



## Media Release

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## Western Montana Fair Wednesday Update

Today, Wednesday, Aug. 9, kicks off the first full day of the 2017 Western Montana Fair. Staff and community partners will welcome the community to their free admission Fair in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10:45. The event will include remarks from Fairgrounds Director, Emily Bentley; Fair sponsor Tom Severson of First Interstate Bank; artist Josh Quick; and Commissioner Jean Curtiss. Following the ribbon cutting, the Hellgate Band will lead a parade. A tour will follow shortly thereafter that includes a ride on the Ferris wheel.

The carnival begins today, with the first rides starting at 12 p.m. Carnival pre-sale tickets sold out yesterday. All-day carnival tickets are still available for purchase at the Fairgrounds for \$35.

The Missoula Stampede Ranch Rodeo was the first of the main arena stage events last night. Ticket sales were up nearly 50 percent from 2016, with 921 people attending.

The Missoula Stampede PRCA Bulls will be on the arena tonight at 7 p.m. Pre-sale tickets are showing strong numbers, with 717 tickets sold thus far. The public can continue to purchase tickets online or in the Fair Office.

Other daily events include dairy cattle judging and showmanship; breeding sheep judging and showmanship; rabbit jumping demonstrations; royalty horsemanship testing; the petting zoo; daily culinary demonstrations; the flower show; the country fair show; Keith Raymond's magic show at 1 and 3 p.m.; the High County Cowboys at 5:30 and 9 p.m.; kiddie rodeo royalty; pony rides; kid's tractor pulls; and the diving dogs at 6 p.m.

To schedule interviews, please contact Missoula County Communications Coordinator, Katie Klietz, at (406) 546-2424.

Please continue sharing photos and news with our community using #WMTFair.

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