

Lots of "Craic" to be found at the 29th Annual Celtic Fest

(ALBUQUERQUE) If you're looking for a great time in May, get to the Albuquerque Balloon Park and you'll find all the "Craic" you'll ever need!

Craic, the Gaelic word for fun, dancing, entertainment and great conversation, will be in abundance at the 29th Annual Rio Grande Celtic Festival. The Festival is a 2-day celebration of everything Celtic, from live music to sheep herding, from athletic competitions to a treasure hunt for the wee lads and lassies. It's open to the public from 9am until 7pm, Saturday, May 20th, and 9am until 5pm Sunday, May 21st. Adult daily admission is \$15 (\$20 for both days) with free parking and discount tickets for Senior & Active Military and kids (children under 2 are free). A 1-day Family Pass (2 adults, 2 children) is \$30 is new this year.

If your Craic involves music and dancing, the Festival's main stage features two well-known Gaelic bands (E.J. Piper Band, and The Spirited Lads) as well as other local and regional talents, piping competitions and demonstrations of Scottish and Irish dancing.

If competition is your Craic, this is a don't-miss festival for you. The highlight of the fest could be the annual "Heavy Athletics". Men and women will compete in traditional Highland Games, including the Caber Toss, the Scottish Hammer Throw, the Sheaf Toss and the Stone Put. Returning this year, the Festival's Strongman competition for both men and women will begin Sunday at 10 am. Additionally, the Festival's Rugby tournament attracts teams from all over the region.

Celtic culture will also be on display, with Celtic Horse and Dog exhibits and parade, traditional foods and clothing, a gathering of Clans & Celtic Societies, pipe and drum bands and a hugely popular Beard Contest sponsored by Col. Conk. Award winning beers will be available from New Mexico's finest microbreweries. Plus Craic for the entire family with plenty of activities for the kids, including a Treasure Hunt and last year's most talked about activity, the "Quest for Celts" Children's Adventure.