

FAIR:

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year,” Wagner said. “Overall, it went great.”

The biggest challenge for this year’s fair turned out to be the weather. The rain stayed away this year, but heavy winds all day Friday had vendors scrambling to keep their tents and wares from blowing away. The National Weather Service station at the Hermiston airports reported sustained winds in excess of 20 — and sometimes 30 — mph throughout the day on Friday with just gusts of more than 40 mph and a peak gust of 51 mph shortly before 4 p.m.

When the high winds caused Hinder’s tour manager to make the call that it wasn’t safe for the multi-platinum rock band to perform on the Wildhorse Stage, the band was under no contractual obligation to stay. They would have gotten paid anyway if the show was canceled due to an “act of God,” which is what Wagner thought he would have to do.

“They came out and said ‘Listen, we didn’t come out for a paycheck, we came out to put on a concert,’” Wagner said.

The band ended up putting on a shorter show from inside the beer garden tent without most of their equipment, playing an impromptu mix of acoustic covers before spending the rest of the night mingling with the crowd.

Some people were disgruntled when they arrived and found out that the new seating arrangement was



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL

Customers at the Umatilla County Fair are asked to stand back as a food vendor goes to get a ladder and remove a set of banners whipping dangerously in the high winds.

first-come, first-served, meaning some attendees who had paid for seats near the front ended up standing behind people who had reserved tickets for back-row seats.

But others who had driven to Hermiston specifically

to see the band play were grateful that the organizers and band had worked together to make sure their trip wasn’t in vain. Jack Halsey of Imbler said he believed organizers made the right call not to use the main stage for the safety of

the band.

“I think the guys were very gracious to do an acoustic show,” he said. “... As for the show, it was a very up-close and personal thing. I have seen them before and the acoustic setting just showed how passionate

they are about performing.”

Cecili Martin-Long said she and her son were disappointed to see the new seating arrangement but still ended up having a great time meeting the band.

“I think we were one of the few that understood that

sometimes you do what you can to make things work,” she said.

Anderson said she appreciated that not only Hinder, but also country star Dustin Lynch, were willing to spend hours hanging out with the fans after the show.

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my Rosenbalm (Heppner) and Brennan Whittaker (Culver) have teamed up to put together a relief effort to help the Speth’s get back on their feet. It includes coordinating donation drop-off locations in each of their towns for clothing and

other necessities for Steve, Shae and their two sons Eli and Trejan.

For a few of the coaches, there was no second thought on what to do after hearing the news.

“I saw Steve’s Facebook post (after) and I immediately thought we should do something,” said Rosenbalm. “I texted Brian (Pickard) and he

said the same thing.”

Aside from the clothing and necessities donations, a Go Fund Me account has also been set up to gather monetary donations at GoFundMe.com/John-Daywildfire. The account was started on Monday, and has already received \$1,000 from 15 donors in just one day of being active.

According to Pickard, people have been constantly contacting the organizers and wanting to help in any way they can.

“It sorta snowballed into what it is now,” Pickard said. “It’s just one of those things, to do whatever we can to help out.”

Donations are being collected from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Eastside Market in Hermiston, Heppner High School, Culver High School, and Weston-McEwen High School until Saturday. After that the donations will be gathered, sorted and then delivered

to the family soon after.

For more information, you can visit the Heppner boys basketball Facebook page to find clothing and shoe sizes for each of the Speth’s. Questions can also be directed to the respective coaches in each area.



Hats off to Hermiston High School's Project Graduation Celebration Sponsors & Donors

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... and to all the parents and other individuals who donated time, money and/or supplies to help make our party a huge success we say,

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HHS Project Graduation Committee & HHS Class of 2015



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