

For the 184th year in a row, the town of Pekin will celebrate Independence Day as a community. Through the years, nothing has been able to deter the town from celebrating the Fourth of July, not two world wars, not a great depression, nothing! A few years back, the event was on the verge of not existing, but the Pekin Community Betterment Organization sent out a call for volunteers and some stepped up to help.

They have also added rides and continued to grow the flea market.

There is also a 5K, queen contest, prince and princess contest, a talent show and a 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

There will also be live music throughout the weekend and special events, such as an attempt on breaking the World Record for largest spoon ensemble, which will take place Thursday just prior to the annual firework show.

“We want to break the record and then celebrate like we do in America with fireworks,” said the event organizer Steve “Spoonman” Tankersley.

On the stage great musical acts are scheduled throughout the event.

There will also be carnival rides in the park that will be operating throughout the weekend.

The PCBO has several media spots reserved to promote the event throughout the weekend. For more information, see the special insert inside today’s paper.