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Knit It Out of the Park

WHEN: 7:05 p.m. Monday
WHERE: Principal Park, Des Moines
COST: \$5.50
CALL: (515) 222-1900; the deadline to grab a seat with the Central Iowa Knitters Inc. is today.

Knitters, hitters sew up a Monday I-Cubs outing

REGISTER STAFF
July 15, 2006

You can take your knitting out to the ballgame Monday night.

Central Iowa Knitters Inc. has organized "Knit It Out of the Park" as a way to combine a love of knitting and baseball.

About 35 members already have signed up for the Iowa Cubs game against Oklahoma at Principal Park and say they'd be delighted to welcome more.

Game time is 7:05p.m.

Cynthia Merrifield of West Des Moines, one of the group founders, says it's the perfect way to multi-task.

Knitting is portable and social, and experienced knitters can easily purl away and watch a game with spurts of action at the same time.

Central Iowa Knitters was founded a year ago with 50 charter members and has grown to 76 since, ranging in age from 12 to 84.

They have formal education meetings and informal "knit togethers" in bookstores, churches and homes.

Much of their work is for charity, including Broadlawns Medical Center and a second-grade class that receives a steady supply of hats and mittens.

Merrifield said it is the fastest-growing knitting club in the state, and perhaps the largest.

"Knitting is big, especially in Des Moines," she said. "We have all levels of knitters and all ages — no men yet."

Indeed, knitting is huge everywhere.

According to the Craft Yarn Council of America, one in three women knows how to knit or crochet.

Perhaps surprisingly, the greatest interest is among 30-somethings.

Merrifield, 39, is one of those. She began knitting about 15 years ago and regularly goes to Cubs games to sit and knit with her family.

It was her idea to propose this knit-out at the ballpark.

Other ballclubs around the nation host knitting groups. Last year in Seattle, the Mariners held a Stitch 'n Pitch night and attracted 1,600 knitters.

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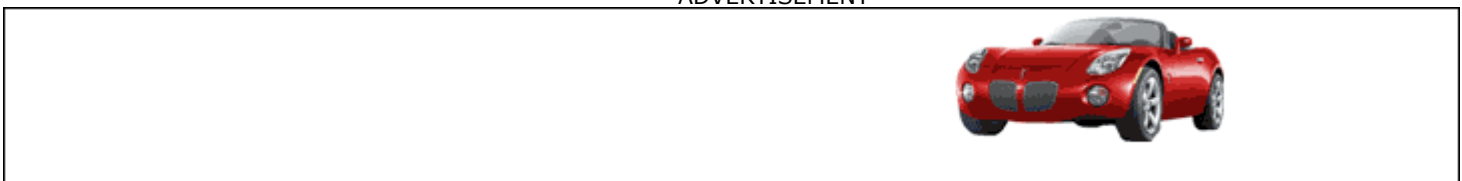
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