

Jefferson County Fair, July 8-12

By Alexa Zoellner Union staff writer | Posted: Friday, July 3, 2015 9:06 am

JEFFERSON — Next Wednesday marks the start of a 163-year tradition — the Jefferson County Fair — which this year will be celebrating part of Wisconsin’s heritage with the “Year of the Cheese.”

The fair will run through Sunday, July 12.

“We try to bring in new things every year to mix it up,” David Diestler, Jefferson County Fair Park director, said. “We have so many new things coming in this year, it’s kind of exciting. It’s probably one of our biggest expansions in some time.”

Multi-day events

Daily events include Pleasure Valley Pig and Duck races at 12:30, 2, 3:30, 5 and 6:30 p.m.; the Ag Adventure tent, open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; K9 demonstrations at noon, 2 and 4 p.m.; Firefighters show at 1, 3 and 5 p.m.; Badger Woodturners, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday; and a wooden shoe carver from noon to 6:30 p.m.

Vicenta’s White Tigers Show likewise takes place daily at 1, 3 and 6 p.m.

“White tigers are really rare,” Diestler said. “Only one in 10,000 Bengal tigers are white, so to have six of them here together in an act will be pretty exciting.”

There also will be daily acts on the Kids’ Stage. Circus Boy will perform at 2, 4 and 6 p.m., The Magic and Comedy Hypnosis of Jim Mitchell takes place at 12: through Friday, 3 to 7 p.m. on Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

New this year is the Craft Beer Garden at the Midway Hop Stop.

“We’re going to have a beer-of-the-day, which will feature beers from Wisconsin breweries,” Amy Listle, the Fair Park marketing and administrative assistant, explained. “We’re going to have some one-man-band live acoustic music as entertainment.”

Deejay Dylan will occupy the pavilion with music and light shows on Wednesday and Thursday starting at 7:30 p.m., and on Friday and Saturday at 9 p.m.

“Last year we just had a mass of people, so we expect it to be bigger than ever this year,” Diestler stated. “Everybody had a great time. It was really a lot of fun.”

Another event is the Vertical Mischief Motorcycle Stunt Show, which will be held at 11:30 a.m., and 1:30, 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.



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“Ryan is one of the riders and he (has held several) World Records,” Diestler said. “One was the fastest wheelie on ice at 117 miles per hour.”

The carnival will begin at noon every day and closes at 5 p.m. Wednesday. On Thursday and Friday it closes at 10 p.m., 11 p.m. on Saturday and 8 p.m. on Sunday.

Wristbands for unlimited carnival rides will cost \$15 on Wednesday, and \$25 Thursday through Saturday.

Wednesday, July 8

Day One of the fair kicks off with Kids’ Day, with children 12 and under receiving free entrance and adults costing \$5 until 5 p.m. Also, the first 1,000 children will receive a free gift.

A new event, the Junior Amateur Talent Show takes center stage at 6 p.m. in the Miller Lite Tent.

“It’s a great way for somebody that has some talent to show it onstage, which you don’t get a lot of opportunities to do that — it just makes it more exciting,” Diestler said.

There are two age divisions — youth, 2-12, and teen, 13-18. Monetary prizes will be awarded for first-, second- and third-place winners in each age division.

According to Listle, there are a total of 26 contestants with acts ranging from singing and dancing to guitar and piano players.

“We’re hoping this will be a long-term thing, especially tied in with the Wisconsin State Fair,” Diestler explained. “The winner of our event goes on to the State Fair and if they win, they win like \$3,000. It’s a big thing ... and as long as the state’s doing it, we’d like to continue doing it.”

Also scheduled are events held at the Wilbert Betschler Memorial Grandstand.

The County Tractor Pull is at 10:30 a.m., with weigh-in beginning at 8 a.m. It will feature Antique 4 mph paced classes; Altered Non-Turbo; 8 mph paced Non-Turbo; 10 mph paced Farm Turbo and two special South Central Wisconsin Pullers classes.

Pullers can enter two classes. Starting at 7 p.m. is the Badger State Tractor Pull. The classes are pro-stock tractors, super farm tractors, light-limited super tractors and limited-pro farm.

There’s Bingo at the pavilion starting at 1 p.m. At 2:30 p.m. the Jones Dairy Farm Tent will host the first of three days of “Cooking Show Live!” and Nick’s Kids Show will run three times throughout the day at 1, 3 and 5 p.m.

The competition categories that will be judged are junior horse and pony, beef cattle, rabbit and sheep.

Thursday, July 9

Day Two is Senior Day. Children 5 and under are free and adult tickets cost \$5 until 5 p.m. The first 1,000 people to enter will receive a free giveaway.

The Miller Lite Tent once again will house the day’s newest event — the Garage Band Extravaganza, which takes place at 6 p.m.

“We’re hoping a lot of young musicians get a chance to go onstage,” Diestler said. “You don’t get a lot of

opportunities to go onstage, especially at a fair park where you go on the big stage where they have the sound, lights, the whole works like the big guys do.”

All bands will be playing live — prerecorded sound material will not be allowed. Both original and cover songs are permitted, with each set running approximately 30 minutes.

“We want to help those kids get more familiar playing on a stage to help them further their music endeavors,” said Diestler.

Spectators will get a blast from the past when, for the first time in several years, the 4-H youth launch homemade rockets at the grandstand at 12:30 p.m., during the 4-H Rocket Launch. The Badger Truck Pull will hit the grandstand at 6:30 p.m. where Jefferson County truck owners will be taking turns trying to best the “Eliminator” on the 300-foot track.

Bingo players can make their way to the pavilion at 1 p.m. and those interested in the Jimmy Hartwig Band can congregate at the Miller Lite Tent at 2 p.m.

The “Cooking Show Live!” will continue its second day in the Jones Dairy Farm Tent at 2:30 p.m. Ol’ Reliable from Wisconsin Brewery will be the beer of the day at the Midway Hop Stop.

Events being judged are demonstrations and speeches, music and drama, junior horse and pony, swine, cats and goats.

Friday, July 10

For Day Three, tickets for children 5 and under are free and \$5 for adults until 5 p.m.

Chris Cagle, with opening act Gunnar and the Grizzly Boys, will take the grandstand stage at 7:30 p.m. as the main event for Friday.

“Cagle is a country artist with a redneck rock and roll style,” Listle said. “He’s been around for a long time and has several hits. We’re excited to have him at Jefferson County Fair.”

His professional credits include two gold albums, and some fan favorites are “Let There be Cowgirls,” “Laredo,” “Chicks Dig It” and “Got My Country On.”

According to a press release, Gunnar and the Grizzly Boys are an up and coming country band with songs such as “Pedal to the Floor” and “Standard American.”

Seating in the grandstand is free, but tickets for reserved seating and the Party Pit range in price from \$20 to \$25.

Bingo will have its last day, starting at 1 p.m. in the pavilion, and the third and final showing of “Cooking Show Live!” begins at 2:30 p.m. in the Jones Dairy Farm Tent.

The Miller Lite Tent will host Chasin’ Mason, a country band based in Milwaukee, at 10:30 p.m.

Draft horse halter, draft horse cart, dairy and poultry judging takes place throughout the day on Friday.

Saturday, July 11

The grandstand stage will hold Joan Jett and The Blackhearts, along with opening act Megan Ruger, starting at

7:30 p.m.

“Joan Jett was just inducted into the Rock ‘n Roll Hall of Fame. She will be playing all of her hits, including ‘I Love Rock and Roll’ and ‘Bad Reputation,’” said Listle.

Jett has eight platinum and gold albums, and nine Top 40 singles. She sits at the head of her own independent record label, Blackheart Records, and has acted in movies, on television and in a Tony-nominated Broadway musical, “The Rocky Horror Show.”

“Ruger has been in Nashville performing and has been traveling quite a bit,” Diestler said. “She just sang the national anthem at a NASCAR race. She’s been working the scene and playing at different events. We’re glad to have her back.”

A native of Twin Lakes, Ruger has appeared on both “American Idol” and “The Voice.”

Also on Saturday are activities in the MAP Arena, such as the Dairy Honors Auction at 10:30 a.m., the Meat Animal Project Auction at 1 p.m. and the Small Animal Auction at 5 p.m.

Josh Napert will play at 4 p.m. in the Miller Lite Tent followed by South Bound at 5 p.m. and Shotgun Jane at 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 12

Day Five of the fair is Celebrate Freedom Day. Children 12 and under are half-price admission, and current and former military personnel are free with a valid I.D. or proof of military service. A ceremony will be held to recognize the men and women who serve our country in honor of Celebrate Freedom Day.

“We do a parade down Main Street to the grandstand and then they do a flag-folding ceremony and the presentation of colors,” Listle said. “Then they sing the national anthem, which then helps us kick off the Fairest of the Fair crowning.”

The Fairest of the Fair crowning comes after the Final Questions, an event held in the Activity Center at 11 a.m. The crowning takes place at the grandstand stage at 1 p.m.

The contestants are Amber Ziebell, Johnson Creek; Kaitlyn Freeman, Fort Atkinson; Lindsey Heideman, Jefferson; Jennifer Michel, Waterloo; KateLynne Heine, Helenville; and Sara Mark, Ixonia.

The final event of the fair held at the grandstand is the Action Auto Demo Derby and the Lawn Mower Derby at 2 p.m. Local drivers will “crunch metal, spin out and compete for prize money,” according to the Jefferson County Fair website.

In addition, Sunday is La Movida Family Day in the Miller Lite Tent from noon to 8 p.m.

“We’re staying open until 8 p.m. on Sunday because of La Movida,” Diestler noted.

The event is sponsored by WLMV 1480 and will feature live music, additional authentic Mexican food from La Rosita Latina, El Grito contest, and a jalapeno and taco-eating contest.

“Something cool about La Movida is they have this group that’s kind of famous that plays in Mexico and Argentina — and they were really hot in the ’90s,” Diestler explained. “They’re touring in the United States; we

just happened to get them because they go right by us. It should be a lot of good music on Sunday.”

Horse and pony judging will take place at 9 a.m., with a style show at 1 p.m. and the Herdsmanship Award Presentation taking place at 4 p.m.

“Going into fair week, I’m excited,” said Diestler. “I’m seeing it as very successful so that we break a lot of our records.”

Gates for the fair open daily at 8 a.m., and regular admission is \$10 daily, with children age 5 and under admitted free.

Entrance is half-price on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before 5 p.m., and a family five-pack of tickets can be purchased through Tuesday, July 7, for \$35.

For more information on the Jefferson County Fair, visit jcfairpark.com or call the Fair Park Office at (920) 674-7148.