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Recycle for a better future



One of several changes to the entertainment schedule at the 2015 Polk County Fair will be moving the youth livestock auction to earlier in the afternoon on Saturday.

Entertainment changes in store for county fair

By Jolene Guzman The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — After

along absence, a rodeo is back in the lineup for the 2015 Polk County Fair.

Wild West Events, based out of Creswell, will be bringing in a group of professional cowboys and cowgirls to compete in bareback and saddle bronc riding, barrel racing, bull riding and mutton busting. The last time the fair had a full rodeo was in the late 1990s. After that, the fair hosted a youth rodeo for about 10 years.

"But even that got to the point where it was really expensive to put on," said Tina Andersen, fair manager.

Andersen said Wild West Events is sponsoring some of the cost of the show to help the fair afford to put it on this year. The rodeo will be opening night of the fair and is free with fair admission.

That is just one of quite a few changes to the entertainment lineup in store for the 2015 version of the fair. The most noticeable

change will be the absence recent years, the fair has worked to improve attenyear, Andersen wasn't able to race obstacle course. bring in a carnival.

really, really, really tried to quire tickets — one to get a carnival, but carnivals don't like us because we are 25 for \$20. so small," said Anna Scharf, fair board chairwoman.

tendance rates are much for the carnival company. She said at Polk County, a carnival may make \$18,000 to \$20,000, but in Hood River, it could make several times that amount.

In its place will be a collection of games, slides, obstacle courses and fun demonstrations put on by local organizations.

"Tina's worked really hard to find a solution and everybody needs to come out and see her awesome solution," Scharf said.

of a traditional carnival. In Salem will bring "zorb balls" (think giant hamster balls in a pool of water), a Finding dance at the carnival with Nemo bouncy castle, a tramdisappointing results. This poline, shark slide and rat

Those activities in the "We are small, and Tina "kids' area" of the fair rethree — at a cost \$1 each or

Also, the Polk County Sheriff's Office will be Andersen said Hood River demonstrating equipment County holds its fair at a and Southwest Polk Rural similar-sized venue, but at- Fire Protection District's Rickreall station will host a higher, so revenue is better firefighting-themed obstacle

course for the youngsters. Another new attraction is American Thunder's monster truck. Andersen said the truck will be on display in the arena on Saturday starting at 5 p.m. and will offer

free rides. In one final change, the popular youth livestock auction has been moved to 3 p.m. on Saturday, allowing fairgoers to take in both the auction and the headliner show, Carrie Cunningham, in the evening.

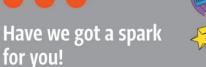


Making exercise fun

Matters to me

! People who aren't already runners need a reason—a spark to get out there.))

—Susan Gallagher, Gallagher Fitness





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