

Rain will bring Civil War Road Show

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Pennsylvania's Civil War Road Show is battling a relentless enemy: the weather.

Now Peddler's Village is mustering the troops to help out.

The road show, the state's traveling exhibit commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, will make an unexpected detour to Bucks County next weekend after flooding caused severe damage in Bloomsburg, forcing the cancellation of the event there.

Exhibit organizers needed a new location and Peddler's Village stepped in.

"We're happy we had the space and could help them out," said Eve Gelman, spokeswoman for the shopping hamlet in Lahaska.

Peddler's Village will host the interactive exhibit on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It is free and open to the public.

Though last minute, Peddler's Village has put together additional Civil War-related programs for the weekend, including re-enactments and artillery demonstrations by the Sixth New York Independent Battery, a re-enactment group based in Rahway, N.J.

The Civil War Road Show features videos, photographs, music and other interactive features relating the story of Pennsylvanians during the war between the states. It is crisscrossing the commonwealth in a 53-foot tractor-trailer, which expands to provide an enclosed, air-conditioned museum space.

The show hit the road in May and organizers are committed to reaching all 67 counties by 2014.

Bloomsburg was expected to be the last stop on the 2011 tour season, hosting the exhibit from Sept. 24 to Oct. 1 during its annual fair. But flooding in Columbia County caused severe damage to the fairgrounds, forcing the cancellation of the event.

Road show organizers found two locations to step in for the week. Linvilla Orchards in Delaware County hosted the exhibit this past weekend, while Peddler's Village will host the show beginning Friday.

"We're fortunate to talk to Peddler's Village and Linvilla (into) giving us a home," said John Seitter, project manager for Pennsylvania Civil War 150, the state's program commemorating the sesquicentennial. The road show is just one piece of the events planned for 2011 through 2015.

The unexpected stop at Peddler's Village will not interfere with Bucks County hosting the show in the next year or so. Organizers are also committed to returning to Bloomsburg.

"This does not affect any of our future scheduling," said Seitter.

Since May, the road show has made 20 stops and attracted more than 35,000 visitors.

Virginia has a similar history mobile and officials with the two states are discussing having their tours meet in Maryland next year to commemorate the September 1862 Battle of Antietam, said Seitter.