

MONROE COUNTY FAIR



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Monroe County Fair opens this Wednesday for food, family, and fun

Business after 5, talent competition kick off opening day Wed. July 27

By RHONDA HESS
Staff writer

The Monroe County Fair has been providing families and friends with a great Summer event for over 100 years, along with generations of family memories. The Fair has expanded greatly since the start, and now offers food vendors, exhibits, shows, a full carnival, and more.

The 2022 Monroe County Fair kicks off Wednesday, July 27, with a 7 p.m. talent competition, sponsored by WCOV/Cow97 and Habelman Brothers Cranberry Company.

Admission is free to this 7 p.m. grandstand show, to feature singing and other acts by local talent.

Singers, dancers, comedians and other performers ages 2 to 18 are invited to enter the competition. Prizes to be awarded are \$300 for first place, \$200 for second and \$100 for third. Enter by going to monroecountyfairwi.com.

The gate admission fee, starting Thursday, is \$3 for ages 13 and over, \$2 for those ages 6 to 21 and free for 5 and under. No gate fee on Wednesday and Sunday.

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Strolling acts and more free events highlight the fair

The 'free family fun zone' is the place to be for all ages

By RHONDA HESS
Staff writer

Monroe County Fair attendees will be treated to several free acts and other entertainment throughout the five day event.

From the ag venture center, which opens daily at 10 a.m. to beautiful bird interactions, racing wiener dogs and a somewhat cranky puppet show, the fair has a lot added to the traditional exhibits and shows.

Samuel Bowman of Indiana is the voice behind Granpa Cratchet who travels the fairgrounds in his RV, telling jokes and stories, when he's not performing at his clubhouse stage show.

"We are free on-grounds entertainment," Bowman said. "I'll be there the whole time."

Despite his name, Granpa Cratchet is never mean or negative, according to Bowman. "He's a little crotchety, but he is full of energy in life," he said.

To find out more before the event, go to oldcoot.com.

Another robot entertainer is Oscar the Robot who returns with his high-tech rolling act that includes witty



Goats race as part of Woody's Barnyard Racers, who will be entertaining at the fair. Contributed photo.

conversation music and antics.

Pretty Bird Paradise is an interactive, all-day attraction, where guests can hold a variety of birds, will be set-up on the fairgrounds.

Woody's Barnyard Racers feature three different heats of racing pigs, goats and dachshund dogs.

A Learn N Earn scavenger hunt takes place in the ag venture center.

"We send you out with things to go out around the grounds to find," said Shae Fox of the Monroe County Ag Society. "They come back and get a

'FREE' cont. on pg. 2



People can interact with several colorful birds at Pretty Birds Paradise. Contributed photo.

FREE THINGS AT THE FAIR

- Midway Shows (family stage)
- Free Parking
- Free gate Wed. and Sun.
- Car Show (free to attend)
- Strolling Acts
- Kids Pedal Pull
- Nightly Bands
- Midway Shows
- Antique Tractor Show

Sponsored by the Norwalk Lions Club



Granpa Cratchet will be touring the grounds at Monroe County Fair. Contributed photo.



Trick rider Saige McNeill carries the flag during the National Anthem prior to Friday night's rodeo.

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Season passes are available at the fair office.

Wristbands are available for \$20 for the carnival, which opens at 6:30 Wednesday.

The fourth annual Ranch Rodeo is Thursday's grandstand show, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Events are branding, sort and pen and trailer loading. For more information on entering, call Emily at (608) 487-7312.

Anna Lynn Ferris entertains with country and rock music starting at 8 p.m. Thursday night.

Friday's grandstand show is the CC Bull Riding Championship Rodeo, starting at 6:30 p.m.

The Cheap Shots will play their classic rock/blues mix starting at 7 p.m. in the beer garden Friday night.

Saturday is a busy day at the fair, with the Draft Horse Hitch Show behind the fair office, starting at noon.

Earlier that day, Taekwondo demonstrations are in the ice hockey center building at 10 a.m.

The Motokazie Motocross grandstand show is Saturday night at 6:30 p.m. See monroecountyfairwi.com for grandstand admission prices.

The livestock auction is Saturday at 7 p.m. and Saturday night's live music is The Cuz, playing rock music starting at 8 p.m. in the beer garden.

Other fair sponsors include: Degenhardt Tire, Gerke Excavating, Bank First, Dwyers Milk Transfer, Cashton Vet Clinic, Hesgard Collision, Brickl Brothers, McNally's Spinal Care, Moak Excavating, CCF Bank, Sparta Small Animal Vet Clinic, Tomah Large Animal Vet Clinic, 1st Community Credit Union, Portland Implement, Coulee Bobcat, Habelman Brothers, Nordic Creamery, Tomah Lumber, State Farm-Tomah Jeff Holthaus, Milestone Materials, Cardinal IG, Pizza Hut, Blaines Supply, Walmart Distribution Center, Fabick Cat, Sleepy Hollow, Tap House Twenty, Selebrade Excavating, Bertrams Jewelry Studio, Culver's, Zellmer Excavating, MC DHI, Hagen's Sales and Service, Tomah Antique Mall, Equity Livestock, Tomah Area Credit Union, Animal Tracks Veterinary Services, Allied Coop, Dr. Pepper/Keurig, Plastron Molding Company, Meadow Valley Log Homes, Lebakken's Rent-To-Own, Tomah Health, Bank of Cashton and Don's Plumbing.

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little goodie bag."

She said the activity is for all ages.

"We also have the small animal area, where usually have a set of baby goats, a small horse, some chicks, ducks and rabbits," she said. "We try to do some chicks hatching."

Of course, it is free to watch the 4-H members show their hard work, from the dairy animals, rabbits, llamas, poultry, swine, goats, sheep, dogs, cats and horses they raise and show to their creative talents in projects like floral, photography, knitting, woodworking and more.

Joshua Goede, 4-H educator for Monroe County, will be busy coordinating volunteers and awards for about 330 youth in 10 organized 4-H clubs and additional FFA students.

"Thursday and Friday are the biggest judging days," Goede said, adding that volunteers help with displaying ribbons and general assistance for the judges.

The Monroe County Junior Fair Board helps with coordinating the special needs livestock show, at which participants are matched up with a fair exhibitor to show their animal. This is the sixth year Monroe County Fair has offered this event.

To see a complete schedule, go to: monroecountyfairwi.com.



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**JULY 27-31, 2022
RECREATION PARK
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Schedule of Events

Wednesday, July 27, 2022

5:00 p.m. Business After 5, in the tent on the Midway

7:00 p.m. Monroe County Fair Talent Competition, Grandstand Show; Admission is FREE, See great local talent! Sponsored by Habelman Bros. Cranberry Co.

Thursday, July 28, 2022

6:30 p.m. Ranch Rodeo, Grandstand Show; Admission price: 13 & up - \$5; ages 6 to 12 - \$2, Sponsored by Bank First, Tomah

8:00 p.m. Live Music - Anna Lynn Ferris, country/rock; in the Beer Garden

Friday, July 29, 2022

6:30 p.m. CC BULL RIDING Championship Rodeo, Grandstand Show; Admission price: 13 & up - \$13; ages 6 to 12 - \$7, Sponsored by Bank First, Tomah

7:00 p.m. Live Music - The Cheap Shots, classic rock/blues; in the Beer Garden

Saturday, July 30, 2022

12:00 p.m. Draft Horse Hitch Show, behind Fair Office; Sponsored by Bank First, Tomah

10:00 a.m. Taekwondo Demonstrations, Ice Hockey Center Building

5:30 p.m. Motokazie Practice Times

6:30 p.m. Motokazie Motocross, Grandstand Show; Admission price: 13 & up - \$10; ages 6 to 12 - \$7, ages 5 & under - FREE

7:00 p.m. Livestock Auction

8:00 p.m. Live Music - The Cuz, rock; in the Beer Garden

Sunday, July 31, 2022

9:00 a.m. Annual Car Show, Gate #3 off Butts Ave.; Sponsored by Hesgard Collision Center and Jeff Holthaus - State Farm Insurance

10:00 a.m. AG Olympics, in the Dairy Barn

10:00 a.m. Draft Horse Halter Show, near horse barn; Sponsored By Bank First, Tomah

11:00 a.m. Antique/Farm Tractor Pull, Grandstand Show; Admission price: 13 & up - \$5; ages 12 & under - FREE

11:00 a.m. Chicken Q, at the Pavilion on Midway

1:00 p.m. Kids Pedal Pull, located below grandstands

1:00 p.m. Bean Bag Tournament, held in Beer Garden
Call Fair Office for Entry Information - \$20.00/team



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Look back at 2021 4-H judging and livestock auction

Herald file photos by Nicole Vik



Young ones and their cows line up for judging during last year's Monroe County Fair.



Emily Powell steps into the show ring with her pig during last year's Friday night Swine show



Kyle Menn and his dog Dakota compete in the Dog Agility Show Sunday morning at the 2021 Monroe County Fair.



Katherine Schreier with Leon Livewires sets up her sheep during the show Thursday night at last year's fair.

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Draft horse halter show starts at 10 a.m. near the horse barn.

Sunday at the fair is full of old and new-fashioned fun

By **RHONDA HESS**
Staff writer

Sunday is not just another final fair day, as new events and some old favorites add excitement to the last day of the Monroe County Fair. Jamie DeWitt one of the organizers of the new Antique/Farm Tractor Pull to be held Sunday, July 31, at 11 a.m., said the idea of a pull at the fair “has been talked about for quite some time.”

He believed the last time a tractor pull was part of the fair was in the late 80s. Two reasons for having the antique/farm tractor pull at the fair, according to DeWitt, is that several surrounding counties have them at their fairs and the antique pulls are becoming popular.

The pull was added to the schedule when DeWitt and the rest of his group put together a plan and

presented it to the Monroe County Agriculture Society.

“You’ve just got to have the right people together,” he said.

Those people are Ryan Green, John Navrestad, Dean Zellmer and Johnny Greeno.

Classes will include: Antique, Improved Antique, Farm and Southwest.

“I think our fair needs it,” DeWitt said. “With the Chicken Q, the Farmers (Ag) Olympics and the tractor pull, we hope to get a lot of people on the grounds Sunday.”

He said a few of the youth that are showing animals in the fair are also pulling their tractors, which could add to the number of spectators expected.

To find out more about the Antique/Farm Tractor Pull, contact DeWitt at (608) 633-1630.

The Ag Olympics is the brainchild of Kevin Cox, one of the leaders of the Leon Livewires, the largest area 4-H Club with over 80 participants.

Cox has been a leader of the club for over 30 years and he provides milk and cookies, sponsored by Select Sires, each year to the dairy show participants and attendees. This year, he is also heading the Junior Livestock Sale Buyer’s Luncheon Committee.

Cox’s co-leader, Bobbi O’Neil, said the free Ag Olympics event is in its 11th year and has come a long way.

“We started with milk-chugging, corn-shucking and other farmer-related games,” she said. “Now, we do more funny spin-offs.”

Some of those include wheelbarrow and haybale races, egg and hot dog tosses and pedal pulls.

“This year, we are doing ‘Whose Got Worms,’ where they dig gummy worms out of pudding,” she said. “And we’re doing rock-picking, where we fill a pool with cheeseballs and they pick them out with their feet!”

It seems the most popular games are interesting and messy.

Participants are grouped by age: Little Tikes, 5 to 8; Moovers and Groovers, 9 to 12; Teeny Boppers, 13 to 17; Wise Guys, 18 to 39 and Old Pros, 40 and up.

“The 40 and up is usually the most entertaining,” O’Neil said.

Other Sunday events include the annual car show at 9 a.m. at gate number three off Butts Avenue, the draft horse halter show at 10 a.m. near the horse barn, a kids pedal pull below the grandstands at 1 p.m. and a bean bag tournament in the beer garden, also starting at 1 p.m.



Kevin Cox at the fair. Contributed photo.



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