

What’s new at the Grant County Fair?

Sammy Kershaw is headlining entertainer

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County Fair time is coming up Wednesday through Saturday, Aug. 10-13, and includes a new mix of events, sure to please the crowd.

Country music singer Sammy Kershaw will be the big headliner this year with a concert at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13, at the grandstands.

Kershaw is known for songs such as “She Don’t Know She’s Beautiful,” “Cadillac Style” and “Better Than I Used to Be.”

Other musical entertainers include Briana Renea, opening for Kershaw at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, and honky-tonk band Showdown, Retro Ed and the hometown Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers.

This year, in place of the NPRA Rodeo, which cost more than it brought in, fair organizers have planned a free bullfighting event, where participants will spar with hundreds of pounds of angry bovine, without harming the animals.

Comedy hypnotist Justin James will entertain audiences throughout the week at the Main Stage.

Fairgrounds administrative assistant Mindy Winegar said the pavilion booths are filled this year, and Cascade Amusement’s carnival rides are making a return.

An important improvement to the fairgrounds is the construction of new



Eagle file photo

The Grant County Fair carnival was abuzz with activity last August.

walkways.

“Those enjoying the fair with wheelchairs, walkers or baby strollers will be happy to hear new asphalt has been added to make reaching all the venues a little easier,” Winegar said.

The asphalt was added last spring, provided by the Grant County Court and road department with help from Fairgrounds staff.

In addition to all the fair food favorites, such as American Legion burgers, Pronto Pups, Asian food and elephant ears, one of the new vendors will offer deep-fried macaroni and cheese bites.

Admission to the fair is free on Wednesday with the Fair Talent Search at 7 p.m. that evening at the grandstands.

Top talents in the adult and youth divisions win \$100, children \$50; second place adult and youth prize is \$50, children \$25.

Kids Day Parade is at 1 p.m. Friday, and the Fair Parade is at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 13.

Sweepstakes float wins \$75, and first-place floats for the Fair Parade win \$25.

The 4-H/FFA Livestock

Auction is at 5 p.m. Saturday.

“With the new, exciting events, new vendors and the headliner, we just hope everyone comes down and enjoys the county fair,” Winegar said.

Admission to the Fair is \$6 daily or \$13 for the week; hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 8 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday.

Children 5 and under and seniors 65 and older are free.

All-day carnival passes are available for \$15 pre-sale or \$20 on site; hours are Wednesday through Friday 2-10 p.m. and Saturday noon to 11 p.m.

Fair tickets and carnival passes are available at the fairgrounds, Len’s Drug and Radio Shack in John Day; Bar W-B in Prairie City; Boyer’s Store in Monument; and Duke Warner Realty in Dayville.

Sammy Kershaw pre-sale concert tickets, available at the fair office, are \$55 for VIP seats, \$40 for bleachers, \$30 for grandstands, \$20 standing, all with free admission to the fair that day.

EAGLE ON VACATION



Contributed photo

Rebecca Batease poses with the Eagle in front of the Aqueducts of Segovia, Spain, where she traveled as part of the Brown University pre-College Global Program.

Take a photo with the Eagle (print or mobile editions), and email it to editor@bmeagle.com or bring it by the Eagle office.

Oregon Food Bank offering mini grants

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Oregon Food Bank is offering \$4,000 Food, Education, Agriculture, Solutions Together grants for yearlong projects to enhance community food systems.

The application period

opens Aug. 1. Preference will be given to communities that have not hosted FEAST for at least two years and are outside of Portland.

The program will guide five communities through the FEAST process, from the creation of a local leadership team to event organizing and

action planning to project implementation. Grantees will also receive facilitation, training and technical assistance support.

For more information or to apply, contact Tracy Gagnon, 503-853-8755, tgagnon@oregonfoodbank.com.

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