

The Maple Lake MESSSENGER *Extra*

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Looking forward to Gear-Head 2021

By Brenda Erdahl

Although a year away, the 2021 Gear-Head Get Together is already shaping up to be a good one.

As if the hundreds of vehicles, motorcycles and machines that pack the streets of Maple Lake every year weren't enough of a thrill, the Gear-Head committee next year has scheduled an exhilarating show from the American Motor Drome Company Wall of Death.

Go back in time with this vintage live action thrill show featuring a silo-shaped wooden cylinder 30 feet in diameter where motorcycle daredevils defy the laws of gravity by driving along the vertical interior walls, performing tricks, fancy and acrobatic riding.

According to the company's website, motor dromes have been thrilling audiences for more than a century at carnivals and fairs. With their antique Indian and Harley-Davidson motorcycles, American Motor Drome performs a show as it would have been 100 years ago.

The Motor Drome Wall of Death is just one of the attractions gearheads have to look forward to after the disappointing news that this summer's event has been cancelled. Organizers and the thousands of people who turn out every year for the occasion were disappointed when the COVID-19 pandemic caused the gathering to be called off for the first time in its 10-year history.



Last year's event featured more than 1,200 vehicles, from shiny hot rods and collector cars to rusty re-models still in the works plus hundreds of motorcycles from all eras.

The decision to cancel did not come easily, organizer Scott Chantland said.

"For approximately four months we have ridden the Pandemic Rollercoaster trying to keep the event alive. With all the uncertainty and changing rules we have felt paralyzed and unable to make any decisions related to the event," organizers wrote earlier this month in their official statement cancelling the gathering.

"In a nutshell, The Governor of Minnesota has not lifted the group gathering size beyond 250 people, and we do not see that happening anytime soon. Even though our gearhead hearts are broken our committee will continue to meet throughout the year planning the biggest and best gathering of gearheads for 2021," they said.

Keeping to that promise, Gear-Head 2021 will also feature the musical talents of local country western artist Mitch Gordon. Gordon, who hails from right here in Maple Lake, has toured in 14 states and performed at big venues like Winstock and Lakes Jam, but never at Gear-Head.

Returning to the musical stage next year is event favorite Pull Start Diesel. But the music, food vendors and entertainment are just the garnish on the real fun – the machines.

Last year's display featured more than 1,200 vehicles, from shiny hot rods and collector cars to rusty re-models still in the works plus hundreds of motorcycles from all eras. The collec-

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tion closed the streets of downtown Maple Lake for the day and spilled over into the parks. Hailed for its philosophy "no plaques, no trophies, just a bunch of gearheads hanging out and looking at machines," the free event annually attracts thousands of people from across Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Iowa for a unique display of mechanical ingenuity.

But the event hasn't been called a "car show and much, much more," for nothing. On top of it all is a swap meet where 100-plus vendors sell everything from car, motorcycle and snowmobile parts to entire cars and full motorcycles. There are also plenty of petroleum related items, vintage signs, mechanical artwork, collectables and an assortment of odds and ends.

Like last year, the swap meet will take place along Birch Ave South starting at second street, stretch down Fourth Street and up Maple Ave. This is a different location than years past when the event was held in the parking lot at Irish Stadium and Bolduan Park.

Up and down the streets visitors will find local food vendors and area restaurants will be open if you prefer air-conditioned dining.

Gear-Head committee members meet throughout the year to lift the get-together off the ground each summer.

More volunteers are needed the big day, but there never seems to be a shortage as people step forward to make the day a success.

Chantland emphasized that the Gear-Head Get Together's



Coming in 2021 is the American Motor Drome Company Wall of Death featuring a silo-shaped wooden cylinder 30 feet in diameter where daredevils defy the laws of gravity.

Photo submitted



Although a year away, the 2021 Gear-Head Get Together is already shaping up to be a good one. This is the view from downtown Maple Lake at last year's gathering.

Photos from Messenger archives



Live bands like this one, will perform throughout the day on different stages scattered throughout town. Pull Start Diesel and Mitch Gordon are two of the acts booked for 2021.

success, both past and future, is due to the diligent work of many capable hands including The Chamber of Commerce and the Community of Maple Lake as a whole.

"What makes it all possible is a very dedicated group of Gear-Head volunteers and an incredible group of sponsors," he said.

The 2021 Gear-Head Get Together is scheduled for the third Saturday in August.

"See you there!," Chantland said.



At the swap meet, 100-plus vendors sell everything from car, motorcycle and snowmobile parts to entire cars and full motorcycles.

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Keep devices in top shape and running well

The need for reliable technology has never been more apparent. When the world hit the proverbial pause button in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, technology was crucial to keeping people connected to the world around them, helping people maintain some semblance of normalcy as it pertained to work and education.

Students and families who have invested in various electronics to help keep their household running should understand that maintenance is required to keep these devices running effectively.

These tips can help keep gadgets in tip-top shape:

- Protect devices from extreme temperatures. Electronic devices are designed to operate under an array of conditions, but pushing those conditions can result in damage. Most devices are fine between temperatures of 32 F and 90 F. But don't leave electronics in the car, in a sunny window or outdoors.
 - Clean devices regularly. Refer to the user's manual for the proper ways to clean the devices you rely on each day. Some may require a specific cleaner or a particular fabric to help ensure the device isn't scratched or damaged. Spray cleaners on a cloth and then wipe off devices, rather than spraying cleaners directly on electronics. Try a can of compressed air to remove dust from crevices or vents.
 - Invest in a surge protector. While surge protector power strips multiply the number of available outlets, they also serve a more important purpose. These devices will cut off power to plugged-in electronics if there is a power surge, helping to prevent damage.
 - Don't overcharge. It's essential to have gadgets charged and ready to go, but overcharging can reduce battery life. Do not leave devices charging overnight. Battery University™, a free educational website offering battery information, says that nickel- and lithium-based batteries should be stored with a 40 percent state-of-charge. This level minimizes age-related capacity loss and keeps the battery in good condition.
 - Use protective cases. Cases can prevent damage if devices are dropped and also may safeguard against scratched screens. Cases and covers also minimize dust and dirt on devices.
 - Keep software up-to-date. Security issues may arise when software is not updated, and programs may not run effectively or be compatible with others. Along the same vein, routinely clean out unused files to free up space, and clear cookies and browser histories to maintain speed and efficiency.
- Routine maintenance can keep electronics working properly when they're needed the most.



These tips can help keep gadgets in tip-top shape.

Photo submitted

A refresher course in school bus safety



All students and families can benefit from a refresher course on school bus procedures to ensure this school year begins on safe footing.

Photo submitted

The dawn of a new school year is a time marked by change and fresh opportunities. For many children, school marks the first time they are away from their parents for an extended period of time. It also may be the first time they ride in a vehicle other than their parents' cars.

Each school day, 25 million children ride a bus to school in the United States. A school bus is among the safest modes of transport and one of the most regulated vehicles on the road, ac-

ording to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Riding a school bus can be a novel experience no matter a student's age or grade. Kindergarteners may be introduced to the school bus on their first day of school, while older students are no doubt familiar with life inside a school bus. But all students and families can benefit from a refresher course on school bus procedures to ensure this school year begins on safe footing.

These tips will keep you and others informed on bus safety:

- Be a smart pedestrian. Riding the school bus is very safe, but injuries can occur walking to and from the bus stop. Watch for cars backing out of driveways and always look both ways multiple times before crossing streets.
 - Remember school bus laws. Most areas of the country have specific school bus laws that include stopping when red lights are flashing on the school bus. Cars must stop whether they're behind the school bus, next to it or on the opposite side of the street facing the bus. Stopping allows passengers to enter or exit the bus safely.
 - Stand away from the curb. The National Safety Council advises keeping six feet, or three giant steps, away from the curb while waiting for the bus. Young children should be carefully supervised.
 - Be visible. Always cross in front of the bus, making eye contact with the driver so that he or she knows your intentions before crossing. If you drop something, do not bend down to pick it up. Tell the driver instead.
 - Remain seated. Find a seat promptly and remain seated for the duration of the ride. Do not stand up and proceed down the center aisle until the bus has stopped.
 - Minimize distractions. Always speak softly and behave so that you do not distract the driver.
- School buses are very safe vehicles, but passengers need to do their part to avoid injury.

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How to prepare kids to go back to school

The end of summer can be a bittersweet time for students. While many students look forward to seeing their friends, few want to say goodbye to the relaxing days of summer.

Parents know that getting their children back in the school day swing of things can be a challenge. The following are some ways to make that transition go smoothly.

Here are some tips on preparing students back to school:

- Introduce more structure as summer vacation winds down. The chance to unwind in a structure-free setting can benefit students at the onset of summer vacation. Many parents grapple with the notion that their children's lives are overscheduled, and the Cleveland Clinic notes that limiting organized activities clears up down time for kids to play and relax and spend time with their families. So it's important that parents afford their children this down time during summer vacation, only gradually introducing more structure as the school year draws closer. In the weeks before the school year is slated to begin, start waking kids up a little earlier and reintroducing bedtimes for younger children who may have been staying up later over the last couple of months. This can be an effective way to begin slowly preparing youngsters for the structure of the school year.
- Encourage children to read throughout the summer. A report from the education publishing company Scholastic found that 47 percent of parents are unaware of the "summer slide," which refers to the loss of academic skills that occurs when school is not in session. Scholastic notes that the slide is largely attributed to a lack of reading when school is not in session. By encouraging kids to read during their summer vacations, parents can make sure youngsters' brains stay sharp and are ready to learn once the school year begins.
- Focus on the positive. Even kids who love school may be apprehensive about returning to the classroom. After all, summer vacation is fun. Parents can confront that apprehension by focusing on the positives of returning to school. Emphasize the chance to see friends every day or participate in a beloved extracurricular activity, like sports, band or a favorite academic club.
- Let kids do some of their own back-to-school shopping. The items that constitute back to school supplies may have changed since parents were in school. But many parents still take their children on back-to-school clothes shopping excursions. Let kids choose their own clothes, as an opportunity to wear clothes they picked themselves might make them excited for the new school year.

Parents can take various steps to make the transition back to school a successful one for their young students.



Parents know that getting their children back in the school day swing of things can be a challenge. The following are some ways to make that transition go smoothly.
Photo submitted

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silver Creek Township Meeting, 7 p.m. Corinna Township Meeting, 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce meeting, 12 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legion Riders Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Legion Club 		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chatham Township Meeting, 7 p.m. American Legion Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Maple Lake City Council Meeting, 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hasty-Silver Creek Sportsmen's Club Meeting, 8 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sons of the American Legion, 8 p.m. 		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albion Township Meeting, 7 p.m. Corinna Township Meeting, 7 p.m. Maple Lake Township Meeting, 7 p.m. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wright Saddle Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Maple Lake Legion Auxiliary, 7 p.m. Lions Club Meeting, 7 p.m. at The V by HH 		
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wright County Snowmobile Assoc. Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Legion Club 				

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