

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Sometimes when a child is adopted, he or she concentrates on the family that adopted them, not realizing that they are also part of a larger family.

That's why Liz Mollendor, with help from husband David and others, has organized an Adoptive Families Pool Party and Barbeque this coming Sunday.

The fun will begin at 5:30 at the Imperial Pool, with swimming and a meal of hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks. Mollendor suggests that families bring a side dish or dessert to share. A \$5 donation is suggested.

Mollendor herself is adopted. David adopted her daughter, Emma. And, the couple adopted Dawson, eight.

Recognizing adoptive families is important, Mollendor said, for several reasons. One is that families "who have adopted multi-racial, multi-cultural kids can see" that there are other families similar to theirs.

Another is to see how much adoptive families have in common. And yet another reason is that "A lot of us don't realize that missing piece" from being adopted.

"It's important for them to realize you have the family you grew up with, but a larger family," too, Mollendor explained.

The last Adoptive Family picnic was in 2009, with about 70 people attending. Mollendor hopes to have at least that many again this year.

She expects families from Grant, Wauneta, Imperial and Holyoke, Colo. to attend. Questions or an RSVP may be directed to Mollendor at (970) 520-2999.