lunch from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m.

From 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., folks can visit the Gothenburg Historical Museum, across from the park at 15th Street and Avenue F. to view collections.

Festival activities move to the Pamida parking lot at 2:30 p.m. for the annual pedal tractor pull.

Races for both kids, aged 4 to 12, and adults will be offered. The entry fee is \$1 per child and \$5 per adult. Because it’s a sanctioned pull, winners can qualify for the 2013 Nebraska State Fair.

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The activity is sponsored by All Points Cooperative, Electric Rain, Midwest Truck & Trailer Repair, The Home Agency and Cargill Ag Horizons of Elwood.

The days ends with the popular farm chore relay at 3:30 p.m. in the field west of Pamida and Orscheln Farm and Home.

Teams of four, with one four-wheeler, will complete farm activities such as tube setting.

Cost to enter is \$40 per team. Register at the Chamber office at 1021 Lake Ave. or at the event.

The relay is sponsored by the Gothenburg Chamber Ag Committee.