

Jefferson County Fair kicks off July 6

By Alexa Zoellner azoellner@dailyunion.com | Posted: Thursday, June 30, 2016 9:16 am

JEFFERSON — Next Wednesday marks the return of a 164-year tradition — the Jefferson County Fair — with attendees celebrating the “Year of the Honey Bee.”

The fair will run through Sunday, July 10.

“There’s something new for everybody, which makes it fun,” David Diestler, Jefferson County Fair Park director, said. “It’ll be a great time and a lot of different entertainment, different things to do. Between the Wallendas and the shark show and Andy Martello and Andy Grammer, Madison County, Steve Augeri, Shotgun Jane, the military band — there’s just a lot.”



JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIR 2016

Multi-day events

A variety of activities are slated each day at Fair Park.

In the Commercial Building will be the Dodge-Jefferson Beekeepers from 10 a.m to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

“The beekeepers are new because, obviously, we’re celebrating the ‘Year of the Honey Bee,’” Diestler said. “The beekeepers will do a demonstration and they’ll have live bees there and all that good stuff.”

The Haai Inc. Shark Encounter will take place three times daily at 12:30, 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.

“That’ll be really exciting,” Diestler said. “The guy dives in the tank and talks when he’s in the tank with the sharks. So that’ll be kind of cool for the kids.”

Wallendas’ Circus Incredible shows will take place the first three days of the fair behind the grandstand, with shows at 1, 3 and 5 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday and 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. on Friday.

Circus Incredible is made up of second-, sixth- and seventh-generation circus performers who will display aerial, acrobatic, balancing acts and more.

The Craft Beer Garden at the Midway Hop Stop again will be on tap. The beers of the days will be Two Hearted Ale, Wisconsin Brewery Ol' Reliable, Ballast Point Mango Even Keel, Lakefront Brewery IPA and Capital Brewery Wisconsin Amber.

Bingo games will take place at the pavilion Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Helenville Fire Department.

New is the Casady Critters petting zoo near the Miller Lite Tent, which will have camels, goats, llamas, alpaca, sheep and even two capuchin monkeys.

The Ag Adventure tent will be open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily where children can stop by and play in the corn box, learn about how vegetables grow, enter a coloring contest and more.

"In the ag tent, we're doing some new things," Diestler explained. "We have the corn box in there for the kids to play in and stuff like that. We went through the Wisconsin Farm Bureau and we're getting tablets for them to play farm games on."

There also will be daily acts on the Kids' Stage. The comedic stylings of Andy Martello will take place daily at 1:30, 3 and 5 p.m.

"We have Andy Martello, who is kind of a magician, juggler, comedian, for the kids," Diestler said. "He works in Vegas, so it was nice to bring him in."

Hoo's Woods: Live Birds of Prey! will be open from 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

"Hoo's Woods is going to try and bring her snowy owl," Diestler noted. "That's the one that was caught over by Fort Atkinson, so that's a neat tie-in. Two snowy owls came down from the Arctic and ended up in this area and they were starving. One of them died. This other one, because of starvation, cannot go back to the wild again."

The carnival will begin at noon every day and close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday. On Thursday, it closes at 10 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, at 11 p.m. Sunday, the carnival closes at 6 p.m.

Wristbands for unlimited carnival rides will cost \$15 on Wednesday until 5 p.m. The rest of the fair, they will cost \$25.

Overall, daily events include Pleasure Valley Pig and Duck races at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30, 3:30, 4:30 and 6 p.m.; K-9 demonstrations at noon and 4 p.m.; a live cooking show presented by Jones Dairy Farm at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. on Sunday; Badger Woodturners from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday; a wooden shoe carver from noon to 6:30 p.m.; and DeeJay Dylan at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday and 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Wednesday, July 6

Day One of the fair kicks off with Kids' Day, when children age 12 and under receive free entry and adults pay only \$5 until 5 p.m.

The Jefferson County Tractor Pull and the Badger State Tractor Pulls will take place at the Wilbert Betschler Memorial Grandstand.

The County Tractor Pull begins 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.

Also, Wednesday will mark the second year of the Junior Amateur Talent Show, which will take place at 6 p.m. at the Miller Lite Tent.

There are two age divisions — youth, 2-12, and teen, 13-18. Talent areas include dance, vocal, instrumental and variety.

Monetary prizes will be awarded for first-, second- and third-place winners in each division. Two winners from the contest will advance to the Wisconsin State Fair to compete for a \$3,000 grand prize.

Nick's Kids' Show will run three times throughout the day at 1, 2:30 and 4:30 p.m.

Junior class competition categories that will be judged Wednesday are junior beef cattle, rabbit, sheep and horse and pony. Open class competition categories that will be judged are crop, soils and vegetables; flowers and house plants; goat and sheep.

Thursday, July 7

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

The Garage Band Extravaganza will take place for the second year in the Miller Lite Tent starting at 6 p.m.

All bands will be playing live with each set running approximately 30 minutes.

At 6:30 p.m. at the grandstand will be the Badger Truck Pull. The competition includes the Open Stock 6200#; Super Stock 6200#; and the Super Street Diesel 8000#. Trucks will compete to pull the "Eliminator" down the 300-foot track.

At 2 p.m. in the Miller Lite Tent, "The Variations" will play.

The 4-H Rocket Launch will take place at the grandstand at 12:30 p.m.

Events being judged include junior class swine; horse and pony; cats; poultry; demonstrations and speeches; and music and drama performance. Open class judging includes swine, poultry and goats.

Friday, July 8

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

Andy Grammer, with opening act Madison County, will take the grandstand stage at 7:30 p.m. as the main event for Friday.

A multiplatinum-selling recording artist, Grammer's genres include pop rock, soul, pop and country pop. His professional credits include platinum and gold singles, and some fan favorites are "Keep Your Head Up," "Fine By Me" and "Honey, I'm Good."

The song "Honey, I'm Good," actually is what inspired the 'Year of the Honey Bee,' Diestler said, joking that "there was a motive behind our madness."

Seating in the grandstand is free, but tickets for reserved seating and the Party Pit range in price from \$25 to \$30. Tickets still are available and can be purchased online at www.jcfairpark.com.

Madison County will play for a second time in The Miller Lite Tent at 10:30 p.m.

Junior class dairy and poultry will be judged, while open class judging includes dairy; poultry; and draft horse halter and cart classes.

Saturday, July 9

The grandstand stage will feature Journey former lead vocalist Steve Augeri, along with opening act, Shotgun Jane, starting at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Augeri's hits with Journey include the song "Remember me," the album "Arrival," and the EP "Red 13."

Shotgun Jane is a Janesville-based pop/rockin' country band.

Seating in the grandstand is free, but tickets for reserved seating and the Party Pit range in price from \$7 to \$10. Tickets still are available and can be purchased online at www.jcfairpark.com.

At 1 p.m. in the Miller Lite Tent will be the Wisconsin National Guard 132nd Army Band and Shotgun Jane at 10:30 p.m.

"The 132nd Army Band actually has two bands coming," Diestler said. "They have a country band and then they have a brass band , so when they go on break, the brass band will play."

Also on Saturday are activities in the MAP Arena, such as the Dairy Honors Auction at 10:30 a.m., the 50th annual Meat Animal Project (MAP) sale at 1 p.m. and the small animal sale at 5 p.m.

Events being judged include junior and open class goats, junior horse and pony and open class draft horse hitch.

Sunday, July 10

Day Five of the fair is “Celebrate Freedom Day.” Children 12 and under may enter for half-price admission, and current and former military personnel enter free with a valid I.D. or proof of military service.

The 2017 Fairest of the Fair crowning follows the final questions, an event to be held in the Activity Center at 11 a.m. The crowning takes place at the grandstand stage at 1 p.m.

The contestants are Ann Schroeder, Lake Mills; Emiley Stade, Watertown; Rachal Mark, Ixonia; Alexis Timmel, Johnson Creek; Josie Schreiner, Jefferson; Amber Ziebell, Johnson Creek; and Lauren Rockney, Lake Mills.

The final event of the fair held at the grandstand is the Action Auto Demo Derby at 2 p.m. Sunday 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 10 p.m.

“They start at noon and they have four or five bands that night,” Diestler said. “This year, they want to leave it open until 10 p.m., so technically the fair won’t end until 10 p.m., but all the animals will be leaving at 6 p.m. or around that time.”

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

Events being judged include junior horse and pony, junior style show, master showman contest and herdsmanship awards.

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 5, for \$35.

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