Summer solstice celebration at The Arc Community Greenspace on Thursday

By Mike Crowley

MEADVILLE TRIBUNE

The longest day of the year will be filled with activities in Meadville thanks to a summer **solstice** celebration Thursday from 4:30 to 9 p.m. at the The Arc Community Greenspace, 953 Market St.

The free event for people of all ages will kick off summer with food, crafts, yoga and more, according to organizers, with several neighboring businesses pitching in to support the event.

Seedling plantings and chamomile coloring activities will begin at 4:30.

A free beginner yoga class will take place at 4:45. Participants are encouraged to take a towel or yoga mat. Street chalk areas will also be mapped out for artists of all ages to color, and both hat and hair design activities will be offered at 5 and 5:15, respectively.

Bubble making and sun catcher crafts begin at 5:30.

Footlong hot dogs topped with homemade sauces and nonalcoholic "mocktails," snow cones and coffee drinks will be available for purchase beginning at 5.

A free music concert featuring local duo The Bright Ideas and solo acoustic performer Zack Johnson takes place from 6 to 9.

"As both a local musician and a proud employee of The Arc of Crawford County, I'm both honored and thrilled to help organize and perform at this event in this wonderful new community resource that is the Greenspace," Johnson said. "Hopefully this space and these events serve as a roadmap for our area in navigating towards a future where we prioritize the arts and community involvement in a manner befitting for such crucial cornerstones of a civilized society."

Limited seating is available, but visitors are encouraged to take blankets or lawn chairs.

Beginning Tuesday, the Greenspace will also host free events with guided meditations, sound baths and tranquility practices this summer on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. courtesy of Indigo Boutique & Botanica.

The summer **solstice**, which typically occurs June 20 or June 21 in the northern hemisphere, marks the day when the path of the sun across the sky reaches its northernmost point due to the tilt of the Earth's axis. Six months later, the southern hemisphere experiences its summer **solstice**.

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