

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Katie Klietz

Communications Coordinator

Missoula County

258-3161 or 546-2424 (cell)

kklietz@missoulacounty.us



August 10, 2016

Wednesday marks the first full day at the Western Montana Fair. Exhibitors, vendors, sponsors, nonprofit groups, hundreds of volunteers and staff have been preparing to make 2016 a great year. Events are already underway, with performances from country music recording artist, Cale Moon and the Murdoch's Ranch Rodeo being held last night. Despite the intermittent rain, Ranch Rodeo attendance was up from last year with 572 tickets sold.

Today is Senior Day, where all seniors ages 55 and older will receive free gate admission. All ages receive free gate admission every day of Fair Week from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There's no better time to come enjoy all the treats vendors have become famous for. In fact, there are more food vendors at the 2016 Fair than ever before.

Also higher this year are the number of entries in photography and fine arts. All of the 900 photography entries and 800 fine arts entries are located throughout the fairgrounds, exclusively on the ground floors to provide ADA access for all visitors. All entries were finalized and judged yesterday and are now open to the public. Exhibit buildings open at 11 a.m.

The carnival begins today with the first rides starting at noon. Many of the advanced sale tickets at locations across town have sold out. Fairgrounds staff are anticipating a high turnout, especially with the addition of several new rides and attractions.

This is the first year for the Battle of the Bands on the free stage, where adults and youth will be competing throughout the afternoon on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for the opportunity to perform in the final round on Saturday.

During the day, fair attendees can enjoy livestock judging on the open stage, kids tractor pulls, the royalty fashion show, AKC diving dogs and the Lithia Ford PBR Bullorama tonight at 7 p.m. Fair staff have provided several new areas of covered benches to provide additional seating and shade for the public.



The Fair offers the best of an 11 county region in agriculture, education, history, and family entertainment while showcasing new technology and science. This six day event features 4-H exhibits and livestock, carnival rides, night shows, free daily entertainment, commercial displays, great food vendors, a demolition derby, professional bull riding and the Missoula Stampede PRCA Rodeo. Fine arts, photography, home arts and culinary displays can be found throughout the fairgrounds. The Western Montana Fair brings more than 60,000 participants and food concessionaires contribute their proceeds to more than 115 non-profits.