Crab Festival 2009 is Go

Thursday, 21 May 2009

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Erik Wander/KMXT

With high hopes for good weather and large crowds, local and out-of-town vendors had their hammers, paint brushes, food items and wares at the ready Wednesday morning along the midway at Kodiak's Saint Paul Harbor as they set up their booths for Crab Fest 2009. KMXT's Erik Wander visited with some of the vendors as they got ready.

The Kodiak Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors Crab Fest, operates a booth located at the entrance to the midway. Deb King, executive director of the chamber, was helping set up the booth, which she described as a sort of center of operations for the festival. She said set up efforts were well underway by Wednesday morning, with some vendors still to arrive.

-- (King 1 42 sec. "It's a crazy day today ... drawings and that sort of thing.")

Bronwyn Lyman is the owner of Kodiak Company. She said it takes more than a mere couple of days to get ready to sell her wares at the festival.

-- (Lyman

1 15 sec. "We started Sunday packing up ... hot off the press.")

Colleen David of Eagle River owns Glacier Bear Gourmet. She will be selling gourmet items such as stuffed olives, pickled garlic, spices and rubs at Crab Fest. She will also be sharing a tent with her friend Lisa Lehrman-Bon, owner of Charmed by Alaska of Palmer. In her third year at the festival, David said she's learned from past experience how best to get set up.

-- (David
1 10 sec. "First day we put up the tent ... and be ready for anything.")

Pastor Emma Gonzales of the River of Life Christian Fellowship Church said the church's part in the festival is a long time in the making.

-- (Gonzales
1 11 sec. "Actually pretty much ... and all those works.")

Gonzales said it is well worth the time and effort spent in order not only to sell foods such as barbequed pork, fried noodles and banana fritters at the festival, but to raise funds for a worthy cause.

-- (Gonzales
2 18 sec. "To help build a children's ... building churches as well.")

Preparation is different for Gwyn Lofberg of Gwyn's Cookery and More, a local catering company, which will provide halibut and crab melts and half-pound Angus burgers to festival visitors. Lofberg said that's because of the nature of the business.

-- (Lofberg
1 13 sec. "Well, you start ordering ... here until the next Tuesday.")

King said she estimates that roughly 15,000 people will attend the event, although an exact number is difficult to pinpoint because no admission fee is charged and the festival sees many repeat visitors throughout the 5-day event.
Crab Fest 2009, A State of Mind, celebrating 50 years of Alaska statehood, continues through Memorial Day. For more information and a schedule of events visit the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce's web site at Kodiak dot org.

I'm Erik Wander.

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