



April 13, 2009

Two food fundraisers happening Sunday

News-Messenger reports

FREMONT -- Two big fundraising events will be taking place Sunday at the Sandusky County Fairgrounds, both of which involve eating good food.

The second annual Best of Sandusky County Pizza Challenge, which gives scholarships out to a high school senior from each of the county's high schools, will be held noon to 3 p.m. in Jon's Dream Barn.

Holly Stacy, president and chief executive officer of the Chamber of Commerce of Sandusky County, said last year each scholarship given out was \$775.

Tickets for the pizza challenge are \$7 in advance and \$8 at the door, with children five and under being free. For information on where to purchase advance tickets call the chamber at 419-332-1591.

About nine pizza vendors from around the county will be participating in the event. Some new changes to the event this year includes having pizza vendors spread out, tickets will be in a separate building and each vendor will have a different color plate, so people know whose pizza they are eating. This year, they are adding a Kid's Choice Award in addition to the People's Choice Award, Quality Award and the Celebrity Award.

The other event taking place that day is a chicken barbecue dinner sponsored by the Sandusky County Area Future Farmers of America Chapters that include Fremont, Gibsonburg, Clyde, Vanguard, Sentinel and Lakota.

This event will be 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the flower building and all proceeds will go to the Austin Overmyer family. Overmyer is the son of Alan and Jude.

Overmyer, a junior at Ross High School and a member of Fremont FFA, was severely burned in an agricultural accident on Dec. 31, 2008 and was taken by Life Flight to St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center's burn unit in Toledo.

"I think it's amazing to see all the kids come together," Austin's mother, Jude said. "The support in the community is overwhelming."

She said Austin spent 39 days in Toledo and had a skin graft on both of his wrists along with a surgery that prepares for skin grafting. He also had both ears and his neck grafted.

While Austin is back in school full-time, he still attends therapy.

Also during the benefit, there will be a four-wheeler give-a-way. The winning ticket will be drawn during the event, and the winner doesn't need to be present.

David Rapp, Fremont FFA adviser, said additional four-wheeler tickets will be available at the event for a \$10 donation. The four-wheeler give-a-way is being made possible by Schiets Motorsports and the Fremont Young Farmers.

"When other (FFA) groups found out about Austin, they called like crazy wanting to help out and to do a benefit," Rapp said.

While meals needed to be reserved at \$7 a dinner, Rapp said there will be about 100 extra chicken dinners on a first come, first serve basis. For questions or reservations call Rapp at 419-334-6726.

As for parking for these events, the North Street Parking lot will be used, and there will be handicapped parking on the fairgrounds along with using shuttle wagons to take attendees from the North Parking lot to the two events.
