

# Crowds swell at Umatilla County Fair at night

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

During fair week, the Umatilla County fairgrounds are at their liveliest after dark.

Children dart through clusters of parents waiting for their own child to disembark from a spinning spaceship ride. Couples wander hand in hand. Groups of teenagers ebb and flow as they catch up on summer gossip.

On the east end of the grounds the night sky is lit up by floodlights trained on the rodeo grounds, the announcer's play by play of each ride echoing over the barns and lines for the zip-line. To the west, the sounds of the night's concert provide a soundtrack for the commercial and food vendors.

On Wednesday night it was only down to 85 degrees by 9 p.m. but people were out enjoying the relative break from the heat.

Sean Griggs of Hermiston was standing outside a ride with his two young sons in a stroller as he waited for his daughter to get off a ride.

"We usually go in the evening when it's a little cooler for the kids," he said.

The children had gotten curly fries and corn dogs for dinner when they got there, and he said they would probably get an elephant ear before they went home.

Mallory Mulcare of Hermiston said she had been at the fair all day, but there was "like no one here" from noon to about 3 p.m. when it was well over 100 degrees. She said since she is pregnant she can't do much rides-wise this year, but she enjoyed walking around and seeing people and eating the fair food.

"My favorite are the fruit cups and elephant ears," she said.

In the barns several young families were stopped



Carnival games beckon fairgoers Wednesday night at the Umatilla County Fair. Staff photo by Jade McDowell



Fairgoers ride the ferris wheel. Staff photo by Jade McDowell

by the various animal pens, allowing the children to pet a sheep or look at the rabbits. Kyla Larson, who shows animals in the small animal barn, said while 4-H and FFA youth are busy washing and caring for their animals throughout the day, they tend to have more of an audience for their animals at night.

"It usually speeds up in the small animal barn," she said. "A lot of people bring their little kids."

Some people showing animals head back home for dinner or spend some time in

the RV camping area then, but Larson said the ones who stick around sometimes let the kids hold their rabbit.

On the other side of the fairgrounds, behind the event center, country singer Ned Ledoux was on stage. There are reserved seats available for each fair concert, but those who don't want to pay for a ticket can sit on the bleachers behind the reserved section or stand nearby to catch a song or two before continuing on to other parts of the fair.

Taylor Betz and Bob Coleman of Hermiston were

standing near the bleachers watching the performance Wednesday shortly before 10 p.m. as Ledoux finished a ballad and launched into a cover of his father Chris Ledoux's song "Copenhagen."

Coleman said he likes the fair better at night, because it's less hot and the concerts are going. He listens to Ledoux's music at home, and he and Betz said they were enjoying the show.

"It's funning being able to hear him on iTunes and on the radio, and then in person," Betz said.

Parking and traffic were complaints about the fair last year, but at 9 p.m. on Wednesday there was no line at the gate and plenty of open parking. By 10 p.m. traffic was trickling from the rodeo and fair parking but was moving at a steady pace out of the grounds and onto Airport Road, then onto Highway 395, where police had set up cones and vehicles to create a way to turn right onto the road without stopping.

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## PENDLETON

# Man charged with harassing Yellowstone bison to stay in jail

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (AP) — A Pendleton man who was arrested following disturbances in three national parks, including one in which a bison was harassed in Yellowstone, will remain jailed until his trial later this month, a judge ruled Wednesday.



Reinke

The decision came as Raymond Reinke pleaded not guilty to five charges stemming from citations issued in Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks in late July.

Reinke, 55, was arrested Friday in Glacier National Park, where rangers with a warrant said they found him engaged in another disturbance.

U.S. District Judge Mark Carman set Reinke's trial for Aug. 23, the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* reports.

Carman declined to release Reinke on bond, citing his criminal history and his disregard for the conditions of the \$500 bond he posted after being cited for public intoxication, disturbing the peace and interfering with a government employee in Grand Teton National Park. He was to avoid alcohol and follow the law.

Days later, Reinke was cited in Yellowstone for having an open container of alcohol and intentionally disturbing wildlife. Park visitors reported the bison harassment to rangers and at least one visitor captured it on video.

In the video, a man walks up to a bison in a roadway congested with

stopped cars and waves his arms. The animal charges him a couple times, but the man is not injured.

Yellowstone officials warn visitors to stay at least 25 yards away from bison, which can injure tourists who get too close.

After the video gained attention online and Yellowstone

officials learned of Reinke's charges in Grand Teton, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Wyoming asked that Reinke's bond be revoked and an arrest warrant was issued.

Reinke had told Yellowstone officials his next stop was Glacier National Park. Rangers looking for him there found him when they responded to a disturbance at Many Glacier Hotel, the National Park Service said.

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