



Complete
guide to the
101st Kern
County Fair



Get ready for the 101st Kern County Fair — your 'Ticket to Fun'

THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN

The 101st Kern County Fair promises to be your "Ticket to Fun."

This year's fair runs Sept. 20 to Oct. 1. It's your annual chance to listen to great music, take in the exhibit halls, dine on yummy food, watch rodeos, see shows, check out the livestock, ride the carnival rides — and so much more.

Sponsored by the 15th District Agricultural Association, the fair has been a great tradition from 1916 to 2017.

Coming up:

- Check back at Bakersfield.com for more stories and information leading up to the fair.

Read more:

- Go to KernCountyFair.com

Here's what you need to know to plan your Kern County Fair visit

It's not too early to plan your visit to the 2017 Kern County Fair.

FAIR DATES

Sept. 20 to Oct. 1

LOCATION

Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 S. P St. in Bakersfield

ADMISSION

Adults: \$12
Ages 6-12: \$5
Ages 5 and under: Free
Seniors (62 or better): \$9
Active and retired military with ID: Free
Parking: \$10

OPENING/ CLOSING TIMES

Monday-Thursday: 3 to 10 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 22: 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 29: 3 to 11 p.m.
Each Saturday: Noon to 11 p.m.
Each Sunday: Noon to 10 p.m.

EVERYDAY SPECIALS

Free admission for active and retired military: Visitors with military IDs receive free admission to the fair for its 12-day run. Parking is \$10. (Family members not included.)

Free admission for young readers: Qualifying students will receive a free ticket through KC's Reading Round-Up. The program will see some 30,000 kids participating.

Senior discount: Seniors 62 or better receive \$3 off the regular price admission, making senior

admission \$9.

Children 5 and under: Admission is free every day.

ADVANCE TICKETS AND WRISTBANDS

Advance tickets and wristband vouchers are available online at KernCountyFair.com. You can also buy them at Vallarta Supermarkets. Must pay with cash. Admission tickets are \$10 for adults and \$4 for children ages 6-12. Discount carnival wristbands are \$28. They can be purchased through Sept. 19.

SPECIAL DAYS

Friday, Sept. 22, GEM-Care presents Senior Day: The program begins at 9 a.m. Free admission and parking is offered to

seniors 62 and better until 4 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 25, Kern Medical presents Marvelous Monday: \$5 admission for all until 9 p.m.. Ages 5 and under free.

Tuesday, Sept. 26, Kern County Fire Department presents Feed the Need: Free admission from 3 to 9 p.m. is offered with the donation of four cans of non-perishable food per person. Age 5 and under free.

Wednesday, Sept. 27, Wild Wednesday: Half-price discount vouchers are available at local Les Schwab Tires while supplies last.

Thursday, Sept. 28, Kids Days: Children 12 and under are admitted free.

Rock, Tejano, country, old school — acts at Budweiser Pavilion have something for everyone

BY CESAREO GARASA
For The Californian

All shows at 8 p.m. (unless noted) at Budweiser Pavilion.

Old Dominion

What makes pop/country act Old Dominion a bit different than their peers is the wit in their lyrics, especially on their latest single, "No Such Thing as a Broken Heart." There's an honest playfulness in the Nashville quintet's music and lyrical content that gives their songs a bit more weight and bounce than what you might be used to hearing on country radio these days. Every influence feels natural and not shoehorned in to fit a demographic (save for the forced Fleetwood Mac shout-out on "Not Everything's About You"). They are unapologetically modern in their approach to production, but they seem to have a

traditional approach to song craft: You've got to earn that chorus. Their newest album, "Happy Endings," has an easy depth of moods and feels that are atypical of most modern country releases. *Old Dominion plays Wednesday, Sept. 20.*

Tower of Power

What can be said about Tower of Power that hasn't been said before? The Oakland-based, nigh-immortal soul band has been living up to its name with precise musicianship and an effortless charisma for almost 50 years. The band itself feels like its most popular member.

They consistently deliver the goods, and even after all the years performing here, it feels less like they're stopping through and more like they're visiting their second home. They may be from the Bay Area, but



COURTESY OF KERN COUNTY FAIR

Tower of Power performs Sept. 21.

we've got joint custody.

From the prophetic "What is Hip," smooth songs "You're Still a Young Man" and "Don't Change Horses (in the Middle of the Stream)" and the percolating groove of "Squib Cakes," expect a night of funky hits and a packed pavilion with a heck of a lot of dancing and Soul (with a capital "S").

Drummer David Giribaldi, due to injuries sustained in a train collision earlier in the year,

will not be performing (Herman Matthews has been filling in). Fans can take heart that Giribaldi is healing quickly and expected to tour with the group later in the fall.

Tower of Power plays Thursday, Sept. 21.

Sheila E

Sheila E (nee Escovedo) might be best known for her 1980s hits "The Glamorous Life" and "A Love

Please see **BUDWEISER | 3**

BUDWEISER

Continued from PAGE 2

Bizarre" as well as her other collaborations with Prince including the "Sign O' the Times" album and film. But she's a musical powerhouse, bandleader and side musician in her own right, having performed with Marvin Gaye, George Duke, Diana Ross, Lionel Richie, Ringo Starr and Herbie Hancock, among others.

With a lively stage persona that can be fiery, energetic, seductive, and engaging — sometimes all at once — she is probably one of the world's most recognizable drummers and celebrities. But what do you expect? It's in the blood. Her Escovedo family is a bona fide percussion dynasty—I mean, Tito Puente was her godfather. C'mon!

Joking aside, the musicianship onstage that night will be amped up to 11 and along with her hits, expect some percussive fireworks to light up the night.

Sheila E plays Friday, Sept. 22.



Sheila E performs Sept. 22.

COURTESY OF KERN COUNTY FAIR



COURTESY OF KERN COUNTY FAIR

War performs Sept. 23.

War

As it stands now, is there a person alive who hasn't heard "Low Rider"? It has permeated pop culture so completely that its evolved into its own conundrum: Did the song popularize the culture, or did the culture popularize the song?

Regardless of that chicken/egg conundrum, and all kidding aside, the band, fronted by sole original member Leroy "Lonnie" Jordan, has a deep tie to Bakersfield: Local percussionist Marcos Reyes has been playing with them for more than a decade.

With classic rock and soul staples like "Cisco Kid," "Spill the Wine," "Why Can't We Be Friends," and, of course, "Low Rider," the band never fails to kick up the party.

War plays Saturday, Sept. 23.

Ramon Ayala

In my opinion, Ramon Ayala's song "Tragos Amargos" isn't just one of the best corridos (narrative ballads) ever made, but one of the best songs, period. The lyrics are stunning in their sadness, and along with Vicente Fernandez's clas-

sic "Volver," has probably inspired almost as many drunken sing-alongs in Spanish as "La Bamba."

Ayala is a legendary figure in norteño and corrido music as well as one of the best accordionists to play those genres. Get to the pavilion early for this one; it's going to be a good one.

Ramon Ayala plays Sunday, Sept. 24.

LeAnn Rimes

Singer LeAnn Rimes has been a fixture in country music since her debut

Please see **BUDWEISER** | 4

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BUDWEISER

Continued from **PAGE 3**

single “Blue” at age 13. Since then, she’s gotten more attention for her private life than for her music, but it doesn’t change the fact that the woman can *sing*. (Those who caught her set at the Herculean 2015 Bakersfield Rock & Country



COURTESY OF KERN COUNTY FAIR

LeAnn Rimes performs Sept. 25.

Music & Art Festival can attest to this fact.) She’s currently promoting her latest release, “Remnants,” and its single “The Story”; the heir apparent to the Patsy Cline mantle is trying her best to stay there. At 35 years old, Rimes’ voice has earned the weathered soul needed to better relate to listeners the pathos at the heart of country music. She’s earned her story and just in time to sing it. *LeAnn Rimes plays Monday, Sept. 25.*

Chris August

After leaving a career performing secular music to devote himself completely as a Christian artist around 2010, Chris August had the biggest hit of his career with the anthemic worship song, “Starry Night.” His music has incredible pop sensibilities, no doubt accrued



COURTESY OF JOSEPH ANTHONY BAKER VIA KERN COUNTY FAIR

Chris August performs Sept. 26.

through his years as a sideman, and his show gives non-secular music listeners an opportunity to enjoy a concert at the fair without guilt. Songs like “Loving You is Easy” show a lighter side to August and add playfulness to complement some of the grander songs like “Canyons (Beautiful Noise).” *Chris August plays Tuesday, Sept. 26.*



COURTESY OF KERN COUNTY FAIR

En Vogue performs Sept. 27.

En Vogue

This one’s going to be a good one. Having splashed onto the pop music scene in 1990 with their single “Hold On” (not to be confused with the Wilson Phillips song of the same name), En Vogue came about as the female counterpart to fellow vocal now-a-trio Boyz II Men (who performed at the Kern County Fair last year). Expect an entire contingent of forty-somethings losing their minds to ‘90s classics like “Free Your Mind,” “Giving Him Something He Can Feel,” and especially “My Lovin’ (You’re Never Gonna Get it)” which will have the Kern County Fair on their feet and partying like it’s 1992. *En Vogue plays Wednesday, Sept. 27.*

Montgomery Gentry

Eddie Montgomery and Troy Gentry’s career arc has been one of consistency and perseverance. After forming in 1999, the duo found success with a string of successful singles including “If You Ever Stop Loving me,” “Lucky Me” and “Roll With Me” with Colt Ford. Troy Gentry died Sept. 8 in a helicopter crash in New Jersey, before the duo was set to perform. The Kern County Fair said heartfelt condolences, thoughts and prayers are with Gentry’s family and many fans during this difficult time. *Montgomery Gentry had been scheduled to play Thursday, Sept. 28. Check the Kern County Fair website for updates on who will perform that day. Plans weren’t known as of press time for this special section.*

Smash Mouth

Not many bands can take the credit for becoming an honest-to-goodness viral internet meme, but then, most bands aren’t Smash Mouth. It’s really easy to make jokes at their expense, but at one time they were responsible for popularizing the retro-shag carpet 1960s beatnik cool with their 1997 hit “Walking on the Sun.” Being no dummies with an “L” on their forehead, the group realized what worked and parlayed their space-age lounge-ish formula on every hit after.

People may joke, but there’s a reason why they keep working — you can thank Steve Harrell’s easily identifiable raspy vocals and the “Shrek” movies for that — but, like I said, they’re no dummies to have gotten this far in the parasitic world of the music business. They know what works and they run with it and appear to be having fun with all the recent attention they’ve been getting. Will people be converted to team Smash? Well, if so, it’s no wonder they covered The Monkees’ “I’m a Believer.” Speaking of covers, the band performs a version of War’s “Why Can’t We be Friends,” giving fairgoers a chance to see the song performed live twice this year from them and the originators. Compare at will. *Smash Mouth plays Friday, Sept. 29.*

Steppenwolf

Steppenwolf’s 1968 hit “Born to be Wild” is the quintessential 1960s rock anthem. Singing about “smokestack lightning” and “heavy

metal thunder,” the song evokes a moment in time where the youth of America’s future was being written in broad strokes. The song’s theme of the road as the solution still carries on to this day; the romantic notion of hopping onto a motorcycle and taking off to forge your own unencumbered path is just as enticing and sexy as it was in the 1960s — arguably, maybe even more so. Steppenwolf’s performance at the Kern County Fair will undoubtedly revolve around that signature classic, but their other hits — “Magic Carpet Ride” and “The Pusher” — are sure to still pack a punch. *Steppenwolf plays Saturday, Sept. 30.*



COURTESY OF KERN COUNTY FAIR

David Lee Garza and his group Los Musicales will play Oct. 1.

Jorge Moreno and David Lee Garza

Tulare-based Jorge Moreno will be promoting his Tejano/country release, appropriately titled “Gone Country.” The Cal State Bakersfield grad released three other albums, including “In Love In Texas,” which received two nominations at the 2008 Tejano Music Awards — Song of the Year for “Luz de Luna” and Crossover Song of the Year for “In Love in Texas” — a coup for any musician outside of Texas. David Lee Garza and his group Los Musicales play norteño, Tejano and Tex-Mex — pretty much whatever it will take to keep people dancing up a storm. With more than three decades in the business, Garza’s unique accordion style, developed while playing with his father, Tony, is hard to resist. Los Musicales are a family affair with Garza’s brothers Richard (bass guitar) and Adam (drums). *Jorge Moreno will play at 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 1 and David Lee Garza will play at 8 p.m.*



COURTESY OF KERN COUNTY FAIR

Smash Mouth performs Sept. 29.

Here's what's happening at the Fair's major entertainment venues

All schedules are subject to change

KC Loop

WEEKDAYS

Stingray Exhibit, 3-10 p.m.
Ramos Circus, 4 p.m.
All-Star Stunt Dog Challenge, 4 p.m.
Pollywood Bird Show, 4:30 p.m.
All Alaskan Racing Pigs, 5 p.m.
Turkey Stampede, 5:30 p.m.
Ramos Circus, 6 p.m.
All-Star Stunt Dog Challenge, 6 p.m.
Pollywood Bird Show, 6:30 p.m.
All Alaskan Racing Pigs, 7 p.m.
Turkey Stampede, 7:30 p.m.
All-Star Stunt Dog Challenge, 8 p.m.
Ramos Circus, 8 p.m.
All Alaskan Racing Pigs, 8:30 p.m.

WEEKENDS

Stingray Exhibit, noon-10 p.m.
Turkey Stampede, 12:30 p.m.
All Alaskan Racing Pigs, 1 p.m.
Pollywood Bird Show, 1:30 p.m.
Ramos Circus, 2 p.m.
All-Star Stunt Dog Challenge, 2:30 p.m.
Turkey Stampede, 3 p.m.
All Alaskan Racing Pigs, 3:30 p.m.
Pollywood Bird Show, 4 p.m.
All-Star Stunt Dog Challenge, 4:30 p.m.
Ramos Circus, 4:30 p.m.
All Alaskan Racing Pigs, 5 p.m.
Pollywood Bird Show, 5:30 p.m.
All-Star Stunt Dog Challenge, 6:30 p.m.
Turkey Stampede, 7 p.m.
Ramos Circus, 7:30 p.m.
All Alaskan Racing Pigs, 8 p.m.

Calico Corner

Russell Brothers Circus, Monday-Friday, 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Kid's Tractor Pulls, Monday-Friday, 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Sudsy Hand Washing, Monday-Friday, 3-9:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon-9:30 p.m.



CASEY CHRISTIE / THE CALIFORNIAN

The Great American Petting Zoo is a children's favorite.

KC's Farm

Great American Petting Zoo, Monday-Friday, 3-9:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon-9:30 p.m.

Duck Races, Monday-Friday, 3:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Magic Bean, Monday-Friday, 4:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., and 6 p.m.

Frontier Stage

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20

Spotlight Dance, 5:30 p.m.
Hypnotist Tina Marie, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
Fatboy, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 21

Melodic, (Pop and Rap) 5 p.m.
Hypnotist Tina Marie, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
Blue Mirror Band, (Old School) 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22

Powerhouse Percussive Dance, 4:30 p.m.
Aztec Dance, 5 p.m.
Hypnotist Tina Marie, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
The Nightwatchers, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

Creation, (band) 2:30 p.m.
Grupo Folklorico Escuelas Unidas, 3:30 p.m.
PennPoint Dance Academy, 5 p.m.
Hypnotist Tina Marie, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
Lions Named Leo, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 24

Second 2 None, (kid rock band) 2 p.m.
Eastern Sabers Cheer, 3:30 p.m.
Belinda's All Star Dance, 5 p.m.
Hypnotist Tina Marie, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
La Marcha Latin Dance Band, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 25

Karaoke, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26

Hypnotist Tina Marie, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
Cornerstone Praise Band, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27

Lost Hills Wonderful Dance Troupe, 5:30 p.m.
Hypnotist Tina Marie, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
John Hollins Band, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28

Hypnotist Tina Marie, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
Cosmo Collide, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29

Dancers Turnout Academy of Dance, 5 p.m.
Hypnotist Tina Marie, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
Last Call, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

Gospel Day, noon-8 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCT. 1

Planet Dance, 1 p.m.
LQ's Performing Arts Center, 3 p.m.
AG Productions, 4 p.m.
Future Shock Prod. Variety Show, 5:30 p.m.
Hypnotist Tina Marie, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
N.O.R. Junior Theater, 8 p.m.

Daily grounds shows

Tonka, Monday through Friday, 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 2-7 p.m.

Slim and Curly, Monday through Friday, 3:30-7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 2:30-7:30 p.m.

Magic of Frank Thurston, Monday through Friday, 4-8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 2-7 p.m.

Duchicela, Main Gate, Sept. 22-24 and Sept. 29-Oct. 1

La Villa Festiva

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20

Grupo Knixos, 5-7 p.m.
Grupo Cupido, 8-10 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 21

Jennifer Y Su Grupo Viruz, 5-7 p.m.
Amor Y Llanto, 8-10 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22

Mariachi San Marcos, 5-7 p.m.
Atrevido, 8-10 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

Mike Y Su Furia Costena, 5-7 p.m.
Amor Y Llanto, 8-10 p.m.
Folklorico Family and Friends, 2-3 p.m.
Ballet Folklorico Mi Tierra, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 24

Mariachi San Marcos, 5-7 p.m.
Rocio Y Su Sonora, 8-10 p.m.
Grupo Folklorico Escuelas Unidas, 2-3 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 25

Banda La Orgullosa, 8-10 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26

Grupo Knixos, 5-7 p.m.
Zapata Y Su Sonora, 8-10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27

Recreacion Musical, 5-7 p.m.
Mike Y Su Furia Costena, 8-10 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28

Jennifer Y Su Grupo Viruz, 5-7 p.m.
Atrevido, 8-10 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29

Mariachi San Marcos, 5-7 p.m.
Banda La Marinera, 8-10 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

Recreacion Musical, 5-7 p.m.
Grupo Cupido, 8-10 p.m.
Ameyaltzin Yolihuani Aztec Dance, 2-3 p.m.
Folklorico Family and Friends, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCT. 1

Mariachi San Marcos, 5-7 p.m.
La Nueva Era, 8-10 p.m.
Folklorico Family and Friends, 2-3 p.m.

Jimmy Rogers Arena

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

Team Branding, 8 a.m.
Sort and Rope, 8 a.m.
3-man Doctoring, 8 a.m.
Ranch Team Roping, 8 a.m.
Team Roping, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 24

In and By, 8 a.m.
Ranch Sorting, 8 a.m.
Ranch Penning, 8 a.m.
Ranch Horse, 8 a.m.

Please see **VENUES** | 6

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VENUES

Continued from **PAGE 5**

Main Plaza Stage

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20

Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Powerhouse Percussive Dance, 4:30 p.m.
Beverly Belles, 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.
The Alley Cats A Cappella, 6 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 21

Beverly Belles, 4:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
The Alley Cats A Cappella, 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Powerhouse Percussive Dance, 5:30 p.m.
Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 7 p.m.
The Acoustiks, 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22

Senior Day program, 9 a.m.
Opening ceremonies, 10 a.m.
Trivia and Give-Aways, 11 a.m.
Beverly Belles, noon, 6 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Patsy's Oldies but Goodies, 12:30 p.m.
Pierce Family Bluegrass, 3:30 p.m.
Genesis Duncan, (singer) 5 p.m.
Magic of Frank Thurston, 5:30 p.m.
The Alley Cats A Cappella, 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Tim Hurley Band, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

Magic of Frank Thurston, 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.
Powerhouse Percussive Dance, 2:30 p.m.
Polynesian Spice, 4 p.m.
Jazzercise, 5 p.m.
Beverly Belles, 6 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.
The Alley Cats A Cappella, 7:30 p.m.
Rockabilly Rebels, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 24

Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 1 p.m.
Melodic, (Pop and Rap) 2 p.m.
Lyric Kane Hip Hop, 3:30 p.m.
Of the Heart Courage, (singer) 4:30 p.m.
Beverly Belles, 6 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.
The Alley Cats A Cappella, 7:30 p.m.
Blue Mountain Tribe, 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 25
Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 4 p.m.
The Alley Cats A Cappella, 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Misssteppers, 5 p.m.
Beverly Belles, 6 p.m., 8 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Hypnotist, Tina Marie, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26

Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 4:30 p.m.
Patsy's Oldies but Goodies, 5:30 p.m.
Beverly Belles, 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
The Alley Cats A Cappella, 7 p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27

Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 4 p.m.
Magic of Frank Thurston, 4:30 p.m.
Shafter Big Band, 6 p.m.
Beverly Belles, 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
The Alley Cats A Cappella, 8 p.m., 9 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28

Powerhouse Percussive Dance, 4 p.m.
It's A Family Thing, 5 p.m.
Beverly Belles, 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
The Alley Cats A Cappella, 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Crooked Eye Joe, 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29

Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 4 p.m.
Magic of Frank Thurston, 4:30 p.m.
Pierce Family Bluegrass, 5 p.m.
Beverly Bells, 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
The Alley Cats A Cappella, 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Marcus Leary and 50 Buck Band, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

Powerhouse Percussive Dance, 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Magic of Frank Thurston, 1:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Melodies Mix, (singers) 3 p.m.
Missteppers, 4 p.m.
Beverly Belles, 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Sammy Joe Mitchell Country Show, 6 p.m.
Hypnotist, Tina Marie, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCT. 1

Powerhouse Percussive Dance, 1:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Magic of Frank Thurston, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.
Cre and Friends, 3 p.m.
Shataramarie, (singer) 4:30 p.m.
Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 5:30 p.m.
Beverly Belles, 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
The Alley Cats A Cappella, 9:30 p.m.



CASEY CHRISTIE / CALIFORNIAN FILE

The little train Western Express carries mostly seniors past a Ferris wheel on a previous Senior Day.

Sierra Stage

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20

Chinese Acrobats of Heibi, 4 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Piano Madness, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 21

Chinese Acrobats of Heibi, 3:30 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Piano Madness, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22

Chinese Acrobats of Heibi, 4 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Piano Madness, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.
The Alley Cats, 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

Chinese Acrobats of Heibi, 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.
The Alley Cats, 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Piano Madness, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 24

Chinese Acrobats of Heibi, 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.
The Alley Cats, 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Piano Madness, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 25

Chinese Acrobats of Heibi, 4 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Piano Madness, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26

Chinese Acrobats of Heibi, 4 p.m., 5 p.m., and 6 p.m.
Piano Madness, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27

Chinese Acrobats of Heibi, 4 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Piano Madness, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28

Chinese Acrobats of Heibi, 4 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Piano Madness, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29

Chinese Acrobats of Heibi, 4 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Piano Madness, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

Chinese Acrobats of Heibi, 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.
The Alley Cats, 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Piano Madness, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCT. 1

Chinese Acrobats of Heibi, 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.
The Alley Cats, 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Piano Madness, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Goode Time Theater

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20

Magic of Frank Thurston, 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Folk singer Archie Logsdon, 5 p.m.
Center Stage Dance, 6:30 p.m.
Powerhouse Percussive Dance, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 21

Magic of Frank Thurston, 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 4:30 p.m.
It's A Family Thing, 5:30 p.m.
Black Gold Cloggers, 7 p.m.
Powerhouse Percussive Dance, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22

Magic of Frank Thurston, 4 p.m.
Jammin' Island Hula, 4:30 p.m.
Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
TLC Dancers, 6 p.m.
Black Gold Cloggers, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

Johnny C., (singer) 3 p.m.
Barbara Heard Miller, (singer) 4 p.m.
Alissah Lopez, (singer) 5:30 p.m.
Powerhouse Percussive Dance, 6 p.m.
Jessica Rose and Elijah Gilbert, 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 24

Magic of Frank Thurston, 2 p.m.
Pierce Family Bluegrass, 3:30 p.m.
Spotlight Dance, 5 p.m.
Stina Noel, (singer) 6 p.m.
Sammy Joe Mitchell, (singer) 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 25

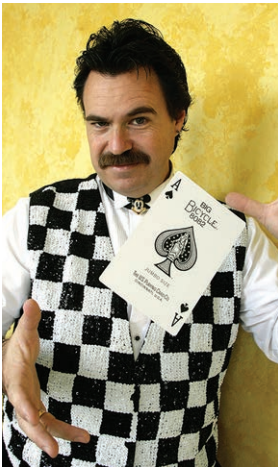
Magic of Frank Thurston, 4 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Powerhouse Percussive Dance, 4:30 p.m.
Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 5:30 p.m.
Jazzercise, 6 p.m.
Sammy Joe Mitchell, (singer) 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26

Magic of Frank Thurston, 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 6 p.m.
Love Dancing Bakersfield, 6:30 p.m.
Powerhouse Percussive Dance, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27

Powerhouse Percussive Dance, 5 p.m.



CALIFORNIAN FILE PHOTO

Frank Thurston

Magic of Frank Thurston, 5:30 p.m.
Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 6 p.m.
Rodeo Band, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28

Magic of Frank Thurston, 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Powerhouse Percussive Dance, 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 6 p.m.
Love Dancing Bakersfield, 6:30 p.m.
Sugar Sugar Cabaret Dance, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29

Morgan S. Roy, (singer) 4 p.m.
Something Ridiculous, (jugglers) 5 p.m.
Magic of Frank Thurston, 5:30 p.m.
Centre Stage Dance, 6 p.m.
Powerhouse Percussive Dance, 6:30 p.m.
An Evening of Belly Dance, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

Genesis Duncan, (singer) 2 p.m.
Centre Stage Dance, 3 p.m.
Powerhouse Percussive Dance, 3:30 p.m.
Jammin' Island Hula, 4 p.m.
Jessica Rose and Elijah Gilbert, 5:30 p.m.
KNS Rockstar, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCT. 1

Powerhouse Percussive Dance, 2:30 p.m.
Magic of Frank Thurston, 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Centre Stage Dance, 4 p.m.
Landen Transmutier and VaLynn Rain, 5 p.m.
Tatu Una Polynesian Dance, 6 p.m.
Kalis Fitness and Performing Hoop Dancers, 7:30 p.m.



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THE LATEST FROM GOLDEN EMPIRE TRANSIT

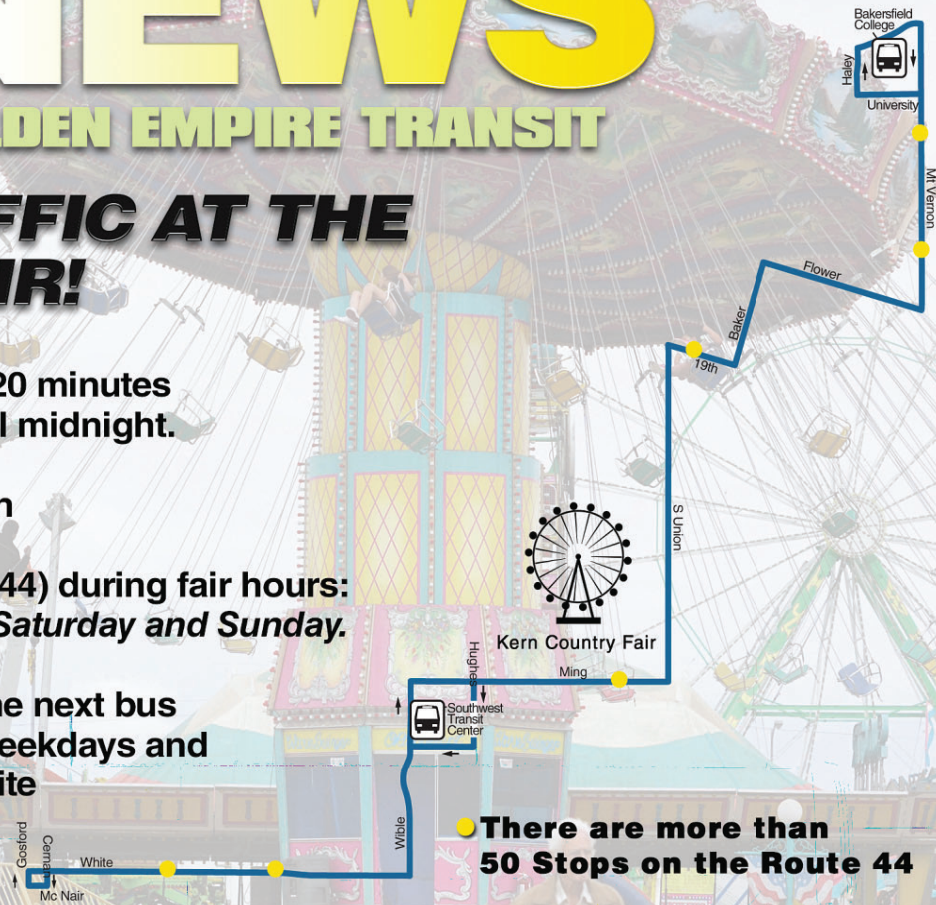
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Fare to and from the fair - \$3 per person

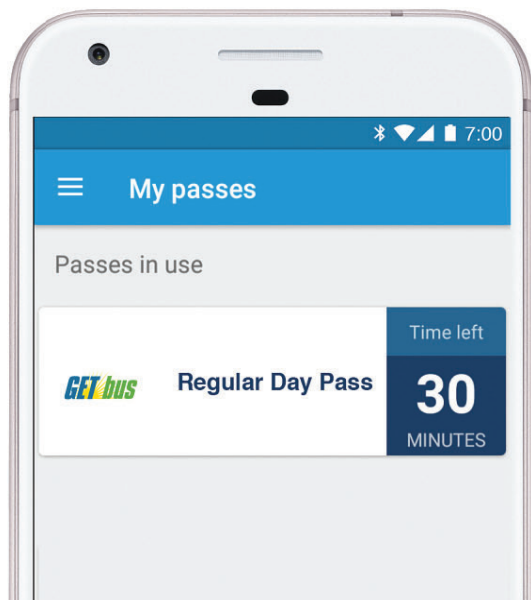
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VENUES

Continued from **PAGE 6**

2017 paid attractions

- Camel Ride**, \$8, Loop
- Mechanical Bull**, \$8, KC Lane
- Mojo Sports Cage**, \$5, KC Lane
- NASCAR Games**, \$5, KC Lane
- Quad Trampoline**, \$10, KC Lane
- Simulator Chair**, \$8, Grand Avenue
- Climbing Wall**, \$7, KC Lane

Gospel Day

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

- The Lighthouse Boys**, 2 p.m.
- Natalie Frankland**, 2:45 p.m.
- Joshua 24:15**, 3:30 p.m.
- The Rock Church Praise Band**, 4:15 p.m.
- Pleasant View Baptist Church**, 5 p.m.
- Neutrick**, 5:45 p.m.
- The Roberts Trio**, 6:30 p.m.
- St. John Missionary Baptist Church Choir**, 7:15 p.m.



CALIFORNIAN FILE PHOTO

The mechanical bull is back at the 101st Kern County Fair.

KC Lane Stage

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20

- Mighty McKinley Mustang Drill Team**, 5 p.m.
- Powerhouse Percussive Dance**, 5:30 p.m.
- Lyric Kane Hip Hop**, 6 p.m.
- California Criptonite**, (dance) 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 21

- Powerhouse Percussive Dance**, 4:30 p.m.
- Something Ridiculous**, (jugglers) 5:30 p.m.
- Thorner Magnet School**, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22

- Something Ridiculous**, (jugglers) 4 p.m.
- KNS Rockstar**, 4:30 p.m.
- Powerhouse Percussive Dance**, 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Dat Krew**, (Hip Hop Dance) 6 p.m.
- Carbajal's Martial Arts**, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

- Experience Dance**, 1:30 p.m.
- Chaz Wilson**, 3 p.m.
- Powerhouse Percussive Dance**, 4 p.m.
- Paul Ray, Truth Soldiers**, 4:30 p.m.
- Ballet Folklorico Mi Tierra**, 6 p.m.
- Something Ridiculous**, (jugglers) 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 24

- Midwest Spartans Cheerleading**, 3 p.m.
- Rising Stars**, (children singing group) 4 p.m.
- Country As Can Be**, 5:30 p.m.
- Kalis Fitness and Performance Hoop Dancers**, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 25

- United Sikaran Alliance**, 5 p.m.
- Powerhouse Percussive Dance**, 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Love Dancing Bakersfield**, 6:30 p.m.
- Something Ridiculous**, (jugglers) 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26

- Powerhouse Percussive Dance**, 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- McKinley Glee Club**, 6 p.m.
- Something Ridiculous**, (jugglers) 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27

- Powerhouse Percussive Dance**, 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- Mighty McKinley Mustang Drill Team**, 5 p.m.
- Love Dancing Bakersfield**, 6 p.m.
- Melodic**, (Pop and Rap) 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28

- Something Ridiculous**, (jugglers) 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- California Criptonite**, (dance) 6 p.m.
- Hans Taekwondo**, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29

- Powerhouse Percussive Dance**, 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- B-Town Bang Dance Team**, 4:30 p.m.
- Stella Hills Glee Club**, 6 p.m.
- Something Ridiculous**, (jugglers) 6:30 p.m.
- Bakersfield Drillettes and Co.**, 7 p.m.
- Reloaded Drill Team and Drum Squad**, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

- The Habbits**, (band) 3 p.m.
- LQ's Performing Arts Center**, 4 p.m.
- Powerhouse Percussive Dance**, 4:30 p.m.
- Belinda's All Star Dance**, 5 p.m.
- Something Ridiculous**, (jugglers) 6 p.m.
- PennPoint Dance Academy**, 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCT. 1

- Powerhouse Percussive Dance**, 3:30 p.m.
- Hans Taekwondo**, 4 p.m.
- Downtown Dance Arts**, 5 p.m.



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Our Kern County Fair top 5

Picks for a good time — everything from favorite foods to free fun is yours



BY STEFANI DIAS
sdias@bakersfield.com

Everybody has their list of must-see, must-eat, must-do when it comes to the Kern County Fair. But just as the Ferris wheel turns, each person is ready to share their favorites — to commiserate, debate and plan for the big day(s). Here are a few things that might be worth adding to the list.

LET'S EAT

Along with annual favorites — a cheeseburger from the veterans group, a JP's Old West cinnamon roll, lamb sandwich from the Basque Club — this year's fair will have some new items it's dishing out. Fans of Disneyland should be excited by the prospect of a Dole Whip-style treat from Udder D-Lite, waffle cone packed with chicken and choice of coleslaw or tater tots from Teen Challenge and Flamin' Hot Cheetos street corn from Noel's Foods. (For other exciting foods, check out the story in this publication.)

SAVE A LITTLE DOUGH

The key to any good fair outing is making sure you've got enough cash to cover the rides, activities and food you've been looking forward to since last year. With the increase in ticket prices and parking up to \$12 (adults) and \$10, respectively, the need to save may be even greater. That's where the deals come in.

O'Reilly Auto Parts is offering \$7 discount parking vouchers at its nine locations in town while supplies last. A \$3 savings? That's a DeMolay corn dog right there. Fellow auto business Les Schwab Tire Centers is offering a \$6 voucher good for admission on Sept. 27 (3-9 p.m.). The offer is available while supplies last at the five Bakersfield Les Schwab locations.

The fair is again partnering with Community Action Partnership of Kern Food Bank (CAPK Food Bank) for the Feed the Need canned food drive on Sept. 26. Donate four (or more) canned food items — nonexpired, of course — for a free admission to that day's fair. The deal is good for each person who donates four or more cans.



COURTESY OF THE KERN COUNTY FAIR

Get ready for a free fall from 90 feet in the air with the Super Shot Drop Tower, new to the 2017 Kern County Fair.

FREE FUN FOR ALL

Speaking of deals, once you get inside the fairgrounds, you're sure to want to cram as much fun in without emptying your wallet. Among the interesting free attractions:

Stingray encounter: With livestock and other performers fresh off the farm — racing pigs and stampeding turkeys — you might overlook this new exhibition. But these fish are worth checking out. This self-contained traveling exhibit, billed as the world's only, allows visitors of all ages to get up close and personal with the mysterious creatures. The tank appears big enough that if they want to remain a little enigmatic they can keep their distance — unless drawn out by food.

Another is Sudsy's Barn, a fun exploration of personal hygiene. Odd but hear us out: Other than the bathrooms, which may have long lines and cramped space at the sink, where else are you going to get a good chance to wash your hands? You're not fully free of that cream cheese frosting, mustard off the corn dog or spilled beer just because you licked your hand. (Also, ew.) Sidle up next to the kids and get a lesson in good clean living.

CARNIVAL

If you have kids or are responsible for someone else's while roaming the fairgrounds, you know you'll be headed to the carnival. Along with the usual

suspects, there are some new attractions this year including:

The Super Shot Drop Tower is for the thrill-seekers, dropping them along the 90-foot tower in an accelerated free fall with G-forces three and half times their normal thrust.

Don't rely on a dashing dude or dame to sweep you off your feet — let an alien do it. Alien Invasion, spinning at 24 RPM, uses centrifugal force to give passengers the feeling of weightlessness.

Looking for more fun? The Kid Wheel, Firehouse and Jumping Jungle are also sure to deliver new delights.

WE LIKE THE SOUND OF THIS

There are a number of musical acts vying for your attention at this year's fair but one show should be a real barn burner. Johnny Owens, youngest son of country great Buck Owens, along with his Buck Fever Band will headline a Tribute to the Bakersfield Sound on Sept. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

The lineup drawing fans to the Coors Grandstand Area is a powerful one, including Ernie Lewis, Jennifer Keel, Zach Arnold, Kyle Appleton and Therese Spanke. If this is a move to start drawing more shows to the fair, in addition to the existing concert lineup, we're all for it.

Stefani Dias can be reached at 661-395-7488. Follow her on Twitter at @realstefanidias.



COURTESY OF SCHAGHTICOKE FAIR

Get up close and personal with stingrays in the Stingray Encounter at the Kern County Fair.



COURTESY OF SUDSY'S BARN

Get a lesson in good clean living with Sudsy's Barn at the Kern County Fair.



Ready to taste something new at the fair? Let's dig in

BY STEFANI DIAS
sdias@bakersfield.com

The carnival can kick rocks. The rodeos can rope themselves off. Concerts can cool it. We know what you're headed to the fair for: Food, and lots of it.

There's a reason Jeannie Burton, fair concessions supervisor, trots out that ol' chestnut each year that "there are no calories in fair food." Because we know those items are maxing out our daily caloric intake — but we don't care. This is the time of year for corn dogs, giant turkey legs, nachos and fried cheese, cinnamon rolls and kettle corn.

Of course that's not to say we don't want new treats to tempt our taste buds. We are creatures of habit but everyone loves a new flavor to their fair fare.

Although the concessions were still finalizing their menus as of press time, here is what we know is new this year:

Sweet and savory waffle options, street dogs (Teen Challenge):

Teen Challenge could probably rest on its laurels. Along with the standard assortment of hamburger and hot dogs, the local concession sells its memorable apple and peach dumplings, a delicious treat of fruit wrapped in baked dough and topped with a dollop of cream cheese frosting. But the faith-based rehabilitation program has a bevy of new options to bring you out to their two locations.

They're wild for waffles this year, according to coordinator Christie Luna.

She said they'll have fresh waffles you can have with powdered sugar or topped with strawberries and whipped cream as well as crisp "cinnabun" waffle wedges (two to an order) topped with cream cheese frosting. On the savory side, try a waffle cone filled with fried chicken tenders and your choice of tater tots or coleslaw. Those cones will be served with a side of ranch dressing, hot sauce or syrup.

"They're nice because you can carry them around," Luna said.

The concession is also entering the street dog game, topping a jumbo hot dog with secret sauce (a mix of ranch and Thousand Islands dressings), grilled onion, grilled tomato, lettuce, pickles and strips of bacon.

Flamin' Hot Cheetos street corn (Noel's Foods): Much like with corn dogs, you have a few options when it comes to corn at the fair. So how do you stand out? For Noel's Foods, it's about spicing it up with Flamin' Hot Cheetos.

"They take the Cheetos and mash it up and roll the corn in it," Burton said.

In order to avoid direct competition in the Villa Festiva, which already has the successful Senor Carlos concession, Noel's will

serve its spiced corn at its booth on Grand Avenue, Burton said.

Naked burrito bowl (JLQ Concessions): Erica Quintero is a second-generation concessionaire for the business started by her parents 19 years ago. Even with lots of popular Mexican food options, the concession has room to grow. This year, it will offer a naked burrito bowl, which starts with a base of rice and beans (no light lettuce bottom unless you ask for it). Diners can choose from ground beef, carne asada, grilled chicken, carnitas or al pastor for the dish.

"I'm going to go ahead and top it off with our homemade pico de gallo, which I really like," Quintero said. "We've worked on that (pico). We do fresh lime in it, salt, pepper, little bit of garlic salt and oregano."

Dole whip (Udder D-Lite): Primarily in the domain of Disneyland/Disney World, the delicious pineapple soft serve treat is as elusive as a new theme park ride with no wait time. But Darren and Kristen Cluff's Udder D-Lite concession will bring a bit of the tropics to the fair. Might be just the thing if that heat wave lingers.

Award-winning mac 'n' cheese (Brookside Market): The local market, which has taken top honors at the Mac N Cheese Fest in both Bakersfield and Avila Beach with its chile verde mac, is wisely setting up shop for the first time at the fair. Burton said they will have the award-winning pasta as well as a version with butter chicken.

Dirty fries (The Sleek Greek): Although we weren't able to confirm details as of press time, Burton said she was told these fries will be smothered in toppings a la the stinky fries at Lengthwise Brewing Co. We'll see how this compares.

Deep-fried fruit punch, frozen Minute Maid Lemonade (Toucan Enterprises): This concession is following in the fryer-steps of Mac's Patio, which tried out a deep-fried Kool-Aid in 2011. Toucan will fry fruit punch balls as well as serve a frozen version of the popular lemonade.

Pizookie, doughnut gelato sandwich, (Colossal Gelato, Work to Give): Fans of BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse will know what to expect when they hear "pizookie," but for the uninitiated it's a warm 8-inch



COURTESY OF CHRISTIE LUNA

Known for its wonderful apple and peach dumplings, the Teen Challenge concession at the Kern County Fair is spicing things up with a street dog topped with secret sauce, grilled onion and tomato, pickles and bacon.

chocolate chip cookie topped with, in this case, gelato.

Veteran fairgoers may recall a doughnut ice cream sandwich that rolled out at a (now-departed) concession in 2015. This version will swap the ice cream for the more decadent gelato for an impressive treat, Burton said.

"You need the mouth of a gorilla to consume it," she said. "It's gorgeous."

We'll be the judge of that when we head out on Sept. 20.

Stefani Dias can be reached at 661-395-7488. Follow her on Twitter at @realstefanidias.



COURTESY OF CHRISTIE LUNA

Teen Challenge's chicken in a waffle cone: Chicken tenders served inside the cone along with your choice of coleslaw (shown) or tater tots. Guests can choose from a side of ranch, hot sauce or syrup.

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Carnival rides to spin, swing, splash and surprise fair fans

BY JAMES BURGER
jburger@bakersfield.com

For some the best thing about the Kern County Fair is being shaken, spun, and flipped on their head or dropped to the ground from 90 feet in the air — or all of the above at once.

Enter the Carnival. A couple of big ticket fun rides, swapped in for the 2107 carnival, will headline this year's fair adventure.

The tallest of those is the Super Shot Drop Tower, which straps 12 daring souls to a ring-shaped ledge of seats, takes them 90 feet in the air and drops them.

Riders feel forces 3 1/2 times those of gravity as they rocket toward the ground.

If a quick spin with 44 of your closest family members and friends is more your speed, then Alien Invasion is your ride.

The cone-shaped ride can host 45 riders and, once they're strapped in, spins at 24 revolutions per minute, pushing riders to the walls even as, the ride's description sheet states, they feel a wave of weightlessness sweep over them.

Keeping it kid friendly this year?

There are a couple of fresh options for the little ones to check out.

The Jumping Jungle is a jungle-themed obstacle maze.

And there is The Firehouse featuring challenges, a cargo-net climb and other obstacles, for kids and families to explore.

There's even a kid-sized Ferris wheel for the little ones who aren't quite ready to ride the adult version to the skies.

TICKETS AND TECHNICALITIES

Carnival fans have several options for funding their trip to the midway this year.

Each ride takes between three and five tickets and each ticket costs \$1.

You can drop that cost by purchasing in bulk:

■ A sheet of 25 tickets goes for \$23, or 92 cents a ticket.

■ You can get 80 tickets for \$70 and pay 88 cents a ticket.

■ Or there's the wristband option, which offers unlimited rides for \$30 a day Monday through Thursday or \$35 a day Friday through Sunday.

■ Early birds with a thirst for thrills can lock in an advance wristband if they get it by Sept. 19. That offers unlimited rides on any day of the fair for \$28.

There are some restrictions on who can ride on the attractions.

Some rides have height or weight restrictions that keep kids on the kids rides and adults on the big kid rides.

People wearing open-toed sandals can't enjoy the Big Top Funhouse, Mardi Gras or Zombie Carnival attractions.

Pregnant women, intoxicated individuals and people wearing casts, slings and walking boots are not allowed on any rides.

TICKET TO RIDE

Below are the rides scheduled to be available at the Kern County Fair as of press time.

SPINNERS

What they do: These rides put passengers in a swing, cage, car or seat and spin them around in a variety of ways. Some rides even spin the parts of the ride that are spinning their riders.

Adult spinners: Inversion, Alien Invasion, Orbiter, Quasar, Vertigo, Wave Swinger, Zipper, 1001 Nachts, Starship 3000, Kite Flyer, Scrambler, The Viper, Tornado, Tilt-a Whirl, Flying Bobs.

Kid spinners: Pirate Jet, Ballon Samba, Chopper Hopper, Dizzy Dragon, Squadron, Jumping Jumbos, Lolli Swing, Berry Go Round, Jet Ski, Tommy Kangaroo, Nemo Swing, Cycle Jump, Scrambler.

TRACKS AND TRAINS

What they do: These rides can take you on a friendly little toot-toot train



FELIX ADAMO / CALIFORNIAN FILE

Welcome to the carnival area of the Kern County Fair, where thrilling rides await you.

trip around some scenery or drive you upside down around the inside of a 60-foot-tall ring.

Adult trains and tracks: Ring of Fire, Crazy Train, Zombie Carnival.

Kid trains and tracks: Bigfoot Trucks, Looney Tooter Train, Quad Runner, Roadsters, Rio Train.

CARNIVAL CLASSICS

What they do: Ferris wheels and carousels take riders on adventures that have been delighting crowds for more than a century.

Adult classics: The Grand Carousel, Carousel, Eagle 16, Century Wheel, Giant Wheel.

Kid classics: Crown Merry Go Round, Kid Wheel.

WATER RIDES

What they do: Take riders on a splashy ride up and down hills and through watery chutes.

Adult water ride: White Water Log Flume.

Kid water ride: Wet Boats.

FUNHOUSES

What they do: Kids and adults can climb, crawl, scurry and slide through mazes and down chutes. There might even be a bumper car or two waiting for a driver.

Adult funhouses: Giant Scooters, Big Top, Mardi-Gras, State Fair Fun Slide.

Kid funhouses: Jungle of Fun, Jumping Jungle, Firehouse, Renegade, Kids Town.

COASTERS AND ROCKERS

What they do: These rides take fans on and up and down over a track.

Some even throw an extra spin riders' way. A couple just take people up and

drop them.

Adult coasters: Super Shot Drop Tower, Pole Position Spinning Coaster, Spinning Family Coaster.


Kids coasters: Rockin' Tug, Wacky Worm, Frog

Hopper.

James Burger can be reached at 661-395-7415. Follow him on Twitter: @KernQuirks.




Knick-Knack Paddywhack

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Photo is courtesy of Paula Colahan-Sederstrom.

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2017 Kern County Fair grounds and exhibit areas



Carnival rides are a main attraction at The Kern County Fair.



Patrons have a good time at the carnival.



Source: Kern County Fair



The diving exhibition is always a popular show.



CALIFORNIAN FILE PHOTOS

It's fun to visit the hundreds of farm animals on exhibit.

THE CALIFORNIAN



RICK STEVENS

The show's backdrop is a postcard of famous Bakersfield images.

Pretend it's 1953

The Bakersfield Sound lives again

I've been going around bragging that my history of Bakersfield country music, published nearly two years ago, has been adapted for the stage a la Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables." And every time I do, my nose grows a tiny bit.

But "The Bakersfield Sound: A Walk Down Memory Lane," a musical revue of sorts starring Johnny Owens and the Buck Fever Band, along with an impressive cast of local and regional talent, does in fact trace much the same course as "The Bakers-

field Sound: How a Generation of Displaced Okies Revolutionized American Music."

The story goes like this: A scorched little oil-and-ag town, bustling with post-war exuberance and second-generation Dust Bowlers, develops a robust honky-tonk culture inspired by the music of a divergent cast: Bob Wills,



ROBERT PRICE
THE CALIFORNIAN

Buddy Holly, Ernest Tubb and Little Richard. When Elvis Presley's hips throw a scare into the Nashville establishment, prompting a strategic departure from its winning formula, Bakersfield leaps onto the national stage with a new crop of stars.

This show is a tribute to the music those stars created — the hits and signature songs that came out of this dusty little burg between 1953 and 1976. The one-time event (we think, for now) takes over the Kern County Fair grandstands Tuesday, Sept. 26. Showtime is 7:30 p.m.

The show is the brainchild of longtime local performer Rick "Reno" Stevens. He brought in fellow musician Ernie Lewis, who's the show's associate producer, and Eric Hann, whose dazzling set looks like it belongs on a Las Vegas stage and not a spiffed-up rodeo area.

As emcee, I'll jump in and give the songs some quick background and context. I may also offer up a Ferlin Husky impersonation.

Johnny Owens, the youngest son of Buck Owens, is the undisputed star of the show, but he'll have great company: Jennifer Keel, Theresa Spanke, Victor Sanz, Don and Annie Kidwell, Fattkatt Ybarra,



RICK STEVENS

Rick "Reno" Stevens helped put together the Bakersfield Sound tribute show, at the grandstands at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 26.

Kim McAbee, Teddy Spanke, Brian Lonbeck, Susan Raye, Mayf Nutter, Johnny Barnett Jr., and a dozen more.

The show samples songs from

Please see **SOUND** | 15

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SOUND

Continued from **PAGE 14**

the 1950s, '60s and '70s, including (and this list doesn't scratch the surface) Rick Russell's rendition of Joe and Rose Lee Maphis' paean to the Blackboard saloon, "Dim Lights, Thick Smoke (And Loud, Loud Music)"; Keel's take on "A Dear John Letter," the 1953 duet that made stars out of Ferlin Husky and Jean Shepard; Teddy Spanke's guitar tribute to the great Gene Moles, "Fingerlickin'"; Ernie Lewis's salute to Red Simpson, "Highway Patrol"; Susan Raye, singing her own 1971 hit, "L.A.

It's an ambitious undertaking that should leave fans reassured about the future of the Bakersfield Sound.

International Airport"; and more Buck Owens and Merle Haggard than you can shake a Tele-caster at.

It's an ambitious undertaking that should leave fans reassured about the fu-

ture of the Bakersfield Sound.

The show is sponsored by W.A. Thompson, the Kern County Buick GMC Dealers Association, the University of La Verne, Whittington Solar, the Tejon Indian Tribe, Emporium Western Store, Front Porch Music, Kern County Firefighters, Joranco Rentals, ICL Lighting and Bear Mountain Sports.

Reach The Californian's Robert Price at rprice@bakersfield.com.



FELIX ADAMO / THE CALIFORNIAN

The youngest of Buck's three sons, Johnny Owens, headlines the Bakersfield Sound tribute show Sept. 26.



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MIPPA helps fund outreach activities to Medicare beneficiaries who have limited income and assets to help reduce their out-of-pocket costs associated with Medicare. Assistance with Medicare Part B premiums, Part D premiums and prescriptions drug costs is available, if you have limited income and resources.



For more information contact:
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This document was supported in part by a federal grant from the Administration on Aging (AoA), Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Grantees carrying out projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Therefore, points of view or opinions do not necessarily represent official AoA, ACL, or DHHS policy.



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CASEY CHRISTIE / THE CALIFORNIAN

Michelle Williams, a member of the Sundance 4-H organization, gives her Brahman, Tequila, a kiss and a hug after a bath in the livestock area of the Kern County Fair in this 2013 photo.

What's a fair without contests?

Pies, chili, costumes and more to be judged

Various contests regarding specific animals will be going on throughout the duration of the fair, but you can catch a taste of it all at the Grand Champions parade.

BY KASEY MEREDITH
kmeredith@bakersfield.com

The Kern County Fair is chock-full of contests, and without careful planning you might miss out on some great ones like the fancy fiber costume contest or the parade of grand champions. Here's a guide that can help you with the where and when of contests at the 101st Kern County Fair.

The Home Arts Building will be home to many food- and art-related contests. To name a few, check out the Wednesday pie contest, the hot dog eating contest, the K.C. "The Bull" chili contest and two Bakersfield College chopped contests.

For the kids, there's the junior cupcake decorating contest and the Lego/Knex contest, which also can be seen at the Home Arts Building.

You can catch many livestock contests at the Livestock/Sales Pavilion. There will be a variety, including swine, bulls, sheep, llamas, alpacas, beef, dairy, poultry, rabbit, goat and horse contests. Various contests regarding specific animals will be going on throughout the duration of the fair, but you can catch a taste of it all at the Grand Champions parade.

Not all of the livestock contests are at the Pavilion; the exceptions are: the silk and silver show at the

Jimmy Rogers Arena, the pork and plaid show at the swine pavilion, the pee wee swine showmanship at the swine arena, the adult swine showmanship at the swine arena, the pee wee sheep showmanship at the sheep show ring, the barnyard olympics at the swine show ring and the pee wee goat showmanship and adult showmanship at the goat show ring.

Here is a selection of contests by day:

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20
At the Livestock Sales Pavilion
11:30 a.m. — Alpaca Halter, Obstacle and Showmanship

2 p.m. — Llama halter performance and showmanship
6 p.m. — Fancy fiber costume contest
At the Jimmy Rogers Arena
7 p.m. — Silk and Silver
At the Home Arts Building
6 p.m. — Hot Wing Contest

THURSDAY, SEPT. 21
At the Home Arts Building
6 p.m. — K.C. "The Bull" Chili Contest

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22
At the Home Arts Building
6 p.m. — Bakersfield College

Please see **CONTESTS** | 17

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LAUGHLIN	\$120	PP/DBL	11/6-11/9
BLACK OAK CASINO	\$65	PP/DBL	11/12-11/13
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CONTESTS

Continued from PAGE 16

Chopped Contest

At the Swine Pavilion

7 p.m. — Pork and Plaid

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

2 p.m. — Dewar's Ice Cream Contest

4 p.m. — Pulford's Apple Pie Contest

At the Livestock Pavilion

7 p.m. — Ladies and Lads

SUNDAY, SEPT. 24

On the fairgrounds

9 a.m. — Dog Show

At the Home Arts Building

2 p.m. — A. Rodriguez and Son

Fresh Salsa contest

4 p.m. — Sunday Pie Contest

At the Livestock Sales Pavilion

4:45 p.m. — Parade of grand champions

5 p.m. — Grand champion market springers

5:35 p.m. — Grand champion market beef and open heifer/bred heifer

6:20 p.m. — Grand champion market lambs, grand champion breeding sheep

7 p.m. — Grand champion market pen of rabbit, grand champion rabbit, grand champion market fryer of rabbit, grand champion market pen of poultry, grand cham-

pion poultry, grand champion market pen turkey

7:25 p.m. — Grand champion pygmy goat, grand champion dairy goat, grand champion market goat.

8:05 p.m. — Grand champion market swine

MONDAY, SEPT. 25

At the Home Arts Building

6 p.m. — Kitchen craft contest

At the Swine Area

6 p.m. — Pee wee swine showmanship

7 p.m. — adult swine showmanship

At the Livestock pavilion

6:30 p.m. — leather lead

7:30 p.m. — cotton and cream

At the Sheep Show Ring

7 p.m. — pee wee sheep showmanship

At the Goat Ring

7 p.m. — rabbit awards

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26

At the Home Arts Building

6 p.m. — Cowboy bail bond's Kayla's favorite cake contest

At the Livestock Pavilion

5 p.m. — Adult beef

showmanship
7 p.m. — Rabbit and cavy costume contest

At the Poultry Barn

6 p.m. — Poultry costume contest

At the Goat Ring

6:30 p.m. — Goat fitting contest



CASEY CHRISTIE / THE CALIFORNIAN

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27

At the Home Arts Building

6 p.m. — Wednesday pie contest

At the Swine Show Ring

7 p.m. — Poultry awards

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28

At the Home Arts Building

6 p.m. — Diversified construction Inc. potato salad contest

At the Goat Show Ring

6:30 p.m. — Pee wee goat showmanship and adult showmanship

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29

At the Home Arts Building

6 p.m. — Bakersfield College chopped contest

At the Swine Show Ring

6 p.m. — Barnyard Olympics

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

At the Home Arts Building

2 p.m. — Dip—in—the—fun contest

4 p.m. — Almost homemade contest

At the Hobby Pavilion

2 p.m. — Lego/Knex contest

SUNDAY, OCT. 1

At the Home Arts Building

2 p.m. — Grandma and grandpa cookie contest

3 p.m. — Junior cupcake decorating contest.

Midway 4-H member Jeffrey Torres plays with his sister's alpaca, Marley, at a previous Kern County Fair while he and others take care of the animals and clean the pens each day.

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“For me, it was a struggle at first. I probably didn’t place, but I remember I loved every second of it.”

— Macee Stowers



FELIX ADAMO / THE CALIFORNIAN

Macee Stowers works with her horse Charlie as she prepares for the Kern County Fair.

Frontier FFA student one of many to show at Kern County Fair

BY KELLY ARDIS
kardis@bakersfield.com

For those in it, agriculture gets in your blood. It's not at all uncommon to hear about generations of 4-H and FFA students, with parents who raised and showed animals passing their love of it onto their kids. But those legacies have to start somewhere.

Macee Stowers, a 16-year-old junior at Frontier High School, is the first in her family to join 4-H and FFA. Because of that, her early years in the program were full of even more learning curves than usual for a young animal raiser. Though she wasn't

necessarily a natural when she showed her first animal (a rabbit) at 5 years old, through hard work, determination and dedication she's become quite an all-star ag student.

“For me, it was a struggle at first,” Stowers said, recalling her first year. “I probably didn’t place, but I remember I loved every second of it.”

Stowers' primary passion in the world of farm animals is horses, though she will show a 5-month-old pig named Oscar, a 16-month-old steer named Bodacious and a 6-month-old duck named Swish in addition to her beloved

14-year-old horse, Charlie. In the weeks leading up to the fair, it's go time, but her work won't be over come Oct. 1. Following the Kern County Fair, she'll show at the fair in Ridgecrest, then head to a national competition for horse judging (where she and her teammates will be scored on how well they evaluate horses — she's No. 1 in the state already).

But that's still a couple of months and big events away. For now, Stowers' attention is on the fair. Since she can only sell one market animal at the fair, she plans to sell the steer here and the pig in Ridgecrest.

Following the fair, Charlie and Swish will both come back to Stowers' home, where she keeps and cares for her animals, which include two pet mini ponies.

“This is crunch time,” she said. “I know how much (the animals) have put in for me, so I should put in double for them.”

FINDING A PLACE AT THE KERN COUNTY FAIR

Stowers will be one of close to 1,500 young exhibitors at the Kern County Fair this year, and her animals will be four of around 3,200. There are 22 schools in Kern County that have students who participate in the agriculture program. Last year the Kern County Fair had the largest junior livestock auction in the state, which included the sale of both animals and agricultural mechanics entries.

“Our auction makes close to \$3 million a year in livestock,” said Mike Olcott, CEO and general manager of the fair. The ag program has “grown by leaps and bounds.”

Perhaps some of that increase has to do with now grown up former ag stu-

dents having kids of their own that they put in the program to get the same experience and memories they enjoyed.

“It just gets in your blood,” said Patt Sandrini, still exhibit supervisor. “It's just something you do.”

Whether they're showing animals or just checking them out, the youth agriculture program is a huge draw for people at the fair. In addition to the animals, the ag program also includes plants, floriculture, baking, preserves, homebrew and more, with those still exhibits supervised by Patt Sandrini.

“It's my goal and Patt's that if someone wants to join and participate, there's a space for them,” Olcott said. “We want them to be able to participate.”

Some of those exhibits need a little more space than others, like the cows, sheep, pigs and other animals in the livestock barns, where fairgoers will find FFA and 4-H kids like Stowers working hard until the very end.

FFA

Continued from PAGE 18

'IT'S HER WAY OF LIFE'

Though her father works for agricultural products distributor Wilbur-Ellis Corporate, the Stowers family didn't lead the farm family life that lots of FFA and 4-H kids grow up in. Still, they went all-in on their daughter's passion when they realized how serious she was about it, getting a house with land for her animals so she could care for them herself. Stowers said she's "forever grateful" for how much they've invested in her.

Stowers described her mom as "city, all the way" and said her two older sisters never had any interest in showing animals; her younger sister has some interest in following her, though.

With a schedule as demanding as Stowers', though, one could be forgiven for thinking twice. She tries to get up by 5:30 a.m. most mornings to get herself ready for school and her animals taken care of for the first part of the day. Then, she goes to school and stays after with various FFA duties. When she gets home, it's time for homework and caring for the animals, and then bed.

"I wouldn't trade it for the world," she said. "I love every second of it."

Mom Wendy Stowers couldn't help but brag on her daughter, pointing out how special it was for Macee Stowers to earn the top ranking in the state for horse judging as a sophomore at the time.

"When she was little, she never wanted Barbies; it was always horses," Wendy Stowers said. "She started this passion of hers and it always amazes me how she ran with it."

Wendy Stowers, a special education teacher, remembered her daughter's first horse, Deedee, who was older and cheaper than the horses other kids were showing at the time. Macee Stowers was in fourth grade then and didn't do as well as her peers who had more expensive horses.

"She didn't have a top dollar horse," her mother said. "That same horse that she hadn't won with, in a couple years, she was winning with."

Macee Stowers' parents



FELIX ADAMO / THE CALIFORNIAN

Frontier student Macee Stowers will be showing her animals (a horse, steer, pig and duck) at the Kern County Fair as part of the junior livestock program.

watched and supported her as FFA and horses took on a predominant role in her life.

"When I saw her studying and wanting to know everything and become better, her father and I said, OK, we'll make this initial investment for her," Wendy Stowers said of the decision to move to a house with room for animals. "It's not just her hobby. It's her way of life."

And it will continue to be her way of life even after high school. Macee Stowers wants to be a veterinarian, something she's known since she was 2 years old. She hopes to go to Cal Poly for college and later UC Davis for veterinary school. She envisions herself working with large animals, with a specialty

in horse reproduction, saying she'd love working with baby horses. Where will she set up her clinic? Right here in Bakersfield.

"I want to give back to the community that gave so much to me," she said.

A large part of that community has been FFA, of course. To Macee Stowers, it's more than a club at school.

"It's not just Future Farmers of America," Macee Stowers said. "We're not all going to be farmers ... but we're all going to do crazy awesome things in our lives. It's not an organization. It's definitely a family."

Kelly Ardis can be reached at 661-395-7660. Follow her on Twitter at @TBCKellyArdis.



FELIX ADAMO / THE CALIFORNIAN

Frontier student Macee Stowers will have four animals in the Kern County Fair, including her steer, Bodacious.

Judging for youth agriculture events

Schedules are subject to change

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20

11:30 a.m. Alpaca Halter, Obstacle & Showmanship, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

2 p.m. Llama Halter, Performance & Showmanship, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

6 p.m. Fancy Fiber Costume Contest, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

7 p.m. Silk & Silver, Jimmy Rogers Arena

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22

7 p.m. Pork & Plaid, Swine Pavilion

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

7 p.m. Ladies & Lads, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

SUNDAY, SEPT. 24

4:45 p.m. Parade of Grand Champions, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

5 p.m. Grand Champion Market Springers, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

5:35 p.m. Grand Champion Market Beef & Open Heifer/Bred Heifer, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

6:20 p.m. Grand Champion Market Lambs and Grand Champion Breeding Sheep, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

7 p.m. Grand Champion Market

Pen of Rabbit, Grand Champion Rabbit, Grand Champion Market Fryer Rabbit, Grand Champion Market Pen of Poultry, Grand Champion Poultry and Grand Champion Market Pen Turkey, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

7:25 p.m. Grand Champion Pygmy Goat, Grand Champion Dairy Goat and Grand Champion Market Goat, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

8:05 p.m. Grand Champion Market Swine, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

MONDAY, SEPT. 25

6 p.m. Pee Wee Swine Showmanship, Swine Arena

6:30 p.m. Leather Lead, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

7 p.m. Adult Swine Showmanship, Swine Arena

7 p.m. Pee Wee Sheep Showmanship, Sheep Show Ring

7 p.m. Rabbit Awards, Goat Ring

7:30 p.m. Cotton & Cream, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26

5 p.m. Adult Beef Showmanship, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

6 p.m. Poultry Costume Contest, Poultry Barn

6:30 p.m. Goat Fitting Contest, Goat Ring

7 p.m. Rabbit & Cavy Costume Contest, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27

7 p.m. Poultry Awards, Swine Show Ring

Thursday, Sept. 28

10 a.m. Auction: Market Swine, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

6:30 p.m. Pee Wee Goat Showmanship & Adult Showmanship, Goat Show Ring

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29

10 a.m. Auction: Market Goat, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

1 p.m. Auction: Market Lamb, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

6 p.m. Barnyard Olympics, Swine Show Ring

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

10 a.m. Auction: Ag Mechanics, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

10:30 a.m. Auction: Rabbits & Cavies, Turkeys & Poultry, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

Noon Auction: Springer Heifers, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

2 p.m. Auction: Replacement Open & Bred Heifers, Livestock/Sales Pavilion

2:30 p.m. Auction: Market Beef, Livestock/Sales Pavilion



It's a mystery: Who's Buyer No. 9?

THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN

Who is Buyer No. 9? What happens to the livestock at the fair that doesn't get sold?

Luckily, kids in Kern County don't have to worry too much about that thanks to Buyer No. 9 — a mystery buyer whose identity is a closely guarded secret among fair officials.

The mystery buyer, which fair officials would only reveal is a foundation operated by an oil company, has been visiting the Kern fair since 2013 and buying up livestock left and right.

Here's how it works: Buyer No. 9 sets a bottom-dollar price and purchases everything that doesn't yield prices higher than its threshold. So if a pig looks like it's going to sell for \$7 per pound, Buyer No. 9 steps in at its threshold and pays \$8, said Chris Garmon, deputy manager of the Kern County Fair's livestock office.

"In the auction world, it's called flooring," Garmon



CASEY CHRISTIE / CALIFORNIAN FILE

These sheep all seem to have the same thing in mind in the fair's livestock area. Who's going to feed me?

said.

Then the buyer takes up all the meat and donates it to a local food bank — in Kern County's case, Com-

munity Action Partnership of Kern.

"It's vital to our food bank. Protein is one of those things that's tough to

get in the door at the food bank. We don't get a lot of donations in that area," CAPK Chief Executive Officer Jeremy Tobias said.

Buyer No. 9 donated 88,000 pounds of food last year and about 305,000

Please see **BUYER NO. 9** | 21

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BUYER NO. 9

Continued from PAGE 20

since purchasing at Kern County's fair began in 2013, Garmon said. The food from 2013 alone provided enough for 350,000 servings, said Pritika Ram, CAPK director of administration.

And all that protein helps create more nutritious meals, said Tobias, stressing that CAPK has been focusing more on creating balanced meals to take into account regional health issues.

"With the health concerns in Kern County, the high obesity levels and diabetes levels, we felt we needed to get away from just pushing calories to a more balanced approach," Tobias said. "One part of that has been this protein through Buyer No. 9. It's been a real godsend to us."

And it serves as a confidence booster to ag students who can be almost guaranteed a sale if Buyer No. 9 walks onto the auction floor. In most cases, after months of hard work raising animals, they're lucky to either break even



CASEY CHRISTIE / CALIFORNIAN FILE

Mira Monte High School agriculture students Michelle Mendoza, left, and Jazmine Ruiz load the swine pens with fresh bedding at the Kern County Fairgrounds livestock area in this file photo.

or make just a little bit of money. That changes with a deep-pocketed foundation.

"It definitely gives the kids a sense of pride that they've raised these ani-

mals for six or nine months and it's actually going to feed the homeless or needy," Garmon said. "It helps them understand that they're not just raising animals to feed the dollar."

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Three acts will take over the Coors Grandstand Arena. Steer-roping, bull-bucking fun stampedes into the fairgrounds with the return of **Flying U Rodeo Co.**

BY JASON KOTOWSKI
jkotowski@bakersfield.com

There are certain expectations when it comes to the Kern County Fair.

Corn dogs and apple dumplings will be freshly fried. The photo booths will be jammed. Children will scream with delight as they scramble from one nausea-inducing ride to the next.

And steers and bulls will be kicking up a dust storm as Cotton Rosser's Flying U Rodeo Co. out of Marysville once again takes over the Coors Grandstand Arena for multiple nights of animal acrobatics and cowboy derring do.

Flying U, a fair attraction since 1960, is bringing three acts to the arena. Rosser said he always enjoys coming back to Kern County, which he called "one of the most Western counties that I know of," and associates with Buck Owens, Okies and Merle Haggard.

These are the rodeos at this year's fair:



COURTESY OF FLYING U RODEO CO.

The Fiesta Del Charro Rodeo will feature rodeo events with a "Hispanic flare."

EXTREME RODEO

7:30 p.m. Sept. 22 and Sept. 23.

Ticket prices: All tickets \$5.

Billed as "not your grandfather's rodeo," riders will be risking life and limb as they attempt to hang on to bucking bulls and perform other stunts such as "bull poker," the ring of fire and the toro teeter-totter, which Rosser noted was featured in the film "Jackass Number Two."

"It's all the goofy stuff," he said.

PRCA RODEO

7:30 p.m. Sept. 29 and Sept. 30.

Ticket prices: Adult Box, \$15; Adult General, \$12; Adult Handicap, \$12; Children Box, \$10; Children General, \$9; Children Handicap, \$9.

The "fastest cowgirls" and "toughest cowboys" will show off their skills in professional rodeo's six standard events, including team roping and steer wrestling, plus the women's barrel race.



CASEY CHRISTIE / THE CALIFORNIAN

Flying U has been bringing rodeo action to the Kern County Fair since 1960.

FIESTA DEL CHARRO RODEO

6 p.m. Sept. 24 and Oct. 1.

Tickets prices: All tickets \$10.

Described as "classic

Mexican-style" rodeo competition, the Fiesta Del Charro Rodeo pairs "fast-paced rodeo action" with "authentic Hispanic flare." Mariachi bands will play as the show, announced in both Spanish and English,

delivers a variety of bronc riding and bullfighting.

For each rodeo, tickets will be sold at the Fairgrounds Ticket Office and online until noon the day of the show, where they will then be available at the

Grandstand Box Office at 4 p.m.

Call 833-4920 to charge by phone.

Children 5 and younger do not require a ticket if they are sitting on a parent's lap.



Bull poker from Flying U Rodeo Co.'s Extreme Rodeo.

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