

Visit The Old One-Room School House

There is a place you can visit where there are no laptops, tablets, Wi-Fi or social media.

It is a place where you can get a taste of days gone by and even test your spelling and geography skills.

You'll find such a place when you visit the one-room District 47 Schoolhouse on the Clay County Fairgrounds.

The visit will bring back memories for some. For others, it offers a hands-on opportunity to experience the early days of education in Clay County.

The building was previously located in Humboldt Township, one-half mile south of Minnesota Highway 34 on County Highway 31. It closed in the late 1950s and was later moved into Barnesville, where it opened to the public on the fairgrounds.

The one-room schoolhouse will be open to visitors throughout the four days of the Clay County Fair.

Former students who attended rural, one-room schoolhouses will enjoy reminiscing about those bygone years. Artifacts from the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, as well as items from teachers and students who attended country school, will be featured.

Volunteers from the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, along with other guest hosts, will be available to answer questions and share stories from the past.



Today's children can stop by and learn what schoolhouses of the past were like. Pictures, memorabilia and artifacts will transport visitors to a time when the "school marm" taught the basics to multiple grades at once.

The schoolhouse is also home to a reed organ, donated to the Clay County Fair by Phil Felde, a former Barnesville resident. The organ is ready to be played by anyone wishing to spread a little musical joy.

The reed organ, also referred to as a harmonium, produces its sound when air is blown through

sets of free reeds, creating a sound similar to an accordion. In this case, the air is supplied by bellows pumped by the player's feet.

Staff from the Clay County Historical and Cultural Society will be on hand at the schoolhouse to share information and answer questions about these bygone days.

During your day at the fair, why not stop in for a rest and a bit of history at the schoolhouse?

You just might learn something.

Spelling Bee Returns Again To The Fair

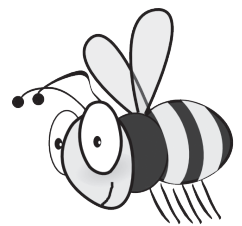


The buzz is back at the Clay County Fair.

Fairgoers of all ages are invited to test their spelling skills as the Spelling Bee returns to the School House on Thursday, July 9, at 3:00 p.m.

Hosted by Jorden Poepping, the event will feature divisions for boys and girls in kindergarten through third grade, fourth grade through high school, and adults. The competition gives students a chance to shine, while also inviting grown-ups to step up, spell under pressure and maybe earn a few bragging rights of their own.

Set inside the fairgrounds' School House, the spelling bee brings a classic classroom tradition into a fitting historic setting. Contestants will advance through rounds by spelling words aloud, with each round



adding to the anticipation.

Whether you are competing, cheering on a student, or watching adults take their turn at the microphone, the Spelling Bee promises a fun afternoon of friendly competition, community spirit and old-fashioned fair entertainment.

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