



Weather Doesn't Stop the MudgeFest

By Dori Boertman
City of Perry Events Coordinator



We would like to thank everyone for the success of this year's MudgeFest held Sunday, Feb. 8, in Perry.

Despite the challenges posed by "Mother Nature," including spring-like weather and the lack of snow, nearly 175 guests enjoyed an afternoon of family-fun.

Trophies were presented to Best of Show winners in all three age categories as well as ribbons for the second and third-place winners.

Although a downhill distance run was not held, "Mudgers" were given the opportunity to use what little snow was available to test their "Mudges" (homemade cardboard toboggans) in fun runs.

Winners were drawn by number for the first-place trophy and second and third-place ribbons in all three age categories of the Mudge Run.

The Chili Cook-Off attracted 13-entries this year with the first place winner in each of the three categories winning a \$40 Visa cash card, from National City Bank-Perry Branch, who sponsored all of the trophies and ribbons.

The top winner of the children's Raffle Drawing, received a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond from Chemical Bank, of Morrice and the top winner of the adult Raffle Drawing went home with a free \$175 Portrait Package, courtesy of ArTech Photography of Perry.

Many thanks to Dollar General of Perry, for the majority of the fantastic toys as well as to all of the merchants who donated numerous items for nearly one hundred "goodie bags" given to each of the children in attendance, including: Perry Dental; Burger King, McDonald's, Jake's Pizza (Morrice), Planet Video, Road Trip Oasis (former Glitzy Ritz) and Seven-Eleven.

The free Raffle Drawing was phenomenal, with all the children and the majority of adults winning at least one prize, thanks to the generous donations of local merchants, including: Café Sports, Charay's Sunrays, Charlie's Bar & Grill, DBI of Lansing, Diane's Country Kitchen-Morrice, the Floral Gallery, Hearth 'N Home, Granger's Trash Removal, Huffy's Full Service Station, Hungry Howie's, Meal & More-Morrice, Morrice Area Schools, Morrice Hardware, Morrice Insurance, Morrice Superette, Perry Public Schools, Perry Automotive, the Perry Branch Library, Perry/Morrice Chamber of Commerce, Ridenour's Auto Repair, Snyder's IGA, Spalding Insurance, SSES-A-Perry Area Fire Rescue, Steve Schweikert, Sunfish Tanning, Swan Creek Candle, Tammy's Baked Goods, Unique by Nature, the Theile Agency-Farm Bureau and Your Barber Shop.

Thanks also for the great contributions from: Perry VFW 4063 and its Ladies Auxiliary, Perry AMVETS Post 4064 and its Ladies Auxiliary, and the Sons of AMVETS Post 4064. Their gracious donations are greatly appreciated.

A big thank you is extended to Signature Ford of Perry for sponsoring another great "ice sculpting" exhibition performed by Scott Miller of Miller Ice Sculpting.

Gratitude is also extended to: Perry Cub Scout Pack 393 for sponsoring the Hot Dog Concession; Eric Brandes and Jason Mortinsen, both of Perry, for the musical entertainment; Mayor Ross DeLau, Councilman Mark Landers and Maureen Matson, who served as judges; the DPW for use of the facility and assistance in set-up and cleanup; Judy Guenther, Sarah Richards, Stephan Barber, Jean Holley, Greg Wekwert, James and Andrew Huguelet, Samantha Miller, Matthew and Michael Velting and all the eighth grade student volunteers.

A huge thank-you also goes to Devin Miller for her dedication of past events and guidance in organizing this year's event.

Special thanks to all the die-hard Mudgers who attended this year's event to keep the tradition alive.

Keep your eyes and ears open for details of the next "big" city-sponsored event. The annual PerryFest will be held Friday, Sept. 18 through Sunday, Sept. 20.

Hope to see everyone there!