

\$5,000 Raised for Clare County Parks and Recreation

By Anna McNeill

Jay's Sporting Goods' Outback room hosted the 2013 5th Annual Gateway Affair on Saturday, June 1 at 5 p.m. The event was put on by the 'Friends of Clare County Parks and Recreation' to raise funds to help continue development for the free sources of recreation around Clare County.

A \$50 donation was requested for the annual event and there were 65 people who attended. The event raised approximately \$5,000 to benefit the Clare County Parks and Recreation, after expenses were taken out. The live auction alone made about \$2,300.

There were silent auction items laid out for those in attendance to check out as they entered the event, and the live auction items were also laid out for people to check out as the meal was being prepared.

Mike Nelson, of Jay's, was the grill-master for the night, and cooked up a wonderful meal of prime rib, pork loin and chicken, along with the usual sides of salad, steamed vegetables, rice, potatoes and rolls. Guests then got a treat of Pam's homemade pies for dessert with homemade ice cream.

Once people had their fill it was time for a bit of entertainment. Jewls the clown put on a show full of tricks and laughter for the audience. She even made a few friends along the way and taught the crowd the power of the magic word 'please' as she made items appear, disappear and as she made a member of audience a mind reader. Laughs were had by all and it was a good break from reality.

There was an update on Harrison's youth football by Joe Ashcroft and a brief informative talk about the "Together We Can" County Health Improvement from Sarah Kiel.

After the speakers the silent auction was closed and the live auction and raffles began. The auction went very well with Norm Yoder as the auctioneer for the night. There was also two 50/50 drawings and Dean Paesen won a \$100 gift card from Eagle Glen Golf Course for Jay's, Don Chido won a kitchen cutlery set, and Bill and Les Walker of Lake Station won a Weber grill.

Director of the Parks and Recreation Commission, Don Kolander and Chair Gerald Schmiedicke were the masterminds behind the entire event and kept things running smoothly.

"A lot of sweat went into this event," Kolander said. But in the end it was all worth it.