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THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2010

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**BIG EVENT**

# 2-day Mesa event celebrates cars, fi

By Jessica VanZalen  
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

American-made cars of the '50s and '60s will be saluted this holiday weekend during an inaugural car show in Mesa.

Saturday's American Iron show will be part of a two-day Arizona Celebration of Freedom taking place downtown. Coordinators expect about 10,000 guests Friday and Saturday for the event, which also will include beer gardens, live music, art shows, fireworks and a Chicago Cubs salute to America.

A motorcycle parade will be held on Main Street beginning at 5:50 p.m. Friday.

This is Celebration of Freedom's first year, and it will include appearances by Mesa Mayor Scott Smith and Gov. Jan Brewer.

The car show will highlight American vehicles built up to 1972, but people are encouraged to bring their vehicles from any year to the event, said Jon Richards, executive director of Downtown Events in Mesa.

"The show's name, American Iron, is about the big, heavy cars built in the '50s and '60s," he explained. "Those were the heydays of the American car industry."

State Treasurer Dean Martin will show his Plymouth Prowler painted with an American flag. The show also will feature a restored 1917 Harley-Davidson motorcycle, displayed at



ARIZONA CELEBRATION

Main Street and Macdonald.

The two-day celebration also will include music by the James Kole Band, Chuck Hall Band, 74th Street Band, Dok & Gal, Billy Cioffi Duo and A Boy Named Sioux.

Visitors can sign a copy of the Declaration of Independence on Heritage Lane and tour Freedom Plaza at the Mesa Arts Center. A Fallen Soldier Memorial and "Flags of American History" exhibit will be presented by Heritage Academy of Mesa.

The Celebration of Freedom is sponsored by Southwest

Ambulance and co-sponsored by several Valley non-profit organizations. Following a fireworks show Saturday, three \$250 prizes for best muscle car, best original and best of show will be awarded at 9:30 p.m.

The James Kole Band will be among groups performing at the inaugural Arizona Celebration of Freedom.



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