September 8, 2012 Volume 16.2

The Fair Facts

WHO CAME?

Opening day of the Interstate Fair saw 13,563 visitors come through the gates. In 2011, the attendance for opening day was 12,599. Last year's Saturday night PRCA Rodeo Performance was our highest entertainment draw in the Grandstand with 3,589 attending. If you enjoy rodeo, tonight is the last night and seats will likely sell-out so if planning to attend, be sure to get your tickets early. The cost is $5.00 for general admission and $7.00 for reserved seats.

AROUND THE GROUNDS

TODAY IS

SATURDAY

10:00	All Buildings Open
	Railway Historical Museum Opens (South Lawn)
11:30	Racing Pigs (North Lawn)
12:00	Best Food Vendor Contest (N. Stg)
	Butler Carnival Opens (S. / Mn Lwns)
1:00	Mule Driving Classes (N. Arena)
	Youth Swine Judging (Swine Barn)
1:30	Ikebana Demonstration (Bay 4)
2:00	Antique Tractor Pulls (Steam & Gas)
2:30	Kids Mutton Bustin (N of G.Stand)
2:45	Canyon River (North Stage)
5:00	Junction City (N. Stage)
6:15	Mark Yuzuik / Hypnotist (N. Stage)
7:00	P.R.C.A. Rodeo (Grandstand)
7:45	Junction City (North Stage)
8:45	Mark Yuzuik / Hypnotist (N. Stage)
10:00	Out Buildings / Outside Booths Close
10:30	Commercial Buildings Close
11:00	Carnival Closes (approximate time)

For a full listing of all entertainers on the grounds, please see your daily program.

FROM THE STAFF

This year's Interstate Fair t-shirts sport the artwork of artist Lisa Rasmussen of Designs by Lisa. The shirts come in yellow, light blue, lilac, grey, and hot pink. We have a few youth shirts as well. The cost is $7.00 for Small to Extra Large; $10.00 for 2X and 3X shirts. Youth shirts are $5.00 each. The hot pink has been so popular that we are sold out of most sizes. The Fair Office is open 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for you to purchase these keepsakes.

ASK US

Gate promotions and entertainment in the Grandstand contribute to my sales. What are the upcoming concerts and promotions?

Today – PRCA Rodeo at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday – Spokane's Sunday Showcase featuring three bands; Earl Wear and Haywire, The Krabbs, and Big Mumbo Blues. The event begins at 5:00 p.m.

Monday – Wylie and the Wild West Concert at 7:00 p.m. Senior Day in which Seniors (65 and Over) will be admitted free. Elementary school tours on the grounds from 9 to 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday – Jake Owen Concert at 7:00 p.m. Patriot's Day in which police, fire, and members of the military will be admitted free. Elementary school tours on the grounds from 9 to 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday – Huey Lewis and the News Concert at 7:00 p.m. Family Day in which children 17 and under (accompanied by a paying adult) will be admitted free with a Youth Coupon from their local Safeway store. Elementary school tours on the grounds from 9 to 2:30 p.m.

Thursday – Styx Concert at 7:00 p.m. Elementary school tours on the grounds from 9 to 2:30 p.m.

Friday – Blues Traveler Concert at 7:00 p.m. Elementary school tours on the grounds from 9 to 2:30 p.m.

Saturday – Monster Truck Shows at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Sunday – Double-Header Demolition Derby at 4:00 p.m. Coats for Kids. Children 13 and under donating a new or gently used coat will receive free admission.

ARE there free Wi-Fi services available here at the Fair? If so, how do I access them?

Free Wi-Fi services are available inside Bays 1-3 and the Plaza courtesy of CenturyLink and Air Pipe LLC / Wired or Wireless. Some of the outside vendors may be able to access this service as well depending on the range. To access, click on your computer to find available networks.

Thank you to both of these fantastic partners who assist bringing the Internet to us. If you have additional questions, please see Air Pipe's staff in Booth 377 in Bay 2 or CenturyLink's staff in the Plaza. Thank you both!

BEST BOOTH COMPETITION

The Interstate Fair established a reward system years ago to recognize outstanding vendors. This year four vendors will receive the Fair's Red, White, and Blue Award. Winners will receive credit towards their 2013 booth space rental or food deposit. The booth identified as incorporating this year's Fair theme (Experience the Ride) into their display the best will receive a $250 credit. How do you sign up for a chance at these awards?

Register – Registration forms are available in the Fair Office. This form must be completed and returned prior to 7 p.m. tomorrow.

Judges - The Fair uses a combination of Advisory Board Members, staff, and volunteers to review each registered booth.

Criteria - All of the areas that would be found on a booth review form are considered when judging including the following –

- Booth Cleanliness
- Friendly / Prompt Service
- Identifying Signage
- Lighting
- Employee Appearance
- Overall Impression

As in the past, how well your staff engages the public will be utilized as the "Tie-Breaker" should one be needed. We wish each of you good luck on your quest for the title. Last year's winners were Argonne Chiropractic (Incorporation of Theme), Chase Honey Farm (Outside), E and D Lab Created Diamonds (Inside), and Shepard's Ice Cream Shoppe (Food Vendor).

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

First Aid: Located south of the Main Grandstand and North of Bay 1 (operated by the Spokane Valley Fire Department).

Phones: Located at the east end of the Plaza by the ATM.

Guest Services Booths: The Information / guest services booth is located just inside the west entrance of the Plaza (operated by Spokane SE Lions).

Maintenance Needs: Contact the Fair Office.

Lost and Found: Located in the Security Office.

Security Needs: As all event staff / security officers carry radios, contact ANY event staff personnel. If an event staff member cannot be located, please see the personnel in the modular trailer near the Purple Gate.

Vendor Superintendent: Dennis at 370-1345.

WHAT'S NEW?

Last year the Interstate Fair held its first "Best of the Fair Food" contest and judges from the SCC culinary program selected the following winners:

- Best Signature Dish / Entrée – Lylo's for their sesame chicken with noodles and fried rice combo plate.
- Best Deep Fried Food – Oklahoma Funnel Cake for their deep fried ice cream.
- Best Dessert – Mary Lou's for their apple pie ala mode.
- Best Breakfast Item – Azar's for their hummus plate.

In our efforts to identify this year's best food and to let the citizens of the Greater Spokane Area know about these fantastic dishes, we are hosting the contest again this year. Last year we had 32 entries into the contest and we're hoping to increase that number this year. Entry forms and information were distributed to the Food Vendors along with the newsletter today.

Selected as this year's judges are Chef Bob Rogers Executive Chef at Masselow's at Northern Quest, Eric Wilson caterer and Inland Northwest Culinary Academy graduate, Megan McCorkle photographer / food enthusiast, and INCA graduate Jon Scholes who is a cook in a restaurant in the Gonzaga University District.

Each food vendor is invited to enter a menu item in each of the four categories. The items must be delivered to the North Stage between 11:45 and 11:55 a.m. TODAY. Only one portion is needed to enter and the entry must be the same as if it had been ordered by a guest at the Fair. Upon announcing the winners, a press release will be sent out announcing who the Fair's "BEST FOOD VENDORS" are for 2012. The Fair Ambassadors will be taking banners to the winners following the contest.

WHERE AM I ?

Today is the first day of our "Where Am I" game and we hope that you will enjoy this year's rounds. This year's special rosette is pink in color. Be the first person to return to the Fair Office with the rosette and win a Fair t-shirt. Here we go!

"Let me introduce myself…my name is Buttercup. I was featured in this year's Fair artwork and I am a brown rabbit. I enjoy riding amusement rides with my friends (Duck, Lamb, Pig, and Cow). After riding a few rides (including the Zillerator Roller Coaster), I enjoy exploring the rest of the Interstate Fair. Today I hopped into a building where I could grab a quick drink that bubbled up from the ground. I could smell all sorts of beautiful flowers. The Environment was very pleasing and very welcoming. A large wooden wheel was close to me and there I found a pink ribbon. Let's see…where should I hop tomorrow?"

JUNIOR ADVISORY BOARD

The Spokane County Fair and Expo Center is very fortunate to have a Junior Advisory Board – created by the Board of County Commissioners in 2006. The JAB is compiled of representatives from area high schools throughout the Inland Empire. This year JAB is 15 members strong. These representatives hosted a Kids Pre-Fair Craft Day this past summer where kids created over 77 crafts to enter into this year's Interstate Fair. This year's theme of the 7th annual event was "Patriotic" and 5 different crafts were available to construct at no cost to the kids participating. This year's representatives are:

RETURNING MEMBERS

J.J. Brown – Gonzaga Prep High School.

Madi Casto – East Valley High School (graduated senior – position opens 10/1/12).

Callie Hanson – Newport High School (graduated senior – position opens 10/1/12).

Savannah Lunsford – Ferris High School.

Tyler McCoury – Cheney High School (graduated senior – position opens 10/1/12).

Rachel Shrauger – Deer Park High School.

Asa Wolfe – Riverside High School.

FIRST TERMS

Miranda Alder – Mead High School.

Kelsey Burton – Freeman High School.

Seth Hansen – Originally representing Reardan, now representing Medical Lake for 2013.

Timothy McCain – Shadle Park High School.

Emma McLaughlin – West Valley High.

Kayleen Oliver – Medical Lake High School (graduated senior – position opens 10/1/12).

Natalie Pilgeram – Mt. Spokane High.

Tyler Ribail – Central Valley High School.

The JAB Members meet once a month and the Board is currently seeking applications from High School students (9th through 12th Grade) to serve from the following schools: Cheney, Davenport, East Valley, Lakeside, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Mary Walker, Newport, North Central, NW Christian, Reardan, Rogers, Sprague, St. George's, University, and Valley Christian. North Idaho school representatives are also invited to apply. Applications are available by contacting fairexpo@spokanecounty.org. If you know of someone in high school that would like to serve on this board, please have them contact us no later than September 30.

We would like to extend a thank you to all of the Junior Advisory Board Members for their service this past year. To our graduating seniors heading off to college – we wish you the very best and know that you will be missed!

THOSE THAT HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN

With 15,317 exhibits entered into last year's Fair, the role of a Department Superintendents is vital to the success of the Fair.

Each of the Departments becomes a "city" with its own employees, volunteers, prizes, judging, etc. and a great deal of time goes into insuring that our exhibitors return year after year. This year the total years of service by these dedicated individuals adds up to 399 years. With 34 Superintendents that averages out to 11.73 years a piece!

Below is a list of this year's superintendents, their departments, and the number of Fairs they've been with us serving in the role of Superintendent.

Dennis Anderson – Commercial Booths (10)
Cathy Armstrong – Youth Poultry (11)
Al Bendle – Fine Arts / Floral Assistant (7)
Patricia Bentley – Dahlias (1)
Dick Blakley – Beef Cattle – 1st Half (14)
Wayne Brokaw – Beef Cattle – 2nd (1)
Blaine Brown – Pigeons (8)
Chris Campbell – Youth Sheep (1)
Joe Coppersmith – Rodeo (18)
Ann Fackenthall – Fine Arts / Floral (8)
Myron Fuller – Antique Machinery (9)
Taya Halverson – Rabbits (5)
Rick Hardwick – Camelid Barn Assistant (4)
Bob Hausman – Boer Goat Assistant (3)
Becky Hendrickson – Longears (14)
Danne Hudson – Open Sheep (9)
Dennis Kroll - General Livestock (36)
Barb Kunze – Dairy Goats (8)
Noralee Locke – Open Poultry (6)
Sue McCoury – 4H Still Exhibits (11)
Leroy and Vicki Nielsen – Photography (14)
Treva Norris - Livestock Administration (21)
Rick Perleberg – FFA / Tractor Driving (10)
Bonnie Reed – Granges (27)
Gail Rich – Horses (15)
Tammi Richards – Goat Barn Assistant (5)
Bonnie Sewell – Agricultural (16)
Tawnya Shuman – Market Stock Auction (9)
Andrew Tate – O-Mok-See (14)
Billie Jo Watson - Animal Costume (15)
Louise Wells - Home Arts (39)
Ben Wick – Camelid Barn (4)
Karen Wilson – Swine (12)

Thank you so much for your time and talents that you dedicate to the Fair each year. We would also like to thank Lynn Cotter for her continued excellence in the Livestock Office. Lynn has been with us since 2006 and does an incredible job with the Fair's Livestock Database insuring accurate checks are awarded to the livestock exhibitors.

Director - Rich Hartzell
Fair Coordinator - Jessica McLaughlin, CFE
Facility Manager – Craig Crocker

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Home of the Interstate Fair