34th Annual
Palmerton
Community Festival
Friday, Saturday & Sunday - Sept. 8, 9 & 10, 2023

Palmerton
Borough Park

*The Borough Park is Non-Smoking | No Pets Permitted
www.Palmertonfestival.com
RAIN OR SHINE!

- Handmade Crafts
- Local Foods
- Free Entertainment
- Rides
- Chinese Auction
- Games
- Plus much more...
BE OUR GUEST FOR ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8
Opening Ceremonies
Main Stage 5:00-5:15pm
South Penn Dixie
southpenndixie.com
Main Stage 5:15-7:30pm
Changes In Latitude
changesinlatitude.com
Main Stage 8:30-10:30pm

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9
Palmerton Community Band
Bandstand 12:00-1:30pm
The Rehrig Brothers
www.facebook.com/TheRehrigBrothers
Main Stage 2:00-3:30pm
Main Street Cruisers
www.themainstreetcruisers.com
Main Stage 5:00-7:00pm
M80 Band
www.facebook.com/M80PartyBand
Main Stage 8:30-10:30pm

SUNDAY, SEPT. 10
Time Whys
www.timewhys.net
Main Stage 1:00-3:00pm
Tootsee the Clown & Friends
Bandstand 3:00-5:00pm
FREE: Balloon Animals and Face Painting*
Nowhere Slow
www.nowhereslow.com
Main Stage 4:00-6:00pm
Triple Rail Turn
www.triplerailturn.com
Main Stage 7:00-9:00pm

*DAILY HOURS*
Friday 5:00pm - 11:00pm
Saturday 11:00am - 11:00pm
Sunday 12:00pm - 9:00pm

*Outside food/beverage is prohibited*
NO PETS PERMITTED
Palmerton Borough ordinance does not allow smoking or vaping inside the park.

*PAY ONE PRICE RIDE SPECIAL*
Fri., Sept. 8th 5:00pm - 9:00pm $20
Sat., Sept. 9th 1:00pm - 5:00pm $20
Sun., Sept. 10th 2:00pm - 6:00pm $20

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Sun., Sept. 10th 2:00pm - 6:00pm $20
Palmerton UVO opens services for festival

BY TERRY AHNER
TAHNER@TNONLINE.COM

It serves as the introduction and sets the tone for what’s ahead.

Opening ceremony will begin at 5 p.m. Friday on the main stage of this year’s Palmerton Community Festival.

The Palmerton UVO will participate for the presentation of colors and invocation.

That will be followed by the singing of the national anthem by a group of festival volunteers.

Borough Mayor Don Herrmann will give opening remarks.

Jodi Smale, festival secretary and co-chair of the event, explained the importance of the opening act.

“Our opening ceremony is an important pillar of the festival, as it signifies the start to a wonderful weekend shared with family and friends,” Smale said. “We welcome all in attendance, both those who have made this a yearly tradition, and others who are newcomers who we hope will be back in years to come.

“They are a time to recognize the hard work of all those who work behind the scenes to make this a success.”

Festival bands offer something for everyone

BY TERRY AHNER
TAHNER@TNONLINE.COM

What would a festival be without top-notch entertainment?

Festival attendees will get the chance to experience the best and the brightest of music at this year’s Palmerton Community Festival.

Dustin Rehrig, entertainment co-chair, said this year’s entertainment offers “something for everyone.”

“We have a nice mixture of local and national entertainment lined up for the whole weekend,” Rehrig said. “Festival goers get to hear oldies, country, classic rock and dance music.”

Rehrig said the process by which the bands are picked is because of “the many decades spent in the music industry that helps to make these decisions.”

“What I try to do at our festival is bring in entertainment that’s new to our area,” Rehrig said. “We of course mix in a nice flavor of local acts, but when it comes to our headliners, it’s always nice for it to be fresh for the community, and something they can’t see anywhere else without a lot of driving.”

And, as Rehrig pointed out, it’s free.

“We are fortunate to have a large amount of local businesses that choose an advertising package that best suits their needs, vendors and the rides company,” he said. “All of these entities contribute toward the costs of operating our festival. We are a nonprofit organization, so our sponsors make all of this possible.”

Rehrig pinpointed what makes the entertainment such a huge part of the festival.

“Over the years, we have prided ourselves with providing the best entertainment our festival can support,” he said. “Having a professional stage, audio and lighting system adds to the visual experience that most places cannot provide. The entertainment has always been a benchmark with us, and we plan on making it bigger and better.”

This year’s entertainment...
Several new vendors have decided to set up shop at this year’s Palmerton Community Festival.

Among them are St. John’s UCC Church, which will feature all kinds of tasty sweets. Those include edible cookie dough: chocolate chip and sugar cookies; as well as regular chocolate and sugar cookies; fudge; hot chocolate, milk/chocolate milk, and hot coffee.

“The cookies just have a wonderful flavor,” according to Amy Frohnheiser-Brown, a Sunday school teacher at St. John’s UCC Church. “Everything is made with love, and they smell so wonderful.”

Additionally, Frohnheiser-Brown said there will also be a small raffle.

Frohnheiser-Brown said the Sunday school program is thrilled to be a part of the festival.

“It’s going to keep St. John’s alive, so that the little kids here can stay with our church just like I have (as an adult),” she said. “It’s just nice to keep the church together, from young to old.”

Also new to this year’s festival is Raising the House, which will feature pulled pork sandwiches and beef brisket sandwiches, according to Adrianne Allen, president, Raising the House.

“The opportunity presented itself to allow us to go into the festival,” Allen said. “Smokin’ Our Butts Off BBQ offered to do the work for us for the part that we’re going to be selling at the festival stand.

“(Since) it’s an item not already being currently sold at the festival, it opened the door for us to be at the festival this year.”

Allen said the organization is pleased to have a stand at the event.

“It’s exciting to be at the festival because our organization serves the Palm Comm with all of the monies we do earn,” she said. “Any of the money we do earn, we’re trying to expand to even more students and families of the Palmerton Area School District.”

Allen added that from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, S.S. Palmer Elementary will host a Resource Fair at which time representatives from organizations such as Second Harvest Food Bank will be on hand to help families who have specific needs such as food insecurities.

The entertainment lineup is as follows:

- **Friday**: South Penn Dixie (5:15-7:30 p.m.); Changes in Latitudes (8:30-10:30 p.m.) all on the main stage.
- **Saturday**: Palmerton Community Band (noon-1:30 p.m.) in the bandstand; The Rehrig Brothers (2:30-3:30 p.m.); Main Street Cruisers (5-7 p.m.); M80 Band (8:30-10:30 p.m.) all on the main stage.
- **Sunday**: Time Whys (1-3 p.m.); Nowhere Slow (4-6 p.m.); Triple Rail Turn (7-9 p.m.) all on the main stage. “Having a professional stage, audio and lighting system adds to the visual experience that most places cannot provide. The entertainment has always been a benchmark with us, and we plan on making it bigger and better.”

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Palmerton Band is steeped in tradition

BY TERRY AHNER
TAHNER@TNONLINE.COM

In the minds of many, the time of the local concert band may have experienced its zenith.

Fortuitously, that isn’t the view shared by the Palmerton Community Band, which will perform from noon to 1:30 p.m. Saturday in the bandstand at this year’s Palmerton Community Festival.

The band’s July concert was canceled because of rain, but the band will play several numbers from that concert, according to director Joe Plechavy.

This is the band’s last concert of the season.

“There’s always a big crowd around,” Plechavy said. “Most of the years, even when it was the Palmerton Hospital Festival, the band played.”

Plechavy said about 30 band members will be performing at the festival, and added that the band just became a 501(c)(3) organization.

“We are dependent upon donations from various organizations and people to survive,” he said. “We always have a pink bucket at the concerts hanging somewhere.”

Popular songs

Plechavy said among the songs that will be played include “Inclad” and “The Patriot,” before it moves on to its regular September concert, which will include a number marches such as “March of Belgian Paratroopers,” “NC4,” and “Lure of Alaska.”

He said the band will also play “Carbon County Band March,” a new version of “Autumn Leaves,” and a version of “Gabriel’s Oboe.”

The band will also play some things from “West Side Story” and “Oliver.”

Concerts in the park

The tradition of concerts in the park dates back to 1911, when Stuart Prutzman became leader of the newly organized and incorporated band.

Having been preceded by the Griffin Cornet Band (1895) and the Lyra Band (1901), the Palmerton Band began receiving financial help from the New Jersey Zinc Co. when Superintendent J.E. Hayes became interested in having a local band to represent the new town of Palmerton.

The efforts of Hayes peaked in 1921 when Paul A. Bartholomew became librarian for the Zinc Company and director of the band. At one time, 11 of the officers of the band were NJZ employees.

In 1923 John Trankley was instrumental in forming the Palmerton Boys Band. Robert Montz, then leader of the Parryville Band, was brought in as director of the Boys Band in 1923. Montz, who had worked at the Parryville Iron Furnaces, became an inspector in the service and maintenance department of NJZ. He moved to Palmerton and began giving lessons to young brass students at the rate of six or seven half-hour lessons, four nights a week. The cost was 50 cents per lesson.

Band rehearsals were held weekly in the squash court building. Fall rehearsals readied the band for the annual winter concert presented in the auditorium of the newly built S.S. Palmer High School beginning in 1926. Spring rehearsals reviewed music for the summer concerts. The summer schedule had as many as 14 different programs, each 90 minutes long.

Long history

Beginning in 1912, these concerts in the park were presented from June to September. They continued for more than 50 years until a dwindling number of musicians forced the band to reduce the number to seven, and then to four in 1996.

See BAND on Page 7
Concourse Club hosts art, photo show

The Concourse Club will hold its annual art and photography show in conjunction with the Palmerton Community Festival at the Sacred Heart Church Hall, 3rd Street & Lafayette Avenue.

Viewing hours for the show will be from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

The show includes works from local artists and students in categories of art, works on paper, photography, digital art and mixed media.

A market place will be open for the duration of the show for cash and carry purchases. In addition to the main show, a silent auction will be open for bidding until 3 p.m. Sunday.

Twenty-nine local artists have donated works and 100% of the proceeds will be donated to the Bo Tkach Foundation, a local nonprofit bringing awareness to mental health issues.

BAND
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Over those years the band also participated in many other events.

World War I Liberty Loan drives, Red Cross events, World War II Bond Drives and holiday and fireman’s parades were among some of the activities.

The Boys Band had Saturday night picnics in the surrounding areas from Trachsville and Little Gap to Mantzville and Schoenersville. They also performed at PHS football games and basketball play-offs. When the Palmerton High School Band was organized by Stanley Smith in the 1940s, the Boys Band was dissolved. The senior band played for many of the picnics in the following years. The band also played for the Palmerton Hospital Festival from its beginning in 1961, through its change to the community festival.

Both Bartholomew and Montz retired in the mid-1940s. Howard Wentz became the director of the senior band and Norman Lichtenwalter of the Boys Band. About that time the squash court building was removed and rehearsals moved to the NJZ Company building on Third and Delaware.

When that building was remodeled, rehearsals were held wherever a room could be located; borough hall gym or a room on the second floor; Sacred Heart Church office or gym; a room in the remodeled NJZ lab; a conference room in the medical building built where the silk mill used to be and finally for the last eight years or so, the Palmerton Area High School music room.

The Senior or Palmerton Men’s Band began accepting female musicians as members after World War II and the name slowly changed to the Palmerton Community Band.

Other conductors since Wentz retired in 1957 have been Alvin Schmidt, Rodney Grimm from 1959 to 1971, Tom Heinze for several years, Jack DeSousa from 1976 through 2000, and then Plechavy.

Hayes Firm or Plush

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FREE DELIVERY / FREE SET-UP / FREE REMOVAL OF OLD BEDDING
Much to the delight of their audience, they continue to bring back the Classic Country hits from yesteryear. Bring your lawn chairs and prepare to kick back and enjoy the timeless classics when The Rehrig Brothers perform from 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday on the main stage at this year’s Palmerton Community Festival.

The band has performed at a high level for five decades, and consists of twin brothers Dave Rehrig (lead vocals) and Dennis Rehrig (steel guitar), along with brother Dean Rehrig (keyboard). Dave Rehrig said the show consists of songs from the ’70s, ’80s and ’90s. “It’s bringing back the songs people listened to when they were growing up,” Dave said. “More and more of the people in our age group they want to hear the Classic Country.”

Dave said the band plays classic country songs by artists such as Alan Jackson, George Strait, Charlie Pride, John J Cash, Merle Haggard, Randy Travis, a little bit of Elvis, and also does a segment of Conway Twitty hits. “We always ask if are there any Conway Twitty fans in attendance, and audience just explodes,” he said. “They still know us as a Conway Twitty tribute band.”

Dave said the atmosphere is always electric when they perform in the borough park. “It’s always a great venue with people from the town, and we bring in people from other areas that we perform in,” he said. “They always have an excellent stage and sound system; they just make it like a little concert.”

There’s more than just music to enjoy. “I always enjoy all of the food,” Dave said. “The Rehrig Family” formed a band in 1963 with their father, Frank Rehrig, and later changed the name to “The Rehrig Brothers.”

The brothers decided to get together again as “The Rehrig Brothers” to perform in between their other two bands. Dave also does shows with his wife, Brenda, as the “Dave and Brenda Duo.”

TimeWhys will bring classic sounds to the Palmerton festival stage from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday. The group’s repertoire includes songs from the Beatles, the Bee Gees, The Grass Roots, The Foundations, The Cyrkle, The Doors and more.

Based in the Lehigh Valley, TimeWhys also features Drago’s brother Frank on keyboards, bass and vocals. Mark Johnson, on guitar and vocals, and John Nigrelli, on drums and vocals, round out the lineup. The band’s multi-instrumentalist members use technology to reproduce sound that would take six or eight musicians to replicate, Drago noted. The group reproduces “intricate details of the original performances. You should hear these songs as you remember them.”

Initially, TimeWhys performed just 1960s and 1970s music. However, “as of late, we are getting requests for ’80s tunes, as well,” Drago said. “So we do include two or three ’80s tunes,” plus one-hit-wonder songs.

The Rehrig Brothers are scheduled to perform from 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday on the main stage. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

“Pop” Rehrig. After “Pop” Rehrig retired from the band, the three sons changed the band name to “Twitty Fever.”


The brothers decided to get together again as “The Rehrig Brothers” to perform in between their other two bands. Dave also does shows with his wife, Brenda, as the “Dave and Brenda Duo.”
Main Street Cruisers return to festival

BY MARTA GOUGER
MGOUGER@TNONLINE.COM

The Main Street Cruisers will bring a variety of music from doo-wop to disco from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday. The eight-piece, costumed and choreographed group is returning to the festival after a three-year hiatus.

“The band started about 18 years ago when we realized that there was not a lot of groups performing the hits of this bygone era in the style of the original performers with dress and dance as it was done originally,” said vocalist and rhythm guitarist Mark Gutman.

Some of the crowd favorites include The B52’s “Love Shack,” The Sherelles “Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow,” and “You’re The One That I Want” From Grease.

Gutman said his favorites include “Ring of Fire” by Johnny Cash and “Runaround Sue” by Dion and the Belmonts.

“The Main Street Cruisers are family friendly and audience inclusive,” Gutman said. “We are a patriotic group that ends every one of our shows with God Bless the USA which stir patriotism in all of our fans.”

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New, returning crafters set for festival weekend

BY MARTA GOUGER
MGOUGER@TNONLINE.COM

The unique craft tent is one of the biggest draws to the Palmerton Community Festival.

Chairwoman Elizabeth Campbell said some people drive two hours just to see the crafts.

This year new and returning craftspersons are displaying their creations.

“We have a lot of repeats and a lot of new people,” Campbell said.

Organizers are always on the lookout for different choices.

“We have a good variety this year,” Campbell said.

Jewelry offerings have increased, with many choices including crafted glass and wooden earrings.

LyMe Tree Design LLC will be bringing original custom design jewelry and glass art.

New to the show is Kristy Spairana, who will be bringing Raelynn Timber wooden creations with wood décor, wooden key chains and earrings.

Look for longtime crafters Carla Binder and her daughter Sarah with jewelry and decorative items.

Mama Mayhem Design Company is back with studded earrings and spoon rings. Terri Trotter is returning with 3D hand-painted critters and earrings.

Some of the other choices include:

- Laura Lee Serfass of Down Home Metal is another new seller, but she's familiar with the show.
- Her mother is Deb Burdge, a longtime participant.
- Burdge’s business is Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice, which includes the popular hair bows and sugar lip gloss.
- Looking for some decorations? Shelby Haydt of Poured Creations in Palmerton will be bringing handmade resin items.
- Arlene Russell of Jim Thorpe puts her original art on note cards.
- Kathy Snyder of Lilly Bean Cottage will display soy candles, bath bombs and decorative soaps.

Wooden earrings from Raelynn Timber, owned by Kristy Spairana.

Free face painting, balloon animals Sunday afternoon

BY MARTA GOUGER
MGOUGER@TNONLINE.COM

Tootsee the clown and her friends will have a special treat for children Sunday afternoon.

They provide free balloon animals and face painting from 3 to 5 p.m. at the festival.

Tootsee, also known as Shelly Ladd, said she has been clowning around for 30 years.

“I love kids and love seeing them smile,” she said.

She began by cheering up children in the hospital and word spread.

The friends who will be at the festival are other clowns who love entertaining as much as Ladd does.

“We really care about every event,” she said.

Her theory is, “This is this child’s only third birthday party.”

They go into nursing homes too.

“We entertain from ages 1 to 101,” she said.

Ladd said she is honored to be a part of the festival.

She said more than ever it’s important to her to bring joy to people after the COVID shutdown.

“It’s been tough for everyone.”

A resin creation by Shelby Haydt.

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A resin creation by Shelby Haydt.
Jimmy Buffett tribute comes to festival stage Friday night

Changes In Latitudes, a Jimmy Buffett tribute band, will be on stage at the Palmerton Festival from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Friday. The nationally acclaimed band brings dancing conga lines and “Trop Rock” fun. Listen to classics such as “Margaritaville,” “Come Monday,” “Cheeseburger In Paradise,” “Volcano,” and “Changes In Latitudes, Changes In Attitudes.”

Other classics include “Brown Eyed Girl,” “Southern Cross,” and “It’s Five o’clock Somewhere.”

Historical bus tours, 125th anniversary ornaments available

BY TERRY AHNER TAHNER@TNONLINE.COM

Palmerton’s 125th Anniversary celebration continues with historical bus tours during the festival.

The tours, hosted by the Palmerton Historical Society, will be at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturday, and 1 and 3 p.m. Sunday.

The cost is $5 per person. Tours last about 75 minutes.

The commemorative tickets are available before the festival at the Heritage Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday and Saturday, and during the festival at their stand.

In addition to the tours, a Limited Edition 125th Anniversary Christmas ornament will be available at the Historical Society’s Covered Bridge booth for $10.

Only 75 ornaments are being produced and feature the bandstand engraved on the front.

During the festival, the “snippets of history” poster will be located behind the society’s booth.

Be sure to stop and take a look at the historical photographs and information on the founding of Palmerton.
South Penn Dixie brings country, rock

BY MARTA GOUGER
MGOUGER@TNONLINE.COM

South Penn Dixie is happy to return to the Palmerton Community Festival for the third time.

Guitarist Marc Bunn said the band enjoys the great crowds and the atmosphere at the festival. “The sound production is top notch, and you have the excitement of the festival all around you. The audience is starting to know us, and it has been great to see familiar faces each year.”

The band is known for modern country music. “So you can’t go wrong with anyone named Luke these days! Luke Combs and Luke Bryan are always a hit, and ‘She Had Me at Heads Carolina’ by Cole Swindell is really popular.”

The band got its start in 2020 with drummer John Malachefski and lead vocalist/guitarist Ricky Bell meeting each other through Craigslist. Then they found bassist Mark Bracken and Bunn at an open mic night!

“Just goes to show you never know where fate may take you. A seemingly random start but we found a very cohesive and professional group of guys,” Bunn said.

“We had our first practice and then COVID hit, but we did our best to muddle through and started playing shows and getting a great reaction from folks and then we were off and running.”

Bunn says his favorites are the unexpected mashups the band does. “We love our country music, but we were all rock guys back in the day! So, you may hear parts of Def Leppard, Guns N’ Roses, Bon Jovi, Bryan Adams, AC/DC, heck even a little Nelly thrown into some country songs from time to time. I enjoy seeing the looks on people’s faces when we go someplace they didn’t expect!”


Bunn said the band is thankful for the opportunity to play at the festival. “We are always blown away by the hospitality of the organizers and look forward to playing in front of a great crowd.” Bunn said.

South Penn Dixie will play from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m. Friday night at the Palmerton Community Festival. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bracken and Bunn at an open mic night!

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M80 Band will bring fun music to the stage

BY MARTA GOUGER MGOUGER@TNONLINE.COM

The M80 Band is making its debut at the Palmerton Festival Saturday and there’s going to be a party.

The six-piece band, with members from Lehigh Valley and Wilkes-Barre, is in its 18th year of music from the ‘80s.

“It’s a really fun band,” said Bryan Harmony, lead vocalist. “We play anything from the ‘80s.”

The band plays regularly at casinos and resorts in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, as well as stints in Key West, Florida, two or three a year.

Expect to hear songs from Bon Jovi, Madonna, David Bowie, Cyndi Lauper, the Go-Go’s, Devo, Queen, Tom Petty and Motley Crue.

Festival attendees might find themselves singing along to “We Got the Beat,” “Sweet Home Alabama,” “I Love Rock and Roll,” “My Sharona,” “Jack and Diane,” “Boys of Summer” and “Jessie’s Girl.”

“If it’s a popular song from the ’80s, we do it,” Harmony said.

The band is family friendly, Harmony said. “Everybody is looking forward to it,” Harmony said. “We don’t get to play at home very often.”

Nowhere Slow performs Sunday

Nowhere Slow will take the stage from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday. Performing on stages up and down the East Coast for more than 15 years, Nowhere Slow prides themselves on crowd engagement, musicianship and an all-around fun time. They are known for their solid vocals and dynamic instrumentation. The band plays favorites from 311, Amy Winehouse, Better Than Ezra, Blues Traveler, Bon Jovi, Bruno Mars, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Whitney Houston and more. Visit nowhereslow.com for the complete song list.

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610-824-2583
TRT performs high-energy country/rock tunes

BY MARTA GOUGER
MGOUGER@TNONLINE.COM

Triple Rail Turn is bringing its high energy country/rock to the festival from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday.

Hailing from its home base of Philadelphia, Triple Rail Turn is making its first appearance at the festival.

Guitarist Brian Hannon said the band’s unique name came from a little-known railroad term from yesteryear. “So the story goes, when the rail lines left urban areas to the rural countryside the power goes from a third rail system to a self powered or overhead power driven system. This shift was called a triple rail turn,” Hannon said.

“When thinking of a name, this concept was quite intriguing to us given the parallels of an urban and rural system coming together to make the bigger picture work. It was a very easy metaphor to identify with.”

The band members have strong musical backgrounds and combine that with a unique combination of sounds, lights and performance. Hannon said this summer the top crowd favorites are “Beer Never Broke My Heart” by Luke Combs and “Heart Like a Truck” by Lainey Wilson. However, Hannon said the band has the most fun playing the rock medley.

“It’s become a staple of our performances and showcases everyone of us at some point all the while taking a 16-minute musical ride through some pretty awesome moments of rock ‘n’ roll and a bit of pop, all with a splash of TRT country flare,” Hannon said.

TRT performs high-energy country/rock tunes

TRIPLE RAIL TURN WILL WRAP UP THE FESTIVAL SUNDAY NIGHT. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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