

# SIDE ENTERTAINMENT offers something for everyone

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Several familiar side entertainment acts are returning to the 2021 Umatilla County Fair. Fair Director Angie McNalley said it's a juggling act bringing back fan favorites and finding new acts to wow the crowds.

"We have the unique challenge to try to attract fair patrons of all ages," she said. "You can't just have something for little kids because it's not fun for the teens, 'tweens and adults."

That said, McNalley is excited to have Ride Hard Entertainment returning to the fairgrounds. In addition to daily mutton bustin' shows, fairgoers can sidle up to roping dummies and a mechanical bull to show off their skills. Also, people can pose for photos with the Legendary Longhorns.

"The mutton bustin', which is different from what the rodeo does, is an attraction on the fair side that's a big hit every time that we've ever had them," McNalley said.

Fairgoers will have several variety shows they won't want to miss, including Leapin' Louie, Mz. Pearl and Jeremiah Johnston, who have all been at the Umatilla County Fair previously. Each offers quality entertainment and adds to the fair experience, McNalley said.

Leapin' Louie dazzles the crowd with world-class lasso and whip tricks, juggling, a high unicycle and other stunts. Mz. Pearl has been referred to as a "one-woman comedy circus act," complete with a clown getup, stilt walking and dancing. Jeremiah Johnston, who holds two medals in the juggling world championships, offers a fast-action and dazzling display of artistry featuring everything from LED lights and fire to machetes and crystal ball illusions.

New to the Umatilla County Fair this year is Hart Keene with an act featuring magic and comedy. The audience gets in on the act as Keene interacts with the crowd while displaying feats of mentalism and illusion, mixed in with lots of laughs.

Also, McNalley said the entertainment isn't always maintained within the confines of the stage areas. Don't be surprised to run into fair entertainers strolling the grounds.

"If you are walking along or look bored, Mz. Pearl with her red nose might jump out and interact with you," McNalley said with a laugh.

In addition, McNalley said there are a variety of vendors and attractions that add to the fair experience. She encouraged people to stroll the midway and beyond to take in such activities as knockerball, laser tag, virtual reality and more.

"We have lots of other attractions — a little something for everyone," McNalley said.

Hart Keene



Jeremiah Johnston



Mz. Pearl



Leapin' Louie



Mutton bustin'



Legendary Longhorns

Photos contributed by: Hart Keene, Jeremiah Johnston, Mz. Pearl's Variety Show, Leapin' Louie and Ride Hard Entertainment