

There's entertainment for everyone at the Columbia County Fair

Great entertainment is the highlight of all county fairs and the Columbia County Fair is no exception—there's something for everyone. The fair starts today and runs through Sunday, July 25.

Kids of all ages will enjoy the performance put on by The Gentleman Jugglers. This group keeps the laughs coming as they juggle various objects while riding seven and ten foot unicycles, perform a synchronized swimming routine and ballerina impersonations, all while keeping the audience delighted with humorous patter.

Longjeans the Clown will be at the fair with a stiltwalking routine that is sure to entertain audiences young and old. Kids will enjoy watching as Longjeans rides his eight-foot-tall tricycle with calliope, sitting high above the fairgrounds.

Younger audiences will enjoy a visit from "The Ambassador of Fun," Ronald McDonald as he comes to the fair to perform his "Big Red Shoe Revue." Appearing with Ronald will be Hamburgler. Join Ronald McDonald for a great show Thursday, July 22, at 2:00 p.m. Those who are interested in

reptiles can check out Brad's Reptile World exhibit any day of the fair. Owner Brad Tylman will have many of his reptiles on display at the fair this year.

Kids from five to 85 will be able to experience the thrill of riding a snorting, bucking bull...without the danger...when they climb onto Robo Bull to try to make the eight-second ride. There's no need to worry about getting hurt either, because a fall from Robo Bull is cushioned by a one-foot thick, air flow mattress bag.

Those who aren't ready to brave Robo Bull, can try out Rodeo Roper, a life-sized horse with a real cowboy saddle. Climb on the Rodeo Roper and try to rope a life-sized calf, which will "run out" as the rider attempts to rope it.

Two local performers will also perform for our entertainment at the fair. Brenda Sue, who has been singing since she was a little girl, produced her first album in 1998, with a mix of different musical styles. Her performances, at 2:00 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, will include some of the cuts from the album.

A favorite annual attraction for younger audiences is the Farm Games. Participants will have fun trying to tie a ribbon onto a calf's tail or catching a greased pig. The kids better come dressed for rough and ready play.

A special display will be an old time threshing machine in operation. The machine usually resides in the Farm Museum on the fairgrounds, but will be put into operation three times during the fair—Wednesday at 3:00 p.m., Friday at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

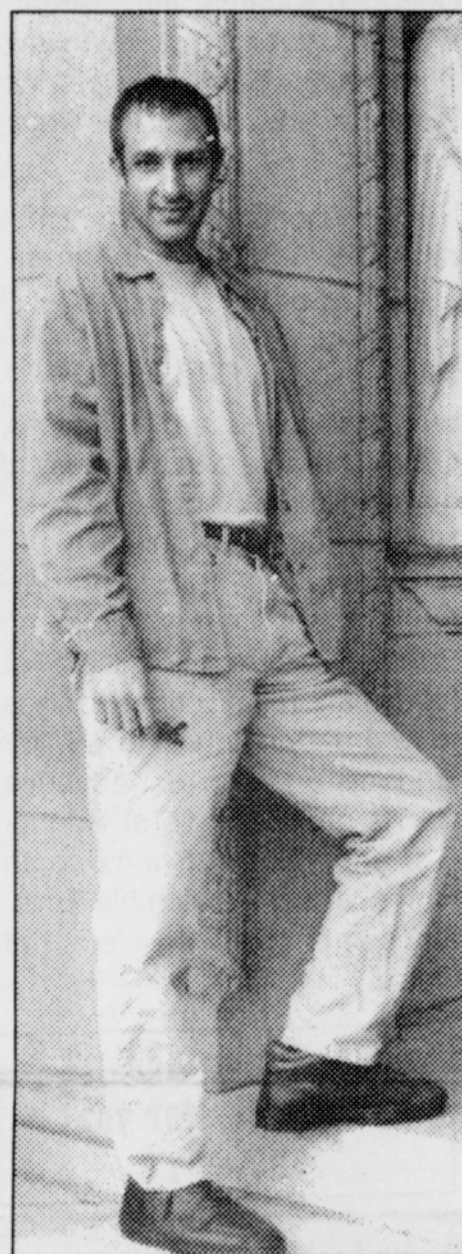
If you're not interested in riding a bucking bull, petting snakes, or spending time with Ronald McDonald, there are a variety of musical attractons at the fair.

Nine year-old Alexis Ebert will perform several times during the fair, and will sing the national anthem at the beginning

of the rodeo. This young lady with a phenomenal voice has performed in many places, including the Oregon State Fair and, more recently, for President Bill Clinton.

The Ridge Runners, a lively band of senior citizens that entertains regularly at both the Scappoose and St. Helens Senior Citizens Centers, will perform twice on Wednesday, at 2:00 p.m. and at 6:00 p.m.

Scappoose recording artist Bart Hafeman and his band will entertain Friday night at 10:30.



Bart Hafeman

Sixteen year-old Ronina will be at the fair to entertain with her singing and dancing this year. Ronina is from Salem.

Dave Hamm, Steve Lewis and Kevin Tomanka will keep the grounds shakin' with the sounds of rockabilly swing on Saturday, July 24. The trio known as the Hot Rod Rockets, will perform twice, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., then af-

ter the rodeo from 10:30 p.m. to midnight. The Hot Rod Rockets perform rockabilly music in the vein of Bill Haley, Buddy Holly and Eddie Cochran. Their musical mixture of originals and favorite standards makes their performances enjoyable for all.

A Portland-based band, Chunk, will give three performances on Thursday at 8:00, 9:00 and 10:00 p.m. The four members of Chunk, Tony Mandella, Calvin Baty, Jason Dunn, and Brian McMillen, have flirted with national recognition since their start in 1992, and finally, in 1997, things came together as former Beach Boys manager Fred Vail listened and liked what he heard. Why not check out Chunk while you're at the fair and see if you like what you hear?

A group for the whole family to enjoy, The Singing Bees are a country and pop family act. The Singing Bees are Melanie, David, Brandon, Darianne and Juli Bee. This should be an event to enjoy as The Singing Bees put on an entertaining and wholesome show.

What entertainment lineup would be complete without an Elvis impersonator? David "Jesse" Moore is the only Elvis impersonator to be invited to perform at Graceland Wilson World, across from Graceland, on a full time basis every January and August for five years. Moore is going to bring back the legend of the king of rock 'n' roll with "The Heart of Elvis Show."

A complete program of fair events may be found on page 16 of this issue of The INDEPENDENT.



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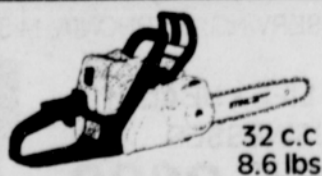
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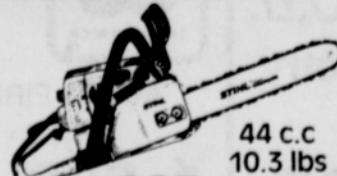
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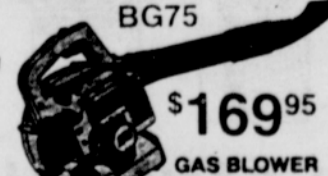
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