

ANGOLA

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2024

Balloons Aloft



THE NEWS SUN | THE HERALD REPUBLICAN | The Star

Welcome to Balloons Aloft 2024



Crooks

Here's wishing for blue skies and calm winds

We are so excited to welcome everyone to Angola Balloons Aloft 2024!

We hope you enjoy the many colorful balloons and their friendly pilots who

make this event so special.

We are so thankful for our sponsors, many who have partnered with us year after year. Our dedicated committee and volunteers work tirelessly throughout the year to make Angola Balloons Aloft northeast Indiana's premier event. In fact, in 2020, Angola Balloons Aloft was named Best Festival at the Indiana Tourism Association confer-

ence.

We are grateful for the use of Angola High School for this event and we encourage everyone to spread out. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy watching these beautiful balloons!

With an event that is so weather-dependent, we appreciate everyone's patience and understanding if a flight or event must be

canceled. Our No. 1 priority will always be the safety of our pilots and crew. We encourage you to follow Angola Balloons Aloft on Facebook to receive updates during the event.

Enjoy this free, family-friendly event and join us in wishing for blue skies and calm winds!

Tim Crooks
Angola Balloons Aloft
Director

Juggler, stunt man joins Balloons Aloft entertainment lineup

FROM STAFF REPORTS

ANGOLA — New to this year's entertainment lineup at Angola Balloons Aloft will be a juggler and stunt man.

Clark Lewis is a juggler, stunt performer and all-around showman. He's originally from northern Michigan and a look at his tour dates shows he performs mainly in the Wolverine state.

Lewis has honed his craft from an early age,

with specialties in juggling, extreme balance stunts, sideshow and rock music, creating a unique style of high-energy performance.

His two shows in Angola, on Saturday, July 13, will be at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., will run up to a half-hour long.

Like a neo-vaudeville performer, Clark has presented shows across the United States for almost every kind of audience imaginable, from street

shows to performing arts theaters, garnering reviews that describe his show as "jaw dropping", "dazzling" and "thrill packed," his media information page on his website says.

"Should you attend one of Clark's shows, you will be invited along on a high energy adventure full of spectacular tricks and outlandish feats," his website said. "It's sure to be a thrilling experience that is enjoyable for all ages."



CLARKLEWISJUGGLING.COM

Clark Lewis is shown performing a balancing act at a previous show. He will be at Angola Balloons Aloft on Saturday, July 13, with shows at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.



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JEFF JONES

Several balloon pilots fire up their burners to illuminate their balloons during a glow event at the 14th annual Angola Balloons Aloft event July 8, 2023.

Angola Balloons Aloft schedule

FROM STAFF REPORTS

ANGOLA — Angola Balloons Aloft has made available the 2024 schedule. All events take place at Angola High School, 350 S. John McBride Ave.

Friday, July 12

- 7 a.m. Media flight
- 4-7 p.m. Paid helicopter rides
- 4-9 p.m. Antique Tractor Show
- 4-9 p.m. Kid's fun zone
- 4-9 p.m. Food vendors
- 4-9 p.m. Free archery tag
- 6 p.m. Opening Ceremonies
- 7 p.m. Fun flight and Special Shapes Flights
- Twilight Hot Air Balloon Illumination

Saturday, July 13

- 7 a.m. Competition Flight
- 7-10 a.m. Grag-and-go breakfast by Angola Band Boosters
- 8:30-10 a.m. Classic Car Show
- 8:30-10 a.m. Music by Retro Radio
- 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Paid

- Helicopter Rides 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Antique Tractor Show
- 11 a.m. Juggling and stunt show
- Noon Sky FX kite show
- Noon-9 p.m. Kid's fun zone, free Archery Tag and food vendors
- 1 p.m. Strongman John Bruney
- 2 p.m. Sky FX kite show
- 2-4 p.m. Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehab demo
- 3 p.m. Juggling and stunt show
- 3:30 p.m. Classic car show returns and static car displays
- 4 p.m. Sky FX kite show
- 4:30-5:30 p.m. Meet the balloon pilots and trading cards
- 7 p.m. Competition Flight and Special Shapes
- Twilight Hot air balloon illumination

Sunday, July 14

- 7 a.m. Competition Flight
- The organizers note that times are approximate and schedules may change without notice. All events during Angola Balloons Aloft are dependent

on prevailing weather conditions. The safety of pilots, volunteers and spectators are the primary concern. Check the Angola Balloons Aloft Facebook

page for up to the minute changes and notices.

TIMES ARE approximate and schedules may change without notice. All events

during Angola Balloons Aloft are dependent on prevailing weather conditions. The safety of our pilots, volunteers and spectators is our primary concern.



KENT ILER, ILER AERIAL IMAGING

Balloons are shown launching into flight in 2023 at Angola Balloons Aloft at Angola High School.



KENT ILER, ILER AERIAL IMAGING

Balloons launch at Angola Balloons Aloft in 2023 in Angola. Some of the featured balloons in this photo include special shapes Crisp E. Bacon, left, and Space Cowboy.



STEBEN COUNTY TOURISM BUREAU

A large crowd of people gathers for a night of entertainment at the annual Angola Balloons Aloft in this undated photo. Over the past four years, Steuben County has shown modest growth, said new data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census released on Thursday.

Angola Balloons Aloft Line-Up



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People can participate, engage pilots during Balloons Aloft

White sheets placed on properties invite pilots to land

FROM STAFF REPORTS

ANGOLA — Organizers of Angola Balloons Aloft are reaching out to the public to become a part of the event beyond being spectators.

People can welcome balloonists to their properties — typically acreages and farms — and there are some safety pointers for the public to follow.

If a balloon lands on your property with permission, the pilots always enjoy interacting with the property owners,” said Janet Hartsuff, Angola Balloons Aloft committee member. “It’s part of the enjoyment of the sport, meeting new people wherever the pilots fly.

If you live within an 8-mile radius of downtown Angola and would like to become part of the Angola Balloons Aloft event, all you need is a white sheet.

“If you would not mind having a balloon landing or launching from your property, all you have to do is place a white sheet in a visible place in your yard,” Hartsuff said.

Affix the sheet to the ground and a balloonist



KPC FILE PHOTO

People who want to welcome pilots to their properties during Angola Balloons Aloft are asked to affix a white sheet to the ground designating a landing spot. Balloons Aloft runs today, Saturday and Sunday and is headquartered at Angola High School.

might just land in your yard on Friday or Saturday. Or they might use your

property to launch from. Balloons Aloft organizers ask participants to place

a white sheet on the spot starting Friday early morning until Sunday morning.

Make sure the sheet can be seen from the air so when a balloon pilot sees it, he or she knows you have given him or her permission to land.

Hartsuff pointed out that because of the variability of winds and other factors, putting a sheet in your yard does not guarantee a balloonist will land there.

In addition, people who might want to follow a balloon over the countryside are being asked to exercise

caution and respect people’s property.

“Actually the biggest effort on the part of the public is to make sure they don’t follow too closely to the chase vehicles and not cause a traffic jam,” Hartsuff said. “If you are watching or following balloons, make sure you keep your eyes on the highway!”

If people do follow balloons and decide to stop along a road or at a property, they should make sure they are parking in a place where parking is allowed, such as a county road shoulder.

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15th annual Angola Balloons Aloft

FROM STAFF REPORTS

ANGOLA — Angola's and Steuben County's sky will become full of balloons July 12-14.

Angola Balloons Aloft is returning for its 15th year of adding a little wonder and amazement to northeast Indiana, as well as much free family fun and a multitude of events.

This year's free admission event will still be held at Angola High School, 350 S. John McBride Ave.. A touch of nostalgia with some new features, the two-day extravaganza has several activities and opportunities planned.

Similar to previous years, the 2024 theme is "lifting community spirits." Event staples such as the classic car show, antique tractor show and kids fun zone have been scheduled once again. However, the theme rings true primarily through the music, vendors and activities for the 15th year.

"We have added a few entertainers this year," said committee member Janet Hartsuff.

Team Sky-FX is performing at noon, 2 and 4 p.m., wind and weather permitting.

"They're a high performance sport kite team providing aerial effects with kites, dual and quad lines," Hartsuff said.

In addition, some of last year's new additions have returned, like archery tag.

"Last year we welcomed Global Archery from Ashley and they're returning this year. They were a huge hit last year," she said.

The Angola Band Booster breakfast has been changed from a pancake/sausage breakfast to a 'grab and go' Saturday from 7-10 a.m. This is by donation.

There will be numerous food vendors at Angola Balloons Aloft, the wide variety of cuisines offers something for everyone.

The pilots themselves are coming from across the



CAITLYNN SHIPE

Several pilots for the 14th annual Angola Balloons Aloft arrive early July 7, 2023 for the media flight. The weather was perfect for flying as morning winds took balloons in the southwest direction. Several pilots landed in Ashley. Angola Balloons Aloft continues today, with a competition flight early in the morning, followed by numerous activities throughout the day, concluding with a glow of the balloons at dusk. The event takes place at Angola High School.

country, anywhere from Indiana, Michigan and Ohio to Nevada. A crowd favorite, the special shape balloons include Ellie the Elephant, Yellow Bird and Puddy Cat, Tom Cat and Terry Mouse, Smiley and Cynthia Seal.

"Every year we try to bring in special shapes," Hartsuff said. "But we try to bring something new each year and we have a lot of the same pilots, but there are some new ones."

Bringing in a total of 34 pilots and 34 different balloons, returners, alongside first-time pilots, will take on the Steuben County landscape in three competition flights and one fun flight. There will be several opportunities throughout the event to see the balloons and meet the pilots. Flights are entirely dependent on prevailing weather conditions.

The generous support from the community has contributed to each year's success and this year is no different.

"We're just very, very grateful for our sponsors and volunteers and we couldn't

do it without them," Hartsuff said.

Stop by for the 15th

annual Angola Balloons Aloft to witness the sights first-hand.



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