

# 'Hometown Pride County Wide!' Fair about to kick off!

**Annette McGee Rasch**  
IVN Senior Contributing Writer

The Josephine County Fair kicks off Wednesday morning, Aug. 16, and runs through Saturday night, Aug. 19. The four-day roster is crammed full of activities and awesome music - and one huge highlight happens on the Midway Music Stage Wednesday night. Local country favorite, FOGLINE, the winner of the '2016 Battle of the Bands,' will perform just after the Coastal Bull Riding Tour.

"This year, Wednesday is a really huge night," Josephine County (JoCo) Fairgrounds Manager Peggy Anderson said. "We're very fortunate to have the big bull riding event. And then, we're throwing a big party for our local folks and the dance with FOGLINES. This happens by the indoor arena and it's all free with gate admission."

Last year's temperatures reached 111 degrees on the fairgrounds and Anderson said the heat kept the crowds pretty thin. So community partners - including Rogue Gateway Rotary Club, Greater Grants Pass Rotary and Siskiyou Community Health Center - came together to provide three "misting stations" on the grounds to help cool people off this year. There'll be one misting station near the carnival and two more in the Midway area. And in the Commercial Building, there's centrally located seating close to another cooling station. Also, air-conditioned buildings include the Arts & Craft Building (or "4-H Building during fair"), the Floral and Agriculture Buildings and the Pavilion.

"We want to be ready for any kind of weather," Anderson said, "and I'm hoping that when you're ready for something like this, of course, then it won't happen."

Some ask: why not change the fair date? Anderson responds: "We're pretty much

locked into August. We have to wait until horse racing is finished, and, we borrow and share livestock panels with other events like Jackson County Fair. Plus, it's about our carnivals' availability. We have a really good carnival and we must stick with that."

Many who attend the fair are attracted by the animal and agricultural action and this year's fair has all the traditional offerings plus a few new features. There's an excited buzz around the equine community because for the first time in 40 years, on both Friday at 1 p.m. and Saturday at 8:30 a.m., the JoCo Fair will feature an Open Class Horse Show. This event is sponsored by "Once Upon a Horse."

"Any kind of horse is welcome, there will be many different kinds of classes - from equitation to showmanship, both English and Western, including costume class and trail horse class," Anderson said. "And, at 10 a.m. Saturday the Young Farmers 4-H & FFA Livestock Auction will be held in the 4-H Barn."

Anderson said all these events are free with gate admission, except Thursday, when AllCare Health sponsors "Free Gate Admission Day." Otherwise, fair admission is \$10.00 for adults and seniors; while those aged six to 12 pay \$6; and five and under is free.

Live music is offered nightly on the Midway Stage: On Thursday, the 2017 Battle of the Bands gets underway; and Friday, the lineup includes Style Sound Review "Back to the '80s" and Seattle greats MANTRA (a Carlos Santana tribute band). Then Saturday night Pacific Northwest and regional favorites include Billy Lund and Whiskey Weekend and Beth Henderson with Blowin Smoke.

Other entertainment includes WGAS Army Fitz Metal Mushlia and high flying motorcycles with Motocross Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. in front of the grandstands on the race track.

SEE FAIR ON A-9

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 9, the 221st day of 2017. There are 144 days left in the year.

On August 9, 1945, three days after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, a U.S. B-29 Superfortress code-named Bockscar dropped a nuclear device ("Fat Man") over Nagasaki, killing an estimated 74,000 people.

On this date:

In 1854, Henry David Thoreau's "Walden," which described Thoreau's experiences while living near Walden Pond in Massachusetts, was first published.

In 1902, Edward VII was crowned king of Britain following the death of his mother, Queen Victoria.

In 1936, Jesse Owens won his fourth gold medal at the Berlin Olympics as the United States took first place in the 400-meter relay.

In 1942, British authorities in India arrested nationalist Mohandas K. Gandhi; he was released in 1944.

In 1967, Ethel Le Neve, the

mistress of notorious convicted wife killer Hawley Harvey Crippen, died in Croydon, England, at age 84.

In 1969, actress Sharon Tate and four other people were found brutally slain at Tate's Los Angeles home; cult leader Charles Manson and a group of his followers were later convicted of the crime.

In 1974, Vice President Gerald R. Ford became the nation's 38th chief executive as President Richard Nixon's resignation took effect.

In 1982, a federal judge in Washington ordered John W. Hinckley Jr., who'd been acquitted of shooting President Ronald Reagan and three others by reason of insanity, committed to a mental hospital.

In 1992, closing ceremonies were held for the Barcelona Summer Olympics, with the Unified Team of former Soviet republics winning 112 medals, the United States 108.

In 1997, Haitian immigrant Abner Louima was brutalized in a Brooklyn, New York, stationhouse by Officer Justin Volpe, who raped him with a broken broomstick.

(Volpe was later sentenced to 30 years in prison.) An Amtrak train with more than 300 people aboard

derailed on a bridge near Kingman, Arizona; 183 people were injured.

In 2002, Oscar-winning actor and National Rifle Association president Charlton Heston, 78, revealed that doctors had told him he had symptoms consistent with Alzheimer's disease (Heston died in April 2008). Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants hit his 600th homer, becoming the fourth major leaguer to reach the mark (the Pittsburgh Pirates won the game, 4-3.)

In 2014, Michael Brown Jr., an unarmed 18-year-old black man, was shot to death by a police officer following an altercation in Ferguson, Missouri; Brown's death led to sometimes-violent protests in Ferguson and other U.S. cities.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush held a news conference in which he publicly prodded Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, his embattled war-on-terror partner, to hold free presidential elections, share intelligence and take "swift action" against terrorist leaders pinpointed in his country.

David Beckham made his long-awaited Major League Soccer

debut, entering in the 72nd minute of the Los Angeles Galaxy's 1-0 loss to D.C. United.

Five years ago: The United States began a landmark project to clean up dioxin left from Agent Orange at the site of a former U.S. air base in Danang in central Vietnam, 50 years after the defoliant was first sprayed by American planes on Vietnam's jungles to destroy enemy cover. At the London Games, Usain Bolt won the 200 meters in 19.32 seconds, making him the only man with two Olympic titles in that event. The U.S. women's soccer team won the gold medal, avenging one of its most painful defeats with a 2-1 victory over Japan. Actor Al Freeman Jr., 81, died in Washington, D.C. Mel Stuart, 83, an award-winning film documentarian who also directed "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory," died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Gunfire broke out during a demonstration in Ferguson, Missouri, on the second anniversary of Michael Brown's death, disrupting what had been a peaceful gathering but apparently wounding no one. House Speaker Paul Ryan defeated Paul Nehlen,

a longshot Republican challenger praised by Donald Trump, in a Wisconsin congressional primary.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Sam Elliott is 73. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Doug Williams is 62. Actress Melanie Griffith is 60. Hockey Hall of Famer Brett Hull is 53. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Deion Sanders is 50.

Thought for Today: "The man who makes no mistakes does not usually make anything." — Edward John Phelps, American lawyer and diplomat (1822-1900).

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