

T rex to prowl the fairgrounds



Photo courtesy of Alex Sebastiani

Tonka the *Tyrannosaurus rex* stops his prowling for a photo opportunity with two young fair-goers.

Better hide your sheep and swine: There's a dinosaur on the scene.

An eight-foot-high, 16-foot-long baby *Tyrannosaurus rex*, that is. The folks from Prehistoric Adventures will be hauling one to the fair, to be led on a leash by an Indiana-Jones-like handler. The dinosaur sprays venom, smacks around his tail and lets out guttural roars.

"It's like a paleontologist dug it out of the ground," said Alex Sebastiani, owner of Prehistoric Adventures. But unlike its extinct ancestors, this dinosaur is available to touch and doesn't mind posing for selfies.

"Our dinosaurs all have sunny dispositions," Sebastiani said. He offered assurance that they don't bite, but did warn that they've been known to snap at obnoxious teenagers now and again.

"They're not Barney," Sebastiani said. "We offer thrills and chills."

He said children up to the age of 10 will be left "without a shadow of a doubt that it's a real dinosaur." Even adults — grown men — are left trying to figure out the Jurassic feat.

While Sebastiani can't give away all the details, he said the inner organs of these particular dinosaurs "look a lot like an airplane cockpit."

Currently in his sixth year of business, Sebastiani spends eight months of every year taking the dinosaurs to fairs and events across the country. There's six dinosaurs and six dragons in his zoo.

Sebastiani designed the whole concept of bringing dinosaurs alive from scratch. It's something he'd never seen done before, an idea his boyhood self would have loved. He's looking forward to bringing the dinosaurs to Umatilla County.

"We always get big smiles," he said.

Bands

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Tracy Lawrence will keep the country music going, taking it back to a classic sound influenced by Merle Haggard and George Strait. The entertainer boasts one of the most recognizable voices, which has earned him 22 appearances on Billboard's Top 10 charts. The Arkansas-bred singer has sold more than 13 million albums in his three-decade career, producing hits like "Paint Me A Birmingham," "Time Marches On," and "Find Out Who Your Friends Are." His Wednesday night performance is sure to fill your fix for honky tonk.

With timeless tracks like "Can't You See" and "Fire on the Mountain," The Marshall Tucker Band offers a singalong-worthy dose of Southern Rock. The band, still led by founding member Doug Gray, was a 1970s smash, filling stadiums with as many as 150,000 fans. Today, The Marshall Tucker Band ranks with Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Allman Brothers, jamming classic beats with blues, boogie and



Photo courtesy of Umatilla County Fair

Country singer Tracy Lawrence will perform at 9 p.m. on Aug. 9.

jazz influences.

Latin music performers will take the stage Friday for what Wagner predicted to be the most popular night of the bunch. Nationally-recognized La Mar-K de Tierra Caliente will headline for their third appearance at the fair, playing tracks off their 2017 album "Extraño a Mi Pueblo" plus classic hits like "Ar-

rancame La Piel," "Escondete Dolor" and "Cada Vez Mas Fuerte." The night's additional performers include Canarios de Michoacan and Domador de la Sierra. Wagner said last year's Latino Night attracted an audience of more than 3,500. He expects this one to be equally successful.

The rock group Great White will close out the series with hard-hitting orchestrations. Best known for their cover of Mott the Hoople's "Once Bitten, Twice Shy," Great White holds six Top 100 Billboard hits, two platinum albums and over 10 million albums sold worldwide. With lead singer Terry Ilous of XYZ taking the place of former frontman Jack Russell, the band continues a legacy of 1980s rock, a style that borders on both blues and metal, sometimes in the same track. Their 13th studio album "Full Circle" was released June 2.

All performances begin at 9 p.m.. General admission seating is included in fair admission. Reserved seats, which are located closer to the stage, are available for \$12. Tickets can be purchased online at www.co.umatilla.or.us/fair or by phone at 541-567-6121.