

POLK COUNTY FAIR



AUGUST 11-13, 2016

POLK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS • RICKREALL, OR

Itemizer-Observer • Section C • Aug. 10, 2016

2016 POLK COUNTY FAIR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, AUG. 11

Senior Day

8:30 a.m. — Monster cookie contest — Building B
 9 a.m. — 4-H horticulture show — floral area
 9 a.m. — Market goat show and goat showmanship — Goat Barn
 9 a.m. — Swine market and breed show — Swine Barn
 9 a.m. — Horse Show — Arena
10 a.m. — Fair opens to the public
 10 a.m. — Cat and pet show — Small Animal Barn



10 a.m. — Rawhide Express Train
 10 a.m. — American Thunder Monster Truck — grass area by playground
 10 a.m. — Dr. Solar and his Oddities Museum — grass area by the

playground

10 a.m. — Rickreall Fire Department obstacle course — playground
 10 a.m. — Kids hands-on safety area — Building D
 10 a.m. — Benny the Beaver visits the fair

11 a.m. — Oregon Old Time Fiddlers — Les Schwab Stage

11:30 a.m. — 4-H flower arrangement contest

Noon — Poultry Show — Small Animal Barn

Noon — Madjek air, Zorb balls with pool, bouncy house, shark slide, monkey motion, rock wall, mechanical bull and rat race obstacles — playground

1 p.m. — Opening ceremonies — Les Schwab Stage

1 p.m. — Beef show: showmanship, market, then breed

2 p.m. — BMX Freestyle Show — south side of Main Building

2:30 p.m. — A Tribute to Patsy Cline — Les Schwab Stage

4 p.m. — BMX Freestyle Show — south side of Main Building

4 p.m. — Cascade Rye — Les Schwab Stage



5 p.m. — Sheep market show — Small show arena
 6 p.m. — Joe Stoddard — Les Schwab Stage
 6 p.m. — BMX Freestyle Show — south side of Main Building
 7 p.m. — Rough Stock Rodeo — Arena
 7 p.m. — Goat obstacle course and costume contest — Small show arena
 8 p.m. — Chris Tardiff & Showdown — Les Schwab Stage
10 p.m. — Fair closes for the day

FRIDAY, AUG. 12

8 a.m. — Rabbit market show — Small animal barn

8:30 a.m. — Horse show — Arena

8:30 a.m. — 4-H foods contests — Building B

9 a.m. — 4-H Cavies, followed by sheep showmanship, breed and wool; dairy cattle show — Small show arena

10 a.m. — Fair opens to the public

10 a.m. — 4-H Outdoor cookery

10 a.m. — Goat Breed classes — Goat Barn

10 a.m. — Outdoor cookery — floral area

10 a.m. — Rawhide Express Train

10 a.m. — American Thunder Monster Truck — grass area by playground

10 a.m. — Dr. Solar and his Oddities Museum — grass area by the playground

10 a.m. — Rickreall Fire Department obstacle course — playground

10 a.m. — Kids hands-on safety area — Building D

Noon — Twisty & Friend Magic Show — Les Schwab Stage

Noon — Lego Build-a-thon — Building B

Noon — Madjek air, Zorb balls with

pool, bouncy house, shark slide, monkey motion, rock wall, mechanical bull and rat race obstacles — playground

1:30 p.m. — 4-H monster cookie contest — Les Schwab Stage

2 p.m. — BMX Freestyle Show — south side of Main Building

2 p.m. — Horse grand entry and recognition — Arena

3 p.m. — Aaron Shinkle — Les Schwab Stage

3 p.m. — Goat breed class — Goat barn

4 p.m. — BMX Freestyle Show — south side of Main Building

5 p.m. — Swine showmanship — Swine barn

6 p.m. — BMX Freestyle Show — south side of Main Building

6 p.m. — Ty Curtis — Les Schwab Stage

7 p.m. — Truck and Tractor Pull —

Arena

8 p.m. — The Bronco Billy Band — Les Schwab Stage

10 p.m. — Fair closes for the day

SATURDAY, AUG. 13

8 a.m. — FFA large animal master showmanship

9 a.m. — 4-H presentations — Building B

9 a.m. — 4-H small animal master showmanship

10 a.m. — Fair opens to the public

10 a.m. — 4-H archery — Arena

10 a.m. — Rawhide Express Train

10 a.m. — American Thunder Monster Truck — grass area by playground

10 a.m. — Dr. Solar and his Oddities Museum — grass area by the playground

10 a.m. — Rickreall Fire Department obstacle course — playground

10 a.m. — Kids hands-on safety area — Building D

10:30 a.m. — Beautiful Baby Contest — Les Schwab Stage

11 a.m. — 4-H large animal master showmanship

Noon — France School of Dance — Les



Schwab Stage

Noon — BMX Freestyle Show — south side of Main Building

Noon — Cookie and cupcake decorating contest — Building B

Noon — Madjek air, Zorb balls with pool, bouncy house, shark slide, monkey motion, rock wall, mechanical bull and rat race obstacles — playground

Noon — FFA Awards and recognition — Sheep Barn show ring

1 p.m. — 4-H and FFA Livestock Buyers Luncheon — floral area

1:30 p.m. — ATV Rodeo — Arena

1:30 p.m. — 4-H Fashion Show and Performing Arts — Les Schwab Stage

1:30 p.m. — Static and Shooting Sports Awards — Les Schwab Stage

2 p.m. — BMX Freestyle Show — south side of Main Building

3 p.m. — 4-H and FFA Youth Market Auction — Swine Barn

4 p.m. — BMX Freestyle Show — south side of Main Building

4:30 p.m. — Ian McFeron — Les Schwab Stage

5 p.m. — American Thunder Monster Truck — free rides in the Arena

6 p.m. — Open class awards ceremony — Les Schwab Stage

6 p.m. — BMX Freestyle Show — south side of Main Building

8 p.m. — Infamous Soul — Les Schwab Stage

10 p.m. — Fair closes for 2016



2016 POLK COUNTY FAIR GUIDE

Presented by the Polk County Itemizer-Observer Newspaper

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Welcome to Polk County Fair 2016

Animals, trains, rodeo, 'world's largest caramel popcorn ball' featured

The Polk County Fair will be bursting at the seams when it comes to animal exhibits.

"We are going to be really full. We are putting them in every nook and cranny," said Tina Andersen, fair manager. "We are trying to stretch that small animal barn to make it bigger."

While the situation could be the cause of some logistical headaches, Andersen likes that 4-H and FFA exhibits are taking up all available space and then some.

"It's a good problem to have," Andersen said.

Animals may be the star of the event, but Polk County Fair 2016, "Boots, Chaps, and Cowboy Hats" will have plenty more to offer during its three-day run starting Thursday.

The world's largest caramel popcorn ball, helicopter tours and camel rides are three of the more unusual attractions.

Those looking for county fair staples, the truck and tractor pull, beautiful baby contest, the Raw Hide Express Train and

Boots Chaps and Cowboy Hats

What: 2016 Polk County Fair.

When: Thursday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Where: Polk County Fairgrounds & Event Center, 520 S. Pacific Highway West (99W), Rickreall.

Admission: Daily: adults, \$8; juniors (ages 11 to 15), \$5; seniors (62 and older), \$5; children 10 and younger are free. Season passes: adult, \$20; junior, \$10; and senior, \$10.

Of note: Seniors are free on Thursday until 4 p.m. and active members of the military are free on any day with a photo ID. Due to the rodeo, adult admission after 4 p.m. on Thursday is \$10.

Parking: \$3 per car.

booth after booth of fried goodies can be found.

"I'm very happy to announce we have elephant ears back," Andersen said.

The doughy delicacy can be found at the Country Treasures booth, run by a couple from Falls City.

Returning for a second year will be the beer and wine garden, Madjek, Inc. inflatable carnival and the Rough Stock Rodeo.

Andersen said she brought in more seating for the Thursday night rodeo, which proved surprisingly popular last year.

"We've done a lot of work to make sure we have enough seating so all people who want to see the rodeo can," Andersen said. "We have almost double the seats we had last year."

Just for rodeo night, there will be a beer-only beer garden set up at the

arena so, unlike last year, fairgoers don't have to pick between watching the rodeo and enjoying an adult beverage.

The fair received a grant from the Siletz Tribe to enhance the "kids' safety area," which has been moved to Building D.

Car seats, life jackets, and bike helmets will be given away as prizes, and a new booth offering fingerprinting and photo IDs for children has been added with grant funding.

"That is going to provide some really cool stuff in our kids' safety area," Andersen said.

If music is your thing, the fair has got you covered there, too.

Country artists Chris Tardiff & Showdown and The Bronco Billy Band, local musicians Aaron Shinkle and Ty Curtis, and something for the rocker in all of us, Infamous Soul, dot the entertainment schedule.

"We have a little bit of everything," Andersen said.

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Rough Stock returns

Rodeo set to thrill viewers, participants alike

The rodeo is back. After providing a rodeo at the Polk County Fair in 2015 for the first time in more than 15 years, Wild West Events Inc. is back with Hell on Hooves Rough Stock Rodeo Thursday at 7 p.m.

"It surpassed all expectations last year," organizer Wayne White said. "It was the biggest night of the fair. Needless to say we're fired up about putting it on again this year. I guarantee people it'll be a good time."

This year's rodeo features bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, barrel racing and mutton busting.

"This may be a 'small town' fair, but expect to see top-notch competitors," White said.

"Last weekend, we had some cowboys who were national finals qualifiers and also PBR finalists in the bull riding," White

Hell on Hooves

What: Rough Stock Rodeo

When: Thursday, 7 p.m.

Where: Polk County Fair Arena

Admission: Included in fair admission. \$10 for adults after 4 p.m.

said. "We hope we can get those guys here, too."

The mutton busting provides a thrill for the young ones — and a good laugh for the adults.

"It's the only form of legalized child abuse," White said with a chuckle. "The reason being every one of those little kids riding nine miles an hour just before they fall, they all do the same thing and open their mouths for some reason. It's a good time."

The rodeo proved to be one of the most popular attractions at the fair in 2015, so be prepared to get there early if you want to stake out a good spot.

The fair has made that a little easier this year, providing almost twice as much sitting as the 2015 event.

"Other rodeos can run all day and some are anticlimactic," White said. "We try to pack lots of excitement into about an hour and a half."



Bull riding is just one of the heart-pounding events you can watch at the "Hell on Hooves" Rough Stock Rodeo at the Polk County Fair on Thursday night.

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Adults arts, crafts bring surprising, unusual exhibits



The textiles category is one of the many that will be on display at the fair this week, showing off the talent of Polk County residents.

Strolling through the buildings at the Polk County Fair, you may notice artwork and crafts ranging from handmade cards to interesting sculpture.

"I've had some really unusual things through the years, like a leather saddle, a kayak, a wood-burned door," said Barbara Flugum, arts and crafts superintendent. "Everything that textiles does not, plus some textiles. It's always a surprise."

Flugum has been the arts and crafts superintendent for about 10 years, and got started by looking for volunteer opportunities in her church newsletter.

She is a crafter, and prefers quilting. Flugum enjoys seeing all the entries in the adult arts and crafts.

"I don't know what I'm going to get," she said. "It could be something totally unusual. Last year, I got a hanging wire, I guess you'd call it a sculpture, but it was all the things he'd picked up with his tractor and run over. I have a category called 'recyclables,' so that fell into there."

Last year, cardmaking was a popular category, promoted by local clubs.

"When I first began, scrapbooking was the big one," Flugum said. "I have some years that jewelry is the big category. I

have some years I get nothing in."

In the arts and crafts — as in other exhibits throughout the fair — professionals are judged separately, so she encourages everyone to submit something to the fair.

Some years, Flugum said she gets categories with nothing submitted.

"Judges come from outside the county so as not to have a prejudice for or against a particular entrant," Flugum said. She also hosts a people's choice award, voted on by anyone who comes to the fair.

"Some people are a lot more talented than they think they are," Flugum said. "I would encourage people to enter whether they think they're good enough or not. The more entries we have, the more interesting it is for the people who come to the fair."

Along with arts and crafts, fair-goers can enjoy a peak at canned goods, decorated cakes and homemade candies in the food exhibits. This year, a Pinterest competition has been added to the food categories — complete with a photo of the Pinned item as found on the social site, so that you can compare the before and after.

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Old-fashioned contests try skills from cooking to quilts

Feeling a bit competitive while having a blast? The Polk County Fair has you covered with a variety of colorful contests to take part in.

Some, like the Beautiful Baby contest, are fairgoer favorites from years past.

"We try to give as many prizes away as possible because every baby is pretty," fair manager Tina Andersen said.



The beautiful baby contest decides who is the cutest in several categories.

Others are new to the game, including the Pinterest contest — which involves finding your favorite recipe on Pinterest, making it and printing the pin along with the recipe to the fairgrounds.

"We either think up new contests or lots of times, the public will ask for a certain contest," Andersen said.

This year, the contests include cooking (Junior Chef, King of the Cook Stove and Queen of the Kitchen), 4-H — which includes the Monster Cookie, cake decorating, goat costume and livestock — a scarecrow contest, the ATV rodeo, Queen of the Textiles and an Oregon photo contest.

"The fun part of all our contests are those that enter and how excited people get about their entries," Andersen said.

Some of the contests will have special guest judges. Among them include Miss Oregon SW Natriana Shorter and Miss Oregon Teen USA Mikaela Bruer as part of the judging team of the Beautiful Baby contest; Rickreall Fire Chief Brad Weaver and Rickreall Fire Capt. Jake Gillins judging the goat costume contest and many, many more.

Official rules and entry forms are avail-



Cake decorating is one of the many culinary contests at the fair.

able online at www.co.polk.or.us/fair/annual/2015-fair-contest-flyers-entry-forms.

No fair would be complete without a contest, and the Polk County Fair delivers them in spades and makes sure this year's fair provides fun and unique challenges to tackle.



Goat costumes and an obstacle course are two of the more unusual contests.

"A good contest is one that engages a lot of people to enter," Andersen said.

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Bring your checkbook and credit cards and head to the Polk County Fair on Saturday afternoon to bid on livestock at the annual Youth Livestock Auction, presented by the Polk County Livestock Association.

Youths from 4-H and FFA will show the animals they've been working on all year in hopes of attracting a high price for their prize livestock.

The experience can be a little intimidating for the inexperienced.

"If it's your first year, it's kind of a nervous thing for any kid," said Sven Olsson, who helps organize the auction. "When you're 10 years old, walking out with your animal in front of 150 to 200 people, it's kind of nerve-racking. The thing that helps is being confident and how well they handle the animal in the auction ring."

The auction will again be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday in the



FFA and 4-H exhibitors participate in the livestock auction.

Swine Barn. The time was changed last year from an evening event to the afternoon, and turned out to be a good move for all involved.

"Usually the auction runs till late, and people start to leave when there's still an hour or two left," Olsson said. "Because it was earlier, the fair wasn't even

Calling all bidders

What: 4H / FFA Youth Market Auction.

Where: Show area of the Swine Barn on the east side of the Polk County Fairgrounds.

When: Saturday at 3 p.m. Bidders and buyers are encouraged to arrive early to receive a bidding number and a good seat.

Animals being auctioned: Steers, hogs, sheep, goats, turkeys, chickens and rabbits.

closed by the time we were done. People looked around the fair and bought food; it was great."

It wasn't just fair vendors who benefited from the earlier start time.

"It was our highest grossing year for the auction by about \$70,000," Olsson said. "All that money ends up going back to the kids, which is great."

The auction is open to anyone — and people are free to donate, Olsson said.

"You can donate the whole animal or sell back the animal, either way you're supporting the

kids," he said. "Otherwise, you can keep it for yourself and have a full freezer for the year."

He and his wife, Courtney, had more meat than they knew what to do with last year when they placed the winning bid on the grand champion turkey.

"It was 32 pounds dressed out," Olsson said. "That's a big turkey. The breasts were the size of tri tips — big tri tips. It was huge. It wouldn't fit in our oven. We boned it out and had to cook some in the smoker. But it was one of the best turkeys we've ever had."

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Wine, beer return at new location to fair

Alcoholic beverage garden focuses on local, to offer better view of Les Schwab Stage

Beer, wine and cider have a new home at the Polk County Fair, moving to a venue with a new brick patio and within sight of the Les Schwab Stage. The patio was installed partially because some old buildings on the fairgrounds needed to be removed for safety reasons. They were “being held up by the will of God” as Fair Board Chairwoman Anna Scharf characterized it.

Coincidentally, the new environment, between the main building and the stage, was just what beer and wine garden vendor Oregon Beverage Service was looking for.

“We are trying to make it more open and more inviting, but in a secure area,” said Carroll Unruh, the owner of Oregon Beverage.

This is only the second year alcohol will be served at the fair and Unruh is aware of the reasons some in the county were wary of including it. He wants to calm those fears by hosting a beer and wine garden that enhances the fair experience, not detract from it.

“We are actually an alcohol management company,” Unruh said. “We have to provide a safe environment, and that’s our goal.”

Unruh said beer, wine and hard cider options will focus on local breweries and wineries, including Rogue, Gilgamesh, Hop Valley, Deschutes and Santiam. Two Towns Cider out of Corvallis will be featured for the growing hard cider fan base in the area.

“We would work with a Polk County focus and fill in from there,” Unruh said, noting, yes there will be “macro brews” for those who prefer the big brands.

Oregon Beverage hosts beer gardens at 22 county fairs across the state and has seen an increasing volume of craft beer sales.

“We embrace the hand-crafted beer more than most companies,” he said. “They want to see what they consume every day, and hand-crafted beer speaks to Oregon.”

The lineup for wine offerings has not been nailed down yet, but Unruh noted there

are plenty Polk County wineries to choose from when filling out the menu. The beer and wine garden will be open from noon to 9:30 p.m. (30 minutes before the fair closes each night) every day of the Polk County Fair.



Rogue Ales will be on tap at the beer and wine garden at the fair.

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Plethora of stuff for kids

The playground area and Building D will be kids central at the Polk County Fair.

Madjek, Inc., out of Salem, will be returning with its lineup of inflatable fun, including a slide, bouncy house and Zorb balls (human-sized hamster balls on water). New this year is a rock climbing wall and inflatable mechanical bull.

The company made its debut in 2015 after the fair couldn't book a traditional carnival. It was a success.

"It went really, really well," said Tina Andersen, fair manager. "They made three times the money that the carnival has in the past."

Nearby, Rickreall Fire Department will be holding its popular firefighting obstacle course for kids. It's a great opportunity for children to meet firefighters, try on gear, and race each other through the course.

Old-fashioned carnival games have been added to the lineup in the playground area, so kids — and their adults — can test their skills.

What has been called the "kids' safety area" has moved out of the playground area and into to Building D. The area will

feature information about car seat, bicycle and water safety, and drug prevention.

Children will be taught what to do if they see a downed power line and see a crash-test dummy.

"There's a whole big hands-on kids' safety area, and it's all free," Andersen said.

Thanks to a grant from the Siletz Tribe, the area has expanded to a childrens ID booth, where parents can have their children fingerprinted and a photo taken for identification purposes.

"It's something people don't think about, but it's good to have in case they were to ever disappear," Andersen said.

The \$3,705 grant also paid for bicycle helmets, life jackets and car seats that will be given away as prizes every day.

"We wouldn't have been able to put this together without them," Andersen said.

Back by popular demand is laser tag, something Andersen was encouraged to include by someone close to her.

"I'm really excited about bringing back laser tag, at the request of my grandson," she said.

Fun at the Fair

What: Madjek Inc. inflatable carnival.

Where: The playground area on the fairgrounds.

When: Opens at noon all three days of fair.

What: Kids' safety area.

Where: Building D.

When: Open at 10 a.m. all three days of fair.



A slide, bouncy house, and a rock wall are among the fun for kids at the fair.



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Oregon Old-Time Fiddlers open musical entertainment at the fair.

Variety of acts take Les Schwab Stage

In three days, the Les Schwab Stage at the Polk County Fair will host musical acts with styles ranging from classic rock to old-time fiddle.

"We have a little bit of everything," said Tina Andersen, fair manager.

Andersen, who has been booking talent at the fair for many years, has the scheduling down to a science to fit the theme of each day.

Thursday, senior day, will open with Old Time Fiddlers in the morning, followed by Tribute to Patsy Cline in the afternoon. The evening will switch gears to high-energy country band Chris Tardiff & Showdown to close out the fair after the Rough Stock Rodeo.

Move to the last day of fair when headliner Infamous Soul will close out the event with a bang with classic rock — perfect for a Saturday night.

Andersen hit a bit of a snag on the Friday schedule, though, after one of the bands she booked had to cancel.

"We put a desperate plea out to talent agents because everybody is booked," Andersen said.

She got a call from blues artist Ty Curtis' agent saying he might be able to fill in the 6 p.m. slot before heading into Salem for a 9 p.m. show.

Better than just finding a last-minute replacement, the fair was able to pull in a local favorite.

"He's very popular, so it's really hard to get him," she said.

Les Schwab Stage music

THURSDAY

- 11 a.m.** — Oregon Old-Time Fiddlers
- 2:30 p.m.** — A Tribute to Patsy Cline
- 4 p.m.** — Cascade Rye
- 6 p.m.** — Joe Stoddard
- 8 p.m.** — Chris Tardiff & Showdown

FRIDAY

- 3 p.m.** — Aaron Shinkle
- 6 p.m.** — Ty Curtis
- 8 p.m.** — The Bronco Billy Band


Saturday


- 4:30 p.m.** — Ian McFeron
- 8 p.m.** — Infamous Soul

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