



Fairgoers dance to one of the many bands that played at the Country Fair Saturday.

Fair furnishes fun for thousands

The air was thick and the sun intense, but that didn't stop people at the 27th annual Oregon Country Fair from enjoying themselves.

The temperature reached 102 degrees on Saturday in Veneta, the home of the Oregon Country Fair. Despite the hot weather, the fair boasted a first time sell-out crowd of 18,000.

Story and photos by Andrew Brackensick

Many regulars to the fair had to be turned away at the gate over the weekend because of the high demand for tickets this year.

Transportation to Veneta was a challenge for some. Those who decided to take their own vehicles had to deal with traffic jams to reach the parking lot and then hike to the fair itself. Those who decided to take the shuttle had to wait in long lines to get a seat — some waiting over an hour.

Fairgoers were treated to a wide variety of music. On the main stage there was jazz and folk music. Smaller stages around the fairgrounds offered more alternative music to fairgoers.

There were a variety of foods, crafts and entertainment offered up to fairgoers. Everything from body painting to Leif Olsen's fire eating, an act performed in a bikini, contributed to the spectacle that is the Oregon Country Fair.



Lief Olsen juggles torches while standing in a pool with gasoline added.



Some fairgoers had to wait for over one hour for a shuttle to the fair.



Nathan Jordan Young of Albany fills a spray bottle with water provided by the Country Fair.

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