

# Winning the wild, wacky way



Photo courtesy of Alana Listoe  
**Entertainer Freddie Prez uses a puppet to lead a lip sync competition during a performance at a fair in Helena, Montana.**

**W**hat do toilet plungers, Silly String, fidget spinners and Twinkies have in common?

They're all objects you might use to compete in the Freddie Prez Show.

"The point is that these are contests you wouldn't find anywhere else," Prez said. "I made them up."

Each of Prez's game shows includes five contests, picked from a list containing about a dozen ideas — everything from Sponge Bob trivia to snow machine karaoke. The "Great Toilet Paper Blow-out," featuring a 210 mph blower and 10,000 sheets of toilet paper, is a classic crowd favorite.

While the games are silly, the prizes can be serious. Prez said he's recently awarded big winners

with flatscreen TVs, Xbox 360s and hobby drones. For the evening Frisbee and bingo attractions, contestants could win up to \$10,000.

"And these are all free to play," Prez said. "There's no gambling involved here."

The games are open to fairgoers of all ages — even toddlers and grandparents, Prez said. He added that those looking for fun without the spotlight will still enjoy viewing the show. His 45-foot stage is outfitted with strobe lights, fog machines and cartoon sound effects.

Prez has been a professional entertainer since 1988, when he dropped out of UCLA graduate school to pursue a music career. The Freddie Prez show was born one night as he wowed a

night club audience with a one-of-a-kind trick: an animatronic bear that tapped drums for tips.

He has since developed his novelty entertainment business into a career. He travels across the United States and Canada to host his wacky attractions. All that traveling is good for him, he said.

"Most of the contests come up while I'm driving," he said. He sees inspiration in odd objects and the wild things he hears.

"One time this kid came up to me and said, 'Freddie Prez, did you know I can blow up a balloon with my nose?'" he said. "I still haven't figured out how in the world I can turn that into a contest."

But with his imagination, don't put it past him.

**Mid Columbia Producers, Inc.**

- Commercial & Industrial Lubricants
- Automotive Engine Oils
- Petroleum Equipment & Accessories
- Greases & Gear Oil
- CFN Cardlock Fueling
- Pacific Pride Cardlock Fueling
- Voyager Channel Partner
- Bulk Fuel & Oil Delivery

345 N. 1st Place, Hermiston, OR 97838  
 541-289-5015 • www.mcpcoop.com

**Have a great time at the Umatilla County Fair!**

**AUTO PARTS**

**Kevin & Georgia Cleaver**  
 Proud owners of all three stores!

**Hermiston Auto Parts, Inc.**  
 541-567-5569

**Umatilla Auto Parts**  
 541-922-5556

**Boardman Auto Parts**  
 541-481-6200

*Now part of the same family!*

**• PARTS • BATTERIES • BRAKES  
 • OIL & FILTERS • ACCESSORIES  
 • TOOLS & EQUIPMENT**