

## Fair acts to take grandstand stage

By Alexa Zoellner [azoellner@dailyunion.com](mailto:azoellner@dailyunion.com) | Posted: Friday, July 8, 2016 9:11 am

JEFFERSON — Two down, three to go ... days of the 2016 Jefferson County Fair, that is.

The fair kicked off bright and early Wednesday morning and, despite heavy storms causing some damage Tuesday night, the first two days have gone well, according to Fair Park Director David Diestler.

“A lot of our tents (got knocked down on Tuesday),” Diestler said. “Our big tent, our Miller Entertainment Tent, got knocked down. It must have lifted up and knocked the center poles. There are eight center poles and only two were holding it up.”

The Miller Lite Tent was back up by the next afternoon.

Also damaged was Nick’s Kids’ Show stage.

“He had some iron brackets that were holding it up — they got all twisted,” Diestler explained. “We have our kids’ stage — that didn’t get damaged at all, so they compromised and went on the kids’ stage and worked it out with the other shows, and it worked out great.”

Along with the children’s shows, the Wednesday night tractor pull and the Thursday night truck pull drew large crowds as well.

Fair-goers have much to look forward to in the coming weekend.

“Of course, Friday night’s Andy Grammer with Madison County,” Diestler said. “We just opened up some more tickets for that. We have almost four sections sold out.

“There’s just sporadic seats here and there,” he added. “We have two sections that we always hold back in case we don’t need to use the seats, so we opened up partials of those.”



### AT THE FAIR

AT THE FAIR — The 2016 Jefferson County Fair continued Thursday with family entertainment and animal judging. Shown are scenes from Thursday at the fair. Above, in the “Live Shark Encounter” family show, the announcer swims with the sharks. — Daily Union photos by Pam Chickering Wilson. For more photos click [here](#).

A multi-platinum 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."

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](http://www.jcfairpark.com).

On Saturday, the 50th annual Meat Animal Project sale will run from 1 to 5 p.m., followed by the small animal sale. Both will be in the MAP Arena.

Journey former lead vocalist Steve Augeri, and opening act Shotgun Jane will take the grandstand stage Saturday night.

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](http://www.jcfairpark.com).

"I think they'll be really good concerts, so it should be fun," Diestler said.

A new event, Master Showman Contest, will take place on Sunday.

"It's something new, so that's kind of exciting," Diestler explained. "You take the top (animals) out of each group and they compete for the 'grand championship' kind of thing, so that'll be fun."

Also Sunday is the Fairest of the Fair crowning on the grandstand stage.

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. Local drivers will "crunch metal, spin out and compete for prize money," according to the Jefferson County Fair website.

"(Coming to the fair) is a great time, a great family entertainment," Diestler said. "The fair offers things that local festivals maybe don't offer because we bring in some larger events like the sharks and the Wallendas, and stuff like that. You're not going to get that at a local festival or smaller event.

"We try to bring a combination of things ... so it's kind of part circus, part festival, part fair," he continued. "We try to bring that all and put it together so that everybody can have a great time and get great entertainment.

“It’s great for the 4-H people,” Diestler added. “They get to show their exhibits, what they’ve done. It helps to build life experiences — that’s what they’re building here. It’s experiences they’ll never forget.”

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 Friday before 5 p.m.

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