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Gear and Cheer brings action and fun to Bradys Run

Thursday, July 10, 2014 8:58 AM

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Published: Thursday, July 10, 2014 4:00 am

By staff reports | 0 comments



BRIGHTON TWP. -- The Gear & Cheer Music Festival will offer action near and dear to the hearts of outdoor recreation enthusiasts, as well as fans of microbrews and local music.

The third annual event takes place Saturday at Bradys Run Park in Brighton Township.

Start time is 8 a.m., with registration for a 5K run that kicks off an hour later.

There's the Tour de Gear & Cheer bicycle ride, a mountain bike ride on the park's trails, and kayaking, canoeing and standup paddleboard competitions.

"Talking to people, I'm hearing this will be Pittsburgh's first standup paddleboard race," said Vincent Troia, founder of the fundraising event for the nonprofit Ohio River Trail Council's plans to establish a pedal and paddle trail throughout Beaver County and western Allegheny county.

Festival-goers can try out the standup paddleboards, a bit like a surfboard you steer with a long paddle, in a free demonstration area. There'll also be free demos on kayaks, canoes and mountain bikes.

"This is mostly athletically oriented, but there are some relaxation activities, too," Troia, a

Papa Fuse & the Circuit Breakers will perform at the Gear and Cheer Music Festival on Saturday at Bradys Run Park.

If you're going

What: Gear & Cheer Music Festival.

When: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday.

Where: Bradys Run Park, Brighton Township.

Free events: Kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddleboarding demos, hiking, bike rodeo, fishing and a nine-hour concert.

Pay events: Mountain biking, 5K run/walk, road cycling and kayak races; rock-climbing wall, auctions, raffles, wine and beer tasting.

Information: OhioRiverTrail.org

bicycling enthusiast and Monaca optometrist said.

One of those relaxing options is the wine and beer area, open to those 21 and older and featuring regional wine-makers and micro-brewers as well as the Beaver County Homebrewers.

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7:30 pm | New Hazlett Theater

Food & Drink

JUL 10 **Beer Tasting: New Holland**
6:00 pm |

Music

JUL **Beatles Anthology**

"The Beaver County Homebrewers are great," Troia said. "They made some really killer stuff last year. Everybody said it was really good."

For kids there's a 2 to 4 p.m. fishing contest, with first, second and third-place prizes to be awarded in the 6 to 10 and 11 to 15 year-old brackets. There's also a bike rodeo with police presenting bicycle safety tips for kids and an obstacle course for youngsters to test their skills.

The concert stage will include local rockers the Delaneys, fresh off their prime appearance at the EQT Three Rivers Regatta, the Brighton Boys, back from a successful radio station gig in Ocean City, Md., and Papa Fuse & the Circuit Breakers, a new band, led by Monaca native John Dessler, which earned rave reviews with a gig two weekends ago at Wooley Bully's in New Brighton.

The full concert schedule:

9 a.m. -- Exempt.

10:30 a.m. -- Olive Mountain.

Noon -- Blind Association.

1:30 p.m. -- The Delaneys.

3 p.m. -- Brighton Boys.

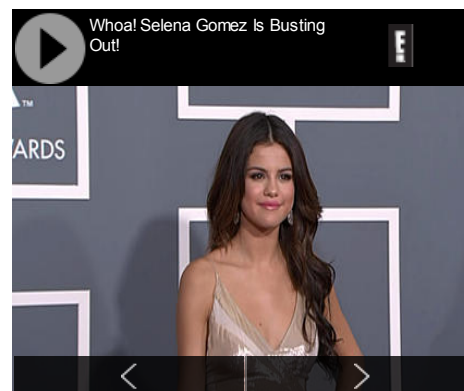
4:30 p.m. -- Papa Fuse & the Circuit Breakers.

Festival-goers also can browse and buy at the arts and crafts booths, or wind down with that most popular of tailgating sports, cornhole.

Troia expects a bigger crowd this year since he's moved the festival up a few months. Last year's festival competed against a Pittsburgh Steelers game.

The festival is a fundraiser for a proposed bicycling and canoeing/kayaking trail linking the Montour Trail south of Coraopolis to existing trails in Columbiana, Ohio, and beyond, to as far as Cleveland and Maryland. The proposed combination of new trails, existing ones and streets or sidewalks made more bicycle friendly, recently received state grant money for engineering and design work to build a trail linking the Montour Trail and the Sewickley Bridge area, said Troia, an Ohio River Trail Council co-founder.

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