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Central Pennsylvania 4th Fest Preparing for 2005 Extravaganza

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. -- This Fourth of July, Central Pennsylvania will once again celebrate our nation's independence with the largest all-volunteer fireworks display in the country. VIP tickets go on sale May 16 for the Central Pennsylvania 4th Fest, which will light up the skies over State College and Penn State on Monday, July 4, 2005.

As always, the 40-minute pyrotechnic extravaganza will be choreographed to music, broadcast simultaneously on 93.7 The Bus radio and televised live on WJAC.

"We're already at work on an all-new display guaranteed to get 'oohs' and 'aahs' from the whole family," says Bernie Keisling, 4th Fest executive director. "The 4th Fest blends the latest fireworks technology, 10,000 volunteer hours and old-fashioned family fun for a true community celebration."

Despite construction of Penn State University's new baseball stadium, 4th Fest will take place again outside the Bryce Jordan Center and Beaver Stadium, with a slight change in the fireworks staging area, Keisling says. The celebration kicks off with the Firecracker 4K race in the morning, followed by a variety of children's activities, musical performances and refreshment vendors beginning at 4 p.m.

In conjunction with the 4th Fest, the Bryce Jordan Center presents its 10th annual Family Playground on July 4. The Tiki Rock Climb, Jurassic Adventure and other new rides join old favorites inside the arena.

Tickets for the VIP fireworks viewing area and VIP parking go on sale May 15 at the Bryce Jordan Center ticket office or by phone at (814) 865-5555.

Because general admission to the 4th Fest is free, Keisling notes, the event's \$300,000 budget is supported entirely through individual and corporate donations. To make a contribution or for more information, call (814) 278-2782 or go to <http://www.4thfest.org> www.4thfest.org. After May 15, donations can be made at the website via PayPal.

Central Pennsylvania July 4th Inc. is a non-profit organization in its fourth year of operation.