

MANUFACTURERS

Catwalk on Chestnut features ‘Spool and Dye’ theme

Some model

By Mike Crowley

MEADVILLE TRIBUNE

Cassie Manuel is looking forward to her first Catwalk on Chestnut and she'll have a good seat for it: MC Micheles, the clothing shop that she and her husband opened a month ago at 243 Chestnut St., opens directly onto the catwalk's western end, where model after model will be striking a pose before spinning to sashay their way back down the street.

“We've got our models and we're going to wing it,” Manuel said behind the counter of her new shop on Wednesday.

MC Micheles will be one of 10 downtown shops dressing models for the ninth annual Catwalk on Chestnut. The fashion show takes place during the monthly First Friday extended hours and this year's theme — “Spool and Dye” — juxtaposes two vibrant parts of Meadville's past and present that aren't often seen as connected, according to Ashley Mattocks-Rose, one of the event organizers.

“The Catwalk is kind of a silly event, but on a more serious note, how creative our town is is really something for us to be proud of, and that creativity looks like a lot of different things,” she said. “We obviously have visual artists and musicians, but sometimes we don't

think of our manufacturers as being these really skilled creators and See CATWALK, Page A6



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Continued from Page A1 innovators — and the engineering and thought and the art that goes behind it. It's exciting for us to highlight that and that's the whole point of us wanting to do this 'Spool and Dye' theme."

With large spools — provided by Armstrong and decorated by the French Creek Arts Collective — providing the background, local manufacturers will provide many of the models for the event, and much of the clothing worn by participants will be tied to the manufacturing theme.

"For the Market House, for example," said Mattocks-Rose, who chairs the board that oversees the Market House, "we already are a vendor for Channellock, so we're excited to get to sport some Channellock wear."

Other manufacturing organizations that will be represented by models or swag include Acutec Precision Aerospace, Graham Tech, SECO/WARWICK USA, and Allegheny College's Allegheny Lab for Innovation & Creativity.

The fun starts at 5 p.m. as participating downtown shops begin their extended hours. In an expansion of past Catwalk festivities, the participating manufacturers will have welcome tables set up nearby in The Arc Community Greenspace along with artisan vendors and food trucks. The Catwalk itself kicks off at 7

and, like any paparazzi-pulling Fashion Week highlight, the evening continues with after-party events down Chestnut Street in either direction at Julian's Bar & Grill and The Vault Lounge.

Tara Lawrence, the manufacturing talent stream coordinator for Northwest Industrial Resource Center who also helped organize the event, was optimistic that the "spool and dye" combination of fashion and manufacturing would have even more spectators than usual lining both sides of Chestnut Street between Park Avenue and Market Street.

"This collaboration not only celebrates local creativity and craftsmanship, but also highlights the businesses that fuel our economy and provide jobs for our neighbors," she said. "By supporting each other in moments of joy, we strengthen the networks that keep Meadville's community thriving on the runway, in stores and on the factory floor."

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