

Spirits soar at Kite Fest

Hundreds flock to DeKalb for annual event

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DeKALB – Marsha Black-Chen was surprised to see a flying octopus.

The giant squidlike kite was one of many to dance in the wind of the DeKalb sky Sunday as hundreds of people came to Northern Illinois University to participate in the seventh annual Kite Fest.

Black-Chen, who attended the fest with her 10-year-old son for the second time, said the event reminded her of the annual kite festivals in her native Jamaica. She said she never gets tired of seeing the designs and colors of kites in the sky.

"It's a great family event," she said. "It really helps bring the community together."

The festival actually



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Hundreds of people gathered Sunday near Northern Illinois University for the seventh annual Kite Fest.

brought multiple communities together because people such as Geoff Waguespack came from as far away as Oswego with his son's Scout troop, and others, such as Matt Skeens of Cortland, traveled shorter distances.

Skeens, who came to the festival for the first time with his daughter, said the 70-degree, slightly breezy weather was too perfect to pass up.

"I don't know how they

picked such a perfect day," Skeens said. "They must have a psychic."

While many people casually attempted to fly their kites, the festival did attract skilled handlers who demonstrated different techniques.

Dale Bowden, former president of the Wisconsin Kites Club, was one of the demonstrators at the event and said participating in community events such as DeKalb's is

something he enjoys doing year round.

He even performs at festivals on frozen lakes during the winter.

Bowden, who has flown kites for 50 years, said one of the main issues he stresses is safety.

The lines, especially on power kites and multiple line kites, can cause severe burns and cuts if handled improperly.

"You have to watch your kite, know the wind, and react to the wind," he said. "They can do major damage."

Doug Nelson, chairman of the DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau and an event organizer, said he could not have asked for a better day. Seeing all the families come out on a sunny day with just enough wind made the organizing worth it, he said.

"There is nothing prettier than this," he said of the scene. "It's just a good, family-friendly event that gets everybody active and outside together."

No one hurt in shooting near NIU; DeKalb man charged

DAILY CHRONICLE
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DeKALB – A DeKalb man has been charged with shooting at people he was arguing with early Saturday on Edgebrook Drive.

About 4:20 a.m., a DeKalb police patrol sergeant heard shots fired in the area of Edgebrook Drive and Normal Road. Police located no victims but found three cars with bullet holes in their roofs and windshields, said DeKalb police Lt. Jason Leverton. Witnesses reported shots were fired from a second-floor balcony of 820

Edgebrook Drive.

Demetrius D. Wade, 25, of an apartment within that building, had been arguing with people in a parking lot below and began shooting at them, Leverton said. Those people fled the area and have not been identified by police. Leverton said Wade is a Kishwaukee College student.

The handgun Wade used was recovered at a residence in the 700 block of North Annie Glidden Road, where an acquaintance of Wade lives, Leverton said. Police had received information Wade went there after firing the gun.

He was stopped by patrol officers while he walked from the residence on Annie Glidden back to his apartment on Edgebrook Drive, Leverton said.

Wade is charged with armed violence, aggravated discharge of a firearm, criminal damage to property and unlawful possession of a firearm.

Police obtained a search warrant for Wade's apartment and found ammunition and marijuana. He also is charged with possession of ammunition without a firearm owner's identification card and unlawful possession of marijuana, Leverton said.

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