

OKANOGAN COUNTY FAIR

TURN IT UP

Country music legend
headlines arena

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ROYALTY

Addey reflects on
reign as fair queen

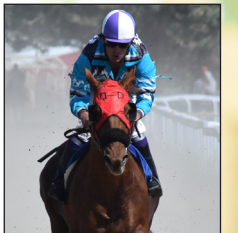
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IN THE SADDLE

ProWest rodeos,
horse racing set

Page 11



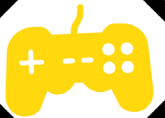
A supplement to The Okanogan County Chronicle
Sept. 7, 2022

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Welcome to the 75th annual Okanogan County Fair

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR again when we dust off our boots and compete against our neighbors in all sorts of animals, crafts, cooking and what-not contests at the Okanogan County Fair.

The Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to join us at our 75th annual fair, Sept. 8-11.

Like many, we look forward to the fair all year long and can't wait for the weekend after Labor Day to roll around so we can see all of the exhibitors show and compete in their events, take in some rodeo action, stroll the vendors in the Agriplex, catch a show on the stage, indulge in the food court and visit with our friends and family who come to our fair.

New this year, we are proud to present Eddie Montgomery of Montgomery Gentry live in concert. Montgomery, a member of the Grand Ole Opry, will perform in the rodeo arena at 8 p.m. Thursday night. Fair admission includes a concert ticket.

Other weekend entertainers include The Rising, featuring KHQ-6 news anchor Sean Owsley; SmallTown Strings; and a

variety of local favorites.

There's also horse racing, pony relay races, two nights of Pro-West Rodeo action and much more.

A variety of new and returning food and craft vendors will be present throughout the weekend too, offering everything from hamburgers to handbags.

Come Saturday afternoon, consider supporting our local 4-H and FFA members by purchasing an animal at the marketstock sale.

We extend our thanks to Queen Addey Christmann, longtime supporters, participants, volunteers, barn and department superintendents, county commissioners, and everyone who helps make the fair happen. We feel it is very important to enrich the lives of our youth with these wonderful activities and help them make choices for the future.

We're certain this year's fair will be outstanding, so please consider helping us celebrate "75 Years of Homegrown Tradition."

—THIS PIECE WAS SUBMITTED BY OKANOGAN COUNTY FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, Sept. 8

9 a.m. Market beef classes
Horse halter classes
Swine market classes

9:30 a.m. Goat judging

10 a.m. Goat fitting and showing
FFA produce judging

11 a.m. Sheep market classes, sheep breed classes
Sheep Farm Bred and Farm Owned
Beef breed classes
Okanogan County PUD demonstration
FFA tractor driving contest
Magician Jeff Evans (Rotary Stage)

1 p.m. SmallTown Stings (Rotary Stage)
Okanogan County PUD demonstration
Bottle baby market class

1:30 p.m. Kids Games

2 p.m. Magician Jeff Evans

3 p.m. SmallTown Stings (Rotary Stage)

4 p.m. Sheet fitting and showing demonstration

4:45 p.m. Liberty Linklater (Rotary Stage)

5 p.m. Sheep little people fitting and showing

6 p.m. Queen pageant (Rotary Stage)

6:30 p.m. Cat fashion show

8 p.m. Eddie Montgomery of Montgomery
Gentry concert (Rodeo arena)

Friday, Sept. 9

9 a.m. Beef fitting and showing
Rabbit fitting and showing
Horse trail classes
Swine fitting and showing

11 a.m. Sheep fitting and showing

Noon Karen & Gil (Rotary Stage)

1 p.m. Rabbit judging

1:30 p.m. Bottle baby fitting and showing

2 p.m. Nashville Country Stars (Rotary Stage)

2:30 p.m. Sash making (near sheep barn)

3 p.m. Raveling Toad Show (Rotary Stage)

4 p.m. Karen & Gil (Rotary Stage)

4:30 p.m. Sheep dynamic duos

5 p.m. Rabbit auction photos
Sheep adult fitting and showing

6 p.m. Rabbits with Machine Guns (Rotary Stage)
Road Dawgs (Rotary Stage)
FFA apple bin races

7 p.m. ProWest Rodeo (Rodeo arena)

8 p.m. Company Band (Rotary Stage)

Saturday, Sept. 10

9 a.m. Horse games

10 a.m. Swine livestock judging

11 a.m. Small animal round robin
Large animal round robin

Noon Hypnotist Gavin Hooper (Rotary Stage)
Okanogan County PUD demonstration

12:30 p.m. Horse races start

1 p.m. What4 (Rotary Stage)

1:30 p.m. Bottle baby costume contest

2 p.m. Goat best dressed contest
Youth cornhole tournament (midway)
Nashville Country Stars (Rotary Stage)
Pony relay races

3 p.m. Livestock market sale

4:30 p.m. Rabbit agility course
The Night Riders (Rotary Stage)

6 p.m. Hypnotist Gavin Hooper (Rotary Stage)
Cornhole tournament (Beer garden)
ProWest Rodeo (Rodeo arena)
The Rising (Rotary Stage)

7 p.m. American Honey (Rotary Stage)

Sunday, Sept. 11

8 a.m. Rabbit barn awards
Cowboy church w/Al Parsons (Rotary Stage)
Goat barn awards

9 a.m. Parade of champions (south lawn)

9:30 a.m. Bottle baby awards (after parade)
Team fitting and showing (after parade)

10 a.m. Liberty Linklater (Rotary Stage)

11 a.m. Horse races
Kids arena games
Pony relay races
Rabbits with Machine Guns (Rotary Stage)
Fur and Feather auction
Queen coronation (Rotary Stage)

Okanogan County Fair preview: © 2022 Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle LLC • Owned and operated by Thomas and Ann Mullen. Teresa Myers, publisher and advertising manager Joseph Claypoole, section editor Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle LLC • P.O. Box 553, Omak, WA 98841; 509-826-1110 • 800-572-3446 • www.omakchronicle.com • The Chronicle staff strives to be accurate, however, all information in this publication is subject to change without notice.

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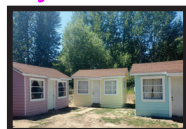
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Fair showcases best of Okanogan County

OKANOGAN — The best of Okanogan County livestock, produce, crafts and homemaking items will be displayed this week during the 75th annual county fair.

The fair opens at 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 8, at the fairgrounds, 175 Rodeo Trail. Admission will be charged, with daily and four-day passes available. Children 5 and younger will be admitted free.

The Agriplex and grounds between barns will be chock-full of commercial exhibits. A variety of food vendors will set up on the grassy midway area between the Agriplex and Arts and Crafts building.

Special entertainers throughout the weekend include Grammy-nominated country music recording artist Eddie Montgomery of Montgomery Gentry, The Rising (featuring KHQ-6 newsman Sean Owsley), SmallTown Strings, hypnotist Gavin Hooper and magician Jeff Evans. The Company Band will perform Friday at 8 p.m. for dancing and American Honey will perform at 9 p.m. for Saturday's dance.

ProWest rodeo performances are set for 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the rodeo arena, and horse racing is planned at 1 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday at the grandstands.

Queen Addey Christmann will reign over the fair.

Josie Fletcher and Callie Christoph are seeking the 2023 queen's crown. A pageant is planned at 6 p.m. Thursday on the stage and coronation will be at 2 p.m. Sunday in the same location.

Thursday brings a full range of livestock classes for rabbits, swine, cattle and sheep. Cat classes, youth horsemanship, tractor driving, entertainment on the midway stage, Montgomery concert in the rodeo arena and Okanogan County Public Utility District demonstrations also are planned.

Friday highlights include poultry, beef, sheep, cat and rabbit events, plus the queen's luncheon at 4 p.m.

Saturday brings more livestock events, demonstrations and the 3 p.m. market stock sale in Berg Brothers Pavilion.

Fair activities wrap up Sunday with an 8 a.m. worship service on the stage and rabbit barn awards at the same time in the rabbit barn, 9 a.m. parade of champions at the south end of the grounds, a horse playday in the rodeo arena, and fur and feather auction in the Berg Brothers Pavilion.

The fair closes at 3 p.m. Exhibits can be picked up then.

Montgomery to headline county fair concert

OKANOGAN — Country music recording artist Eddie Montgomery of Montgomery Gentry will headline the Okanogan County Fair.

The concert, which will be held Thursday, Sept. 8 as part of the county fair, will be the first in more than 30 years at the fair, according to Brock Hires, entertainment director and Fair Advisory Committee member.

"We are beyond excited to finally bring back a headline concert," Hires said.

Okanogan County Commissioner Chris Branch echoed Hires.

"We are excited to be able to support an event of this magnitude for the 75th anniversary of the Okanogan County Fair," Branch said. "I look forward to a huge turnout for this special celebration of Okanogan country tradition."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Eddie Montgomery of Montgomery Gentry will headline the Okanogan County Fair Sept. 8.

Average Joes Entertainment's Eddie Montgomery of Montgomery Gentry recently released "Outskirts," a seven-song EP.

With 20-plus charted singles, the Kentucky native has earned

Country Music Association (CMA), Academy of Country Music (ACM), and GRAMMY awards and nominations with blue-collar anthems like "HellYeah," "My Town," and "Hillbilly Shoes."

They've notched five No. 1 singles, "If You Ever Stop Loving Me," "Something To Be Proud Of," "Lucky Man," "Back When I Knew It All" and "Roll With Me." They were inducted as Grand Ole Opry members in 2009 and were inducted into the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame in 2015.

The show begins at 8 p.m. in the fairgrounds' rodeo arena, and is free with fair admission.

Hires said there will be standing room on the track and grandstand seating. Doors to the show will open at 7 p.m.

Fair tickets can be purchased online at okanogancounty.smashpass.com.

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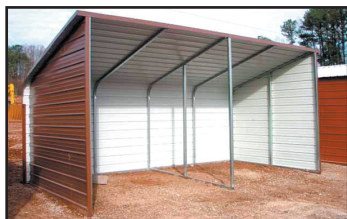


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Dozens of vendors to offer food, items at fair

Food, drinks, clothes, civic groups, and more to show

OKANOGAN — More than 60 vendors will be on-site at the Okanogan County Fair this week-end offering everything from hamburgers to clothing.

Among this year's food court, vendors include ALI'I Hawaiian Shave Ice, Country Buns, Donut Man, Eastlake Produce and Catering, Marsalees Thai Foods LLC, New Life Christian, Omak Fire Department, Sparky's Coffeehouse, Smokehagen, The great Cleaning Adventure Inc., Riley's Treat Trike, La Nortenita, The 509 Just Good Food, The Simply Sweet Shop, Old School Eats, Seth's Donut Shop, Okanogan County Cattlewomen, Grandma Yummies, Grandma's Indian Tacos and Kelly's Cotton Candy.

There's plenty of other vendors, too. Commercial and craft vendors will be in the Agriplex building, along with the grassy areas to the north and south of the Rotary Stage, fair organizers said.

Commercial and infomercial vendors include Kathy and Company, Budrow for Sheriff, Cascade

Mechanical, Child Evangelism Fellowship Story Barn, Colville Tribal Police, Enhabit Home and Health Hospice, Committee to Re-Elect Tony Hawley, Color Street, LulaRoe by Jamie, Stand Ready and Friends of the Range, Resolution Center, OVCBCHC, Okanogan County Farm Bureau, Okanogan County Long-Term Recovery Group-Carlton Group, Okanogan Behavioral Health-Care, Okanogan Conservation District, Okanogan County Child Development Association, Okanogan County Democrats, Okanogan County Sheriff, Okanogan County Solid Waste, Omak Performing Arts Center, Okanogan County PUD, Okanogan County Republican Party, Pape Machinery, Roof Max, Cutter Rains LLC, Smoke Jumper Association, Smokin Pistol, Sweet Lemon, USDA Forest Service, Valley Tractor, Department of Revenue, Wenatchee Valley College, Washington State Department of Transportation, Children's Dance Theater, Tonasket Interiors, Mechanical Bull, The Gideons, Okanogan Shrine Club, Community Action Council, Omak Fire Department and Yellow Porch & Saddles and Lace.



BROCK HIRES | *The Chronicle*
Vendors of all shapes and sizes show up to the fair, like this boutique pop-up called "Sweet Lemon."

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Fairgrounds sees many changes through the years

OKANOGAN — Although the Okanogan County Fair will celebrate its 75th anniversary this year, its roots and traditions date back 117 years.

In 1905, the first known “county fair” was held in Riverside with an estimated attendance of 1,500. In 1913, the Grange organized a fair in Okanogan, which saw 2,500 spectators.

By 1916, Methow Valley resident Frank McLean was pushing for an annual county fair, advocating for larger countywide displays, agricultural features and benefits for industries in the county. However, it wasn’t until 35 years later that his vision for a centrally located annual fair became a reality.

A fair was held in Oroville in 1946 and saw continued growth. The following year, the fair moved to the Methow Valley. At the same time, the City of Okanogan held its first Okanogan County Junior Fair at the Okanogan Livestock Sale Yard. According to historical accounts, there were more than 80 livestock exhibits, with the top steer selling for 49 cents per pound.

In 1948, the City of Okanogan was planning to give the fair association an island on the south end of town, but the island flooded. The fair association, with help from the Boots and Saddles Club, purchased the property where the fair is presently located in 1950.

Grandstands and main exhibit buildings were constructed in 1951, and the name was officially changed to “Okanogan County Fair.”

The 1960s brought several new buildings and features to the fairgrounds.

The Grange kitchen was built in 1960 and was the largest permanent food facility on the grounds at that time. It was located where the annex is presently. In 1961 the Commercial Building was added. It was condemned following the 2021 fair.

In 1962, strong wind struck and demolished the outside of exhibit booths, and in 1963 the fair was almost canceled after a fire struck 10 days before opening day. Eight barns were destroyed in the blaze. “Okanogan and Omak firemen



THE CHRONICLE

A firefighter examines the damage to a livestock building destroyed by fire in 1963. A total of six buildings were lost in the blaze.

had barely won an intense struggle to keep the flames from devouring the entire fairgrounds when county fair officials decided on the spot the exposition would be held anyway,” said an article in The Omak Chronicle published Aug. 29, 1963. “Volunteers moved in promptly to help clear away the blackened debris. After looking into prospects of renting tents, fair officials by Tuesday had decided tents would not be needed.”

In 1965, four Quonset huts and hog, sheep and steer barns were built. The arts and crafts building followed in 1966.

By 1968, an administration building was added (now Jones Hall), and a new horse barn was built on the north end of the grounds in 1981.

During the 1980s and 1990s, the fairgrounds saw the construction of the Agriplex and facelifts to several of the buildings.

In the late ‘80s, fairgrounds administration sought to increase usage of the grounds throughout the year. The fairgrounds flooded in 1989, and FEMA funds were used to start a major facelift for the entire grounds. Construction on the 120-foot-by-200-foot Agriplex



THE CHRONICLE

New Quonset huts are constructed in 1965.

began in 1989, with the goal of the facility eventually being used as a multi-use stadium. The second phase of the project (concrete floor, heat and Annex) were completed in the mid-1990s.

In 1990, new metal siding was added to the 4-H, Grange, and Horticulture buildings, and matching paint was added to the remaining 37 buildings on the fairgrounds. Renovated restrooms

and show facilities were done the following year.

High winds blew the announcer booth off the top of the grandstands in 1992, so a new stand was built in a different location. The year 1992 also saw ground expansion, and the parking lot layout was revised.

In the following years, the

See **HISTORY**, page 7

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Fair brings entertainment of quality, variety, fame

‘Showcasing the talent of our local youth.’

OKANOGAN — A full line up of entertainment, from a country music legend to a hypnotist and magician, is planned at this year’s Okanogan County Fair.

Most entertainment will take place on the Okanogan-Omak Rotary stage at the north end of the grassy midway-food court area.

Stage entertainment gets underway at noon each day and features a variety of local and out-of-town acts.

Local arts this year include Liberty Linklater, Rabbits with Machine Guns, Washington State Nashville Country Stars, Karen & Gil, What4, Raveling Toad Show, Road Dawgs, Night Riders and The Company Band.

Thursday’s schedule will feature two performances by the Curlew-based group, SmallTown Strings.

Fronted by the niece and nephew of Grammy Award-winning artist Brandi Carlile, 15-year-old Caroline Carlile and brother Jay, 12, bring a unique blend of bluegrass and Americana music.

“They’re an outstanding group of young musicians,” said Brock Hires, Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee member and entertainment chair. “And that’s really what the fair’s about; showcasing the talent of our local youth.”

Thursday night also brings the Eddie Montgomery of Montgomery Gentry concert to the rodeo arena. Grandstand seating is available and standing-room-only will be on the racetrack, according to Hires. (See related story on Page 4.)

Hires said a highlight on Friday and Sunday is the Omak-based group Rabbits with Machine Guns.

“They are a high-energy group of teens that know how to entertain,” Hires said, noting they have performed at several local civic functions. “They cover everything

from Nirvana to Johnny Cash. You won’t be disappointed with their performances.”

Saturday highlights include hypnotist Gavin Hooper and the Spokane band “The Rising.”

The three-piece band brings a variety of classic rock and popular songs and is fronted by KHQ-6 news anchor Sean Owsley.

“Sean has family in the Tonasket area and a lot of people have grown to love his music from the days of the Wauconda Sock Hop,” said Hires. “We’re really excited to have him perform this year.”

Saturday night’s entertainment will culminate with a dance with music by American Honey at 9 p.m.

“They’ve performed a lot

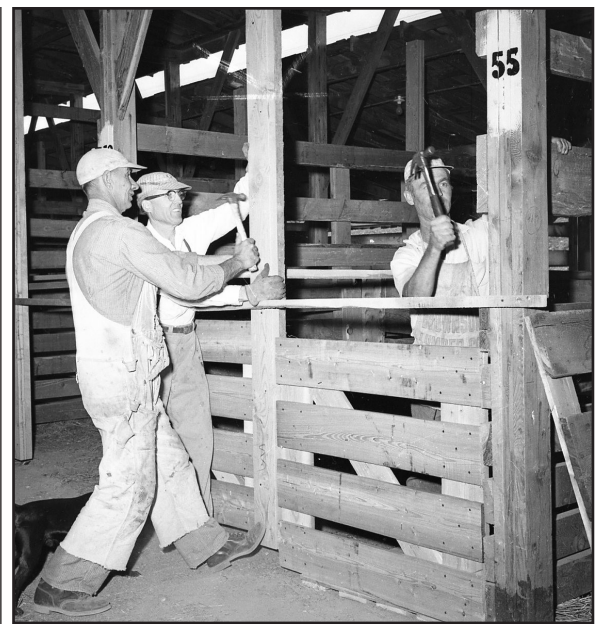
throughout the Pacific Northwest,” Hires said. “They’ve even performed the Watershed country music festival at the Gorge.”

Sunday brings a cowboy church service, led by Oroville-resident Al Parsons, which will take place at 8 a.m. followed by the parade of champions at 9 a.m.

This year’s parade will be at the south end of the grounds near the goat and sheep barns.

The 2023 queen pageant will be at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8, with the crowning ceremony set for 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11. Both events will take place on the Rotary stage.

(Editor’s note: A complete schedule of events can be found on Page 3.)



THE CHRONICLE Volunteers work on a barn at the Okanogan County Fairgrounds in 1961.

HISTORY

from page 6

grounds saw general maintenance and thrived as a county-based celebration.

Through the 2010s, a permanent stage was demolished for safety concerns and new bathrooms were added north of the poultry barn.

In 2015 the fair was delayed by two weeks because of the Okanogan Complex wildfire.

“The recommendation to move the fair date came after a nearly two-hour-long special Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee meeting Thursday night,” said

a Chronicle article from Sept. 6, 2015. “County commissioners agreed late last month to allow a Type 1 (highest) incident management team to use the fairgrounds as a fire camp, for up to 4,500 fire personnel, for 14 days.”

In 2019, a new 150-foot-by-300-foot rodeo arena was installed along with new race rails. A new announcer stand also was constructed.

This year, the grandstands were condemned and replaced with new aluminum seating, just in time for the 75th anniversary.

— *This story was written by Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee Member Brock Hires.*

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A queen's reign: Addey Christmann

OKANOGAN — An important, and relatively large, part of the fair doesn't actually revolve around the rodeo or bulls, the concert or vendors. Rather, it centers around the tradition of having a fair queen, the representation she provides the fair around the state, and the improvements and benefits she can bring to the fair itself.



Christmann

Addey Christmann, 18, was the Okanogan County Fair Queen for 2021-2022, and has been working on both the fair and herself over the last 12 months.

In an overview of the competition for queen last year, Christmann described a passion she had for welding, and after finishing her certification, was planning on attending the Perry Technical Institute in Yakima to continue her studies.

And, with the dedication and patience that many a queen before her has had, Christmann is now in Yakima doing exactly what she had planned.

"It's been really busy,"

Christmann said. "I've been going back and forth between Yakima and Okanogan for events since I've been in school."

But even with the distance — which she says has been her biggest challenge this past year — she's still been proudly representing the fair and what it stands for.

"Most recently I've been to the Omak Stampede," Christmann says. "I attended the Thursday and Friday rodeos and made it out for the parade that same Saturday!"

Her favorite event though, was working with elementary school students on a coloring contest they were participating in.

"That was the best. It was fun to talk and work with the younger kids," Christmann said.

Some of her biggest supporters have been her parents, Wanda Christmann and Christopher McCuen, who with the aid of another supporter and family friend, Jackie Richter, made a major fundraiser event for her improvement project possible.

"Jackie helped me get a lot of donations," says Christmann. "My parents helped a lot too with some of the setup and busy work while I was at school."

More help came Christmann's way through Naomie Peasley, who she says helped her with a lot of the ins-and-outs of what could be accomplished and when events could be scheduled.

Christmann's improvement project was focused on upgrades to the Sheep Barn, led by a personal connection with having shown sheep/lamb at the fair for about five years. It also allowed her to both practice and show off some of the welding expertise she's been developing.

"We put in cement floors and then graveled the area around to prevent it from getting too muddy," Christmann said. "And then I built and installed sheep stands for the barn."

Her current school, Perry Technical Institute, allowed her to use some of their equipment to help build the sheep stands, which she welded herself.

"I'm really proud of my welding abilities now, especially in



SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Progress pictures from Addey Christmann's fair improvement project, centered around the sheep barn, where she has shown before.

the sheep stands," Christmann described. "I had some pieces cut for me, but I was proud of all the hand beveling I did to get the pieces to fit and look exactly the way they needed to be. It's part of what I'm studying now, so I'm proud."

Happy with her project, Christmann said she's also learned some things about herself.

"My confidence, especially in myself, had really grown. Having

that confidence to know that what I'm doing is right, that's huge," Christmann described.

And that growth started with seeing queens at the Omak Stampede, something that inspired Christmann to run for the title of Okanogan County Fair Queen herself.

Lastly, Christmann had this to say.

"I just want to invite everyone out to enjoy the fair, and I hope we have good weather!"

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Teammates compete for queen title

By **JOSEPH CLAYPOOLE**
The Chronicle

OKANOGAN — As tradition goes, especially with this year marking 75 years of the beloved, homegrown fair culture, candidates from around the county vie for the opportunity to be crowned Okanogan County Fair Queen.



Christoph



Fletcher

This year, two young women will be competing for the title, and both hail from Omak High School. Callie Christoph, 17, and Josie Fletcher, 16.

Christoph, a junior, enjoys helping and volunteering around the school throughout the year. She's on both the volleyball and golf teams, along with the school's Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter and student government.

Her favorite activities include playing sports, skiing, raising animals, and going out with friends and family.

This year, the Omak native will be participating in swine, horticulture, floriculture, and the home economics barns.

"I love attending the fair every year," Christoph said. "This year marks 13 years of participation.

"I would like to be considered to represent the Okanogan County Fair to be more involved with the community, and to learn and share information about our great county."

Christoph is the daughter of Nick and Wendy. She has a sister, Kinsey, and says she's lucky to have both sets of her grandparents, Mark and Rebecca Christoph, and Dave and Ann Talbot, close by.

Fletcher, a sophomore, is also well involved in both the fair and school. In fact, she and Christoph are teammates on the school volleyball team. She also plays tennis.

This marks her second year as part of Omak's FFA club, and this year she's taken on the

leadership role as the chapters vice president.

Since she was 8, Fletcher has been showing sheep at the fair, nearly half of her life.

"The fair has always been an important part of my life," Fletcher said.

She says she wants to this year's fair queen because she's been a part of the fair for as long as she can remember, it's part of who she is.

"I think I would make a good fair queen because I want to help improve the fair and be a role model for the younger

generations getting involved in fair," Fletcher said.

Addey Christmann, the 2021-2022 fair queen, had this piece of advice for the candidates.

"This of this as a job interview," Christmann said. "But of course, have fun with it."

Great Fair Deals!



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Many improvements, upgrades made this year

OKANOGAN — The Okanogan County Fair, which can trace its roots to 1905, didn't find a true home until around the 1950s. Since then, and throughout the fair's history, a great many people have aided in building upon and improving both the fair and its grounds.

At the head of many of the improvements at the fairgrounds in the past year, with the conjunction of the Fair Advisory Committee and county commissioners, has been Naomie Peasley, fairgrounds manager and event coordinator.

"A lot of things have been implemented at the fairgrounds by staff and volunteers," Peasley said. "It's been, and is, a very, very busy and exciting time at the fairgrounds."

A major update to the grounds in recent weeks has been the replacement of the grandstands which have been in place at the grounds about as long as the fair has been hosted at 175 Rodeo Trail in Okanogan.

The stands were condemned after supporting the bums of rodeo fans and spectators for decades on end. They have since been torn down and replaced with new, metal bleachers with capacity for upwards of 500 people.

Another change at the grounds, which mostly benefits horses and their competitors, was the renovation of the horse stalls. The adjustment cut the number of stalls by about half but increased the size and quality of the individual stalls, indirectly benefiting spectators with more comfortable, and presumably happier, animals.

Further improvements and updates are expected heading into and after fair weekend. Other improvements at the fairgrounds in recent months include:

- A new outer rail on the racetrack.
- Major repair and maintenance of the grounds water infrastructure
- Painting the Agriplex
- New stairs into west entrance of Agriplex
- New bathroom privacy fence
- Remodel of Home Ec building
- Remodel of Horticulture building
- New horse race starting gates
- New fence line on perimeter of



SUBMITTED PHOTOS
A before (above) and after (at left) photo of the stairs leading into the western entrance to the Agriplex.

Updated RV pedestals (top left) and a progress picture of the track perimeter fencing (top right). Updated bathroom privacy wall (below).



fairgrounds

- New grandstand retaining wall
- Solar lights
- Upgrades to pedestals in RV

area

- Fencing along roadway leading into the fairgrounds
- New signage for barns

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Enjoy your county fair!

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Horse racing promises tight, entertaining competition

OKANOGAN — A 75-year tradition continues its excellence at the Okanogan County Fairgrounds during this year's fair, Sept. 8-11 - horse races.

"It's a great tradition," said Dione Asmussen, a race volunteer. "We really want to get everyone out and watching the races."

Races this year will take place on the Saturday and Sunday of fair, at 1 p.m. and 11 a.m., respectively.

Five gate races are expected for both days of racing, with about four horses each race. Senior, women, and junior relays will also be held along with a chief and maiden's race. The final leg of the Triple Crown Pony Races will also take place at the fair.

The Triple Crown pony racers first competed during Stampede weekend in Omak and completed their second of three legs at the Ferry County Fair last weekend. The final stint of the competition will take place at the Okanogan County Fair.

Asmussen said that, as of two weeks before the fair, about seven teams have been confirmed for the senior relay. Up to 15 teams can compete in the senior relays and up to 10 teams can compete in the other relay events.

Prizes this year for relays alone total up to around \$30,000 and the gate races to around \$14,000. A majority of the purse and prize money was donated by the Colville



BROCK HIRES | *The Chronicle*
Two racers at the 2021 horse races during the fair weekend.

Tribes as the main sponsor of the Indian Relay Races with a variety of sponsors from across Okanogan County rounding out the purse, according to Asmussen and the Fair Advisory Committee's Horse Racing chair, Carol Sivak.

Teams for the races will be coming from as far as Montana, along with multiple teams from around the county.

The senior and women's relay have an entry fee of \$200. The junior relay has an entry fee of \$150 while the chief and maiden

races have fees of \$100.

Entries closed on Sept. 5, while the draw will take place this Friday, Sept. 9, along with the rules meeting for competitors.

On Saturday, barrel racing and roping are expected to be going on during the races with a series of kid's games, like boot and egg races, in between Sunday's races for non-stop entertainment, Sivak said.

"Come watch the races," said Sivak. "We're really excited for all the races and the relays are going to be exceptional."

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Rodeos set for Friday, Saturday

OKANOGAN — The Okanogan County Fair will be home to a pair of Professional Western Rodeo Association (ProWest) rodeos Sept. 9 and 10 in conjunction with the 75th Okanogan County Fair.

Rodeos start at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the fairgrounds, 175 Rodeo Trail. No dogs will be allowed on arena grounds.

"It's the last (ProWest sanctioned) rodeo of the year before the finals," said Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee member Charlayne Knapp. "We should

get some good contestants."

Following the county fair rodeo, contestants, if qualifying, will compete in the PWRA finals in Milton-Freewater, Oregon on Oct. 7 and 8.

Events include bareback riding, tie-down roping, breakaway roping, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing and bull riding.

Gold Buckle Rodeo Co. is the stock contractor. Al Parsons returns as the announcer.

Fair admission covers entry to watch the rodeo.

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Have fun at the fair!

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