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Community School of the Arts hosts Go Arts! Go Karts! race Friday

Proceeds are for local scholarships and programs

By **Mishele Wright**
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Les Korporal is looking forward to defending his title as the winner of the 2008 Community School of the Arts Go Arts! Go Karts! race on Friday.

"We're going to do it again," said Korporal, owner of Modern Machine and Tool.

Korporal's son, Cale, 16, drove last year and won the race. The teenager is driving again this year in the sixth annual race at 6 p.m. Friday.

"It's a great cause," Les Korporal said. "It's about more than just racing go-karts."

Proceeds from the race go toward scholarships for local students, operating costs for CSA and programs that CSA sponsors.

CSA Executive Director Mark Fauser said 87 drivers already have signed up to race, and there could be more by Friday evening.

"The most we've had is 98, so we're down a little bit," he said.

Money raised for the race is down this year, too — so far, just \$40,000 has been raised, compared to last year's \$61,000. Fauser said the economy has hurt everyone, including CSA, but he's touched that so many people are helping the organization.

He said he hopes people can escape their worries Friday and have fun. The festival begins at the speedway at 5 p.m. with food, pony rides, a petting zoo, face-painting, a moonwalk and a rock wall, among other entertainment.

Fauser said he hopes to have a few thousand people at the event.

"I think the actual race itself is becoming more popular," he said. "I think more people are watching it."

Gas City Mayor Larry Leach is participating in the race for the first time this year. He is the "team manager," he said, and his son, Ryan Leach, is driving.

"I plan on being there Friday and cheering him on," the mayor said.

Leach said he wants to do his part in helping CSA.

"I believe in what the organization is doing for the young people," he said. "I think it's great for our community."

If you go

- What: Go Arts! Go Karts!
- When: Festival begins at 5 p.m. Friday, and race begins at 6 p.m.

Grant County, IN

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- Cost: Admission is \$1 per person.



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