

## Trick Pony joins fair slate tonight

By Alexa Zoellner Union staff writer | Posted: Friday, July 10, 2015 9:28 am

JEFFERSON — The band Trick Pony will join Keith Anderson on the Wilbert Betschler Grandstand stage tonight as co-headliners in the Jefferson County Fair.

Trick Pony and Anderson were booked after Chris Cagle unexpectedly canceled his show due to a medical issue this week.

Jefferson County Fair officials apparently were not immediately 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.



Trick Pony

“Our talent agency called us around the same time we were told (Cagle's cancellation) was on Facebook,” Jefferson County Fair Park director David Diestler said Thursday. “That night, I spent three hours listening to available bands and trying to find out what would be the best one for us, what would people like.”

Diestler said many of the bands suggested by their talent agency, Variety Attractions, were older bands that he didn't think would fit well. Trick Pony was among the Fair Park's top five choices.

“We like to have the newer type of country,” Diestler said. “There's (musical) groups that have the old country twang, which I don't think people are as into. Our target market is anyone from (age) 25 to 55, so we tried to get something halfway in between that.”

Trick Pony is a country music group originally formed in 1996 with Keith Burns, Heidi Newfield and Ira Dean.

They released three studio albums, “Trick Pony,” “On a Mission” and “R.I.D.E.” The albums produced eight singles that charted on “Billboards” Hot Country Songs chart, including “Pour Me,” “On a Night Like This” and “Just What I Do.”

Newfield left the group for a solo career in 2006 and the group, which had replaced Newfield, later disbanded completely in 2008.

In 2013, the original group reunited for a performance at a benefit concert and the following year announced plans to tour and release new music. However, Dean left after recording only a few tracks.

Newfield and Burns continued on and in May 2015, they released a single titled “It's a God Thing.”

Anderson will take the stage beginning at 7:15 p.m. and will be followed by Trick Pony at 8:45 p.m.

He 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.”

Gunnar and the Grizzly Boys will open for Anderson and Trick Pony starting at 6 p.m. They 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 in front range in price from \$20 to \$25.

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

Also today, the final day of bingo was to start at 1 p.m. in the pavilion and the third and final showing of “Cooking Show Live!” was slated at 2:30 p.m. in the Jones Dairy Farm Tent.

The Miller Lite Tent will host Josh Napert at 5 p.m. and Chasin’ Mason, a country band based in Milwaukee, at 10 p.m.

Ale Asylums’ Hopalicious will be the Wisconsin beer of the day in the tent.

Saturday evening, the grandstand stage will be rocking with 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 Fair Park marketing and administrative assistant Amy 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, so we’re glad to have her back.”

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

Again, grandstand seating is free, but reserved seating and Party Pit tickets range from \$30 to \$35.

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.

South Bound will play at 5 p.m. in the Miller Lite Tent followed by Josh Napert will play at 6 p.m. and Shotgun Jane at 10 p.m.

The beer of the day will be IPA by Lakefront Brewery.

Judging will consist of horse and pony, goat and draft horse hitching.

Sunday, the final day of the fair, is Celebrate Freedom Day. Children 12 and under will be admitted for half-price admission and current and former military personnel who show a valid I.D. or proof of military service will be admitted for free.

A ceremony will be held to recognize the men and women who serve this 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. “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 are asked 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 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.”

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 said.

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

“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. They’re touring in the United States, and we just happened to get them because they go right by us,” Diestler explained. “There should be a lot of good music on Sunday.”

The main band will be Los Fugitivos. It will be joined by El Peñasco de Zacatecas, Las K-Poneras de Chicago, La Adrenalina and Estrella Latina.

Wisconsin Amber, made by Capital Brewery, will be featured as the beer of the day in the Midway Hop Stop.

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.

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 12, 2 and 4 p.m.; Firefighters show at 1, 3 and 5 p.m.; Badger Woodturners 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday; and a wooden shoe carver from 12 to 6:30 p.m.

Likewise, Vicenta’s White Tigers Show 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 is pretty exciting.”

There also are 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 12:30, 2:30, 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. Hoo’s Woods: Live Birds of Prey! runs from 3 to 6 p.m. Friday, 3 to 7 p.m. on Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Deejay Dylan will occupy the pavilion with music and light shows on Friday and Saturday at 9 p.m.

“Last year, we 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 Friday and Saturday.

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

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

Wristbands for unlimited carnival rides cost \$25 through Saturday.

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

For more information on the Jefferson County Fair, visit [jcfairpark.com](http://jcfairpark.com).