



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Last year's winning theme was "Blue Jeans & Country Dreams." Submissions for 2016 are due Feb. 12.

2016 Fair theme deadline looms

Polk County Fair board seeks ideas for this year's three-day fair in August

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

RICKREALL — Tina Andersen, Polk County Fair manager, is on the committee that selects the Oregon Fair Association's (OFA) "media awards" for fair advertising campaigns.

She was disappointed to find at OFA's annual conference on Jan. 15 that Polk County wasn't even listed as a runner-up in any category.

So you can imagine her surprise when Polk County's 2015 theme poster "Blue Jeans & Country Dreams" was announced as receiving the top prize.

"They were really sneaky,"

Theme contest

- Fair theme ideas may be submitted through Feb. 12.
- Submissions may be emailed, dropped off at the fair office or mailed.
- The 2016 Polk County Fair will take place Aug. 11-13.

Andersen said of the other committee members who kept the win a secret from her. "We were up against Douglas and Clackamas counties whose budgets are five times ours. It was fun to be the little guy."

Amanda Rush with Sign Crafters created the poster,

which features a red bandana-inspired design.

"She's done our fair book and poster for several years," Andersen said. "She was really excited."

Andersen said the 2015 theme — the first to be selected via the fair's theme contest — proved to be a winner with fairgoers as well.

She said floral arraignments and cake decorating exhibits are often based on the theme, and "Blue Jeans & Country Dreams" made that easy.

Also, many of the animal barns were decorated.

"To have a fair theme run through the entire fair is fun," she said.

The Polk County Fair Board is looking for another home run for the 2016 fair.

Entries can be emailed, dropped off at the fair office or mailed, but the Feb. 12 deadline is approaching.

Andersen said about 30 themes have been submitted already.

The author of the winning theme will receive a package of season passes and lunch for four at the fair.

Themes will be reviewed at the fair board's Feb. 13 work session. The winner will be announced at the next regular board meeting.

For more information on submitting a theme: www.co.polk.or.us.

Four arrested on drug charges

Itemizer-Observer staff report

POLK COUNTY — Four Falls City residents were arrested after a search warrant on Sunday. The search warrant was executed after a Dallas juvenile had seizures after using methamphetamine.

On Friday, at about 11:40 p.m., Dallas Police Department responded to a Dallas address where a 17-year-old male was having seizures after using methamphetamine. It was reported that the juvenile obtained the drug from a Robert Peters, who lives at 200 Church St., No. 7, in Falls City.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office investigated this incident and obtained a search warrant to search Peters' residence, a motorhome, parked at the Greenhaven RV Park. The search warrant was executed on Sunday at about 6 p.m. During the search, Peters and three other adults were arrested.

All four subjects were lodged at the Polk County Jail.

Peters was charged with two counts of the unlawful possession of methamphetamine, delivery of methamphetamine, endangering the welfare of a minor and the unlawful possession of hydrocodone. His bail is \$140,000.

Jerry Carmickle was charged with the unlawful possession of methamphetamine. He was released Monday.

Pamela Elliott was charged with the unlawful possession of methamphetamine and second-degree child neglect for leaving her 6-year-old daughter alone at her trailer space as she was visiting at Peters' space. Her bail is \$47,500.

The Department of Human Services — Child Welfare Investigators responded to the scene of the search warrant and arranged for safe placement for the 6-year-old girl.

Shawn Russell was charged with the unlawful possession of methamphetamine and second-degree child neglect, as he was Elliott's boyfriend and lived with her and her 6-year-old daughter. He was released on Monday.



Peters



Carmickle



Elliott



Russell

WOU to host death cafe

Itemizer-Observer staff report

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon will host a death cafe Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Gentle House.

The free event will provide a safe and judgment-free space to talk about

death over refreshments to help people make the most of their lives and to raise awareness about death.

Space is limited to 25 participants.

Email balwinp@wou.edu to reserve a spot.

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