

Anderson at grandstand Friday

By Ryan Whisner Union regional editor | Posted: Thursday, July 9, 2015 9:41 am

JEFFERSON — Country singer Keith Anderson will be taking the grandstand stage Friday night as the Jefferson County Fair heads into the weekend.

Anderson was booked after Chris Cagle unexpectedly canceled his show due to a medical issue.

Jefferson County Fair officials apparently were not formally informed of Cagle's concert cancellation, and they followed up only after learning of it being mentioned on the singer's Facebook page late Tuesday.

"We've been working relentlessly to find a comparable replacement act in the short time since we received the news," Jefferson County Fair Park director David Diestler said Wednesday.

He said the entertainment company that books entertainment was trying to hire two well-known country performers to fill the 7:30 p.m. show spot. At presstime, there was no official word on whether a co-headliner would appear.

"We understand that this may be disappointing to Chris Cagle fans and we are doing everything possible to turn this unfortunate experience around," Diestler added.

Anderson released his latest album "I'll Bring the Music" on May 12 and has been on tour ever since. It is his first since 2008's "C'mon," which features his No. 2 single "I Still Miss You."

Diestler said Gunnar and the Grizzly Boys still will be the opening act for the Friday grandstand show. The up-and-coming country band has recorded 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 in front range in price from \$20 to \$25.

All pre-purchased Chris Cagle concert tickets will be valid for the replacement artist. The fair has a no-refund policy on tickets, even in light of the performer's cancellation.

Cagle also canceled an upcoming show in Iowa. He also had canceled or rescheduled at least two other performances this past May and June.

Diestler said he was pleased the fair was able to fine someone comparable, well known in the same vein musically.

Anderson has co-written hits for other artists, most notably "Lost In This Moment" for Big & Rich, which garnered him a Country Music Association Awards nomination for Song of the Year. It also was nominated for



KEITH ANDERSON

Keith Anderson.

Song of the Year at the ACM Awards.

However, Anderson says he does not write specifically for other artists.

“I think I’ll always write about what I know and feel — and typically with myself in mind,” he said. “However, I write a lot and I keep the songs that are really speaking to me when I’m recording, and pitch everything else to other artists.”

Anderson also co-wrote the Grammy-nominated, “Beer Run (B Double E Double Are You In?)” for Garth Brooks and George Jones, “The Bed” for Gretchen Wilson and “Barn Burner” for Jason Michael Carroll.

His debut CD, “Three Chord Country and American Rock & Roll,” was certified Gold and garnered two Top 10 hits in 2005, “Pickin’ Wildflowers,” and “Every Time I Hear Your Name,” along with two Top 30 hits “XXL” and “Podunk.”

The success prompted music trades Billboard and Radio & Records to name him country music’s No. 1 New Male Artist of 2005 and the top new solo country artist of the year.

Anderson also was named one of People Magazine’s “50 Hottest Bachelors” and Men’s Fitness Magazine’s “Ultimate Country Star.”

He has appeared on NBC’s “Today,” “Inside Edition,” “Access Hollywood” and a “Dr. Phil” primetime special.

With the latest album, Anderson decided to take hold of the reins this time by launching his music his own way and letting the fans help drive his music and passion.

“‘I’ll Bring The Music’ has had a huge resonance with the fans,” said Anderson. “As I tour all over the country, that is the song that gets them on their feet and is the song they are still singing as they head out the door.”

Outside of the snafu caused by Cagle’s cancellation, the opening day of fair went well.

Fair Park marketing and administrative assistant Amy Listle said the fairgrounds were full all day as the fair opened with Kids Day.

“The weather was nice, as well,” she said. “We thought it was going to maybe storm a little bit, but it went right past us.”

Heading into the evening, Listle said, there was a great crowd for the Jefferson County Tractor Pull.

A new event this year — the Junior Amateur Talent Show — took center stage in the Miller Lite Tent Wednesday evening. There were two age divisions — youth, 2-12, and teen, 13-18. Monetary prizes were awarded for first-, second- and third-place winners in each age division.

There were a total of 26 contestants with acts ranging from singing and dancing to guitar and piano players.

First-place winners included: Karleye Hansen, 10, Fort Atkinson, age 2-12; X-Clusive Movement dance troupe of Madison, age 13-18. Members include Ryaah Wyatt, 15; Teaara Easterling, 14; Krystyn Jones, 14; Dezhan Dillard, 13; and coach Andrea Jones.

Fair Park marketing and administrative assistant Leslie Pelikan said the audience was really into the performances

and seemed to enjoy the event.

She said the Fair Park partnered with Knapton Musik Knotes of Janesville to promote the event.

Winners of the event will go on to perform at the State Fair with a chance to win \$3,000.

Tonight the Badger State Truck Pull takes center stage at the grandstand at 6:30 p.m.

On Friday at the fair, 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.