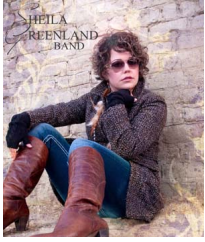


Brady Days celebrates 125th anniversary of village founding

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

Friday, 18 July 2014 14:04 - Last Updated Friday, 18 July 2014 14:10



There's much to celebrate during Brady Days 2014.

The annual festival, which is Aug. 1-3, will commemorate the 125th anniversary of the founding of Brady Island.

Organized in 1889, Brady Island was named by explorer John Fremont after Brady Meeks, the leader of a group of trappers Fremont found on a Platte River island about 20 miles east of where the North and South Platte rivers converge.

It's been said that Brady Island had the only saloon between Grand Island and Cheyenne and that thousands of cattle traded hands through a stockyard here.

A few other significant things happened in the world in 1889—North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Washington became states; Benjamin Harrison succeeded Grover Cleveland as president of the United States; the Eiffel Tower was inaugurated in Paris; Adolph Hitler was born; and the Coca-Cola company originally incorporated as the Pemberton Medicine Company.

Back to present day, there are plenty of new and old activities for the entire family planned for the anniversary celebration.

New among Friday's events are kids games downtown, a beard-growing contest and a "Brady's Got Talent" talent show.

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Friday's lineup still includes a kids parade, family night supper, teen dance and family movie.

On Saturday, organizers have added lawn mower races, cow-chip throwing and a special presentation of the centennial pageant rebroadcast by the school foundation. A time capsule will also be opened.

Old favorites return with an all-star lineup in the parade, a penny carnival, mud volleyball, tug-of-war, horseshoes and the ever-popular turtle races in the permanent circle downtown.

On Saturday night, Sheila Greenwood of Lincoln headlines the street dance presented by the Village of Brady and the Hitchin' Post.

Greenland and her band have performed at lots of fairs and festivals across the state.

She has opened for Brad Paisley, JoDee Messina and Sara Evans and was a finalist on the television show "Nashville Stars." Tickets are \$10.

Sunday will look familiar to regular Brady Days attendees as the road run, worship service and softball tournament return.

Schedule and activity updates are given regularly on the Brady Days Facebook page.

The Times will publish a full schedule of events in an upcoming issue.



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