

[Click Here to Print This Article](#)

November 04, 2011

## Emmett will welcome home 116th with parade, chili cook-off Saturday; Boise also plans festivities

By Katy Moeller - [kmoeller@idahostatesman.com](mailto:kmoeller@idahostatesman.com)

Emmett residents have organized a welcome home party Saturday for the Idaho Army National Guard's 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team.

"We've got so much participation in this, you can't believe it," said Tom Blessinger, one of the organizers. "The town of Emmett is really turning out to welcome these guys home."

The event will honor all veterans.

"It's to pay tribute and thank people for helping defend America," Blessinger said.

The festivities will begin at 1 p.m. on Main Street in downtown Emmett. Blessinger said a parade with more than 40 floats, including an MIA float and one for veterans 80 and older, will wind its way through the city. A group of more than 20 vintage cars will be part of the parade.

The parade will end at Carberry Elementary School, 1950 East 12th St. A chili cook-off will be held at the school at 5 p.m. Lt. Gov. Brad Little will be one of the featured speakers at the event.

"I plan on being at the parade and taking all of my family and waving flags to support all of our troops," Emmett resident Di Cluff told the Idaho Statesman Friday afternoon.

For more info about the Emmett parade and celebration, contact Blessinger at: Tom Blessinger, 602-0124.

If you live in the Boise area and want to participate in the capital city's celebration, here are the details of Saturday's event:

- Pancake breakfast, 7:45 to 9:45 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Boise Centre. Members of the 116th and their families can eat for free; \$5 for others; use Front Street entrance).
- Veterans Day Parade, "Defending Liberty and Freedom": Parade begins at 10 a.m. at 11th and Jefferson, and proceeds past the State Capitol, south to 4th and Bannock Streets, and west to 11th and Bannock.
- Community celebration immediately after the parade in Capitol Park. Complimentary refreshments, children's activities, resources for veterans. For info, call the Boise mayor's office: 384-4422.