

131st Sandwich Fair • September 5-9, 2018

Sandwich Fair Times



OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE SANDWICH FAIR

Official Fair Map with Exhibitors and Attractions

Complete Schedule of Events and Activities

Volume 42 Number 1 • Nelson Publishing, Inc.



If it's canvas,
it's at
Cortland
See pages 15
and 22
for more
info

Weaver retires after 50 years



by Mark Harrington

Many have never see him. But they have heard him, loud and clear.

"On the backstretch, your leader is Bo Ru Delco Bob!"

Perched high inside the race track tower, O.L. Buck Weaver described the harness horse race unfolding beneath him. "At the quarter-mile post, it's Fox Valley Dakota and Broadway Expresso one-two!"

When asked to estimate how many races he has announced to loyal grandstand fans, his modest reply is "a couple thousand."

He repeats his favorite expressions: "At the start, here they come...On the move, lookin for room...We've got a horse race (coming down the homestretch)"

Now at age 90 and after more than 50 years at the microphone see **WEAVER** page 17



Larry Dannewitz,
President, Sandwich
Fair Association Board

Message from the president

Mark the Wednesday after Labor Day on your calendar. Anticipate the opening day of the 131st Sandwich Fair. As the virtual doors open, guests will be greeted by the sights, sounds and smells that draw you in every year. You can stroll the manicured grounds or race towards your favorite tradition.

Is it rides and entertainment for the kids? Will you head toward the exhibits? Do you want to gather around the demonstrations and appreciate the displays? Or, will you stroll down the aisles choosing which food you cannot live without? There are booths, see **PRESIDENT** page 8

Round Office for lost, found

by Mark Harrington

Lost child.

Lost wallet or purse.

Lost cell phone.

The little red Round Office in the center of the Sandwich Fairgrounds is the place to go to soothe the panic beast.

Take the case of six-year-old Caitlyn who lost her parents last year. Three strangers kindly

brought the sobbing little tyke to the Round Office. So distraught and as often happens in the midst of fear, she didn't know her last name, her hometown, her parents names.

Round Office manager Beth Swanson said kids will reply mommy or daddy for a substitute for a parent's name. But her



see **ROUND OFFICE** page 9



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Sandwich Fair Schedule of Events

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 – CHILDREN FREE DAY –

Kids 12 years old or less - free gate admission. \$25 Ride Wristbands 3 p.m. to closing

All Day Open and Junior Show Judging
9:00 a.m. ... Opening/Flag Raising Ceremony featuring Sandwich High School – Round Office
9:00 a.m. Western Horse Show, Livestock area, all day
11:00 a.m. Harness Racing, Racetrack
Noon Max Armstrong ALS[^]
1:00 p.m. Culinary Competition, with Sherri Farley playing the hammered dulcimer, HABS*
3:00 p.m. Rides open, \$25 wristband (on-site) from 3 p.m. to close
3:00 p.m. Culinary Competition, with Sherri Farley playing the hammered dulcimer, HABS*
4:15 p.m. Junior Culinary Competition, with Sherri Farley playing the hammered dulcimer, HABS*
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Jake Mack and the Staggs, HABS*
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Phoenixx, ALS[^]
7:00 p.m. Carrollton, main stage

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 – SENIOR CITIZEN BARGAIN DAY –

Senior Citizens \$6 gate admission until 5 p.m.

All Day Open Show Livestock Judging
11:00 a.m. Culinary Competition, HABS*
Noon Orion Samuelson, ALS[^]
1:00 p.m. Rides Open at 1 p.m., \$25 Wristbands (on-site) from 1 p.m. to Close
2:00 p.m. Culinary Competition, with Sherri Farley playing the hammered dulcimer, HABS*
4:00 p.m. Culinary Competition, with Sherri Farley playing the hammered dulcimer, HABS*
6:30 p.m. NTPA Sanctioned Truck Pulls, Pulling Track
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Barbara and the Boys, HABS*
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Rockin' Moxie, ALS[^]

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 – BARGAIN DAY

Everyone admitted for \$6 until 5 p.m.. Ride wristbands, noon to 5 p.m....\$25

9:00 a.m. Draft Horse Show, Livestock Area Horse Arena
11:00 a.m. Culinary Competition, HABS*
Noon – 5:00 p.m. Rides Open at Noon – \$25 Wristband (on-site) from noon to 5 p.m.
Noon – 1:30 p.m. Live Noon Show, featuring Max Armstrong, Chris Schwemlein, Kevin Schramm, TD Ryan, and Cross Roads Band,
Broadcasting on WSPY FM 107.1, WSPY AM 1480, WLBK FM 98.9, WLBK AM 1360, WCSJ FM 103.1, WCSJ AM 1550, ALS[^]
2:00 p.m. Culinary Competition, with Sherri Farley playing the hammered dulcimer, HABS*
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Talk of the Town Band, ALS[^]
4:00 p.m. Culinary Competition, with Sherri Farley playing the hammered dulcimer, HABS*
5:00 p.m. Vintage Baseball, Track Infield
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Winds of Change, HABS*

7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Ray's Rockets, ALS[^]
8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Justin Moore, Main Stage

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

8:00 a.m. Junior Show Livestock Judging, all day
10:00 a.m. Rides Open, NO WRISTBAND, straight tickets all day
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Redhorse, HABS*
12:30 p.m. NTPA Sanctioned Tractor Pulls, Pulling Track
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Rock Barn Band, ALS[^]
2:00 p.m. Northern Illinois Outlaws–Showdown in DeKalb County, Livestock Area Horse Arena
4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The Classix, HABS*
6:30 p.m. NTPA Sanctioned Tractor Pulls, Pulling Track
7:00 p.m. Micro-Mini Tractor Pulls, Livestock Area
7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Ethan Bell Band, ALS[^]

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

8:30 a.m. Worship at the Fair, provided by area churches, HABS*
9:00 a.m. Junior Show Livestock Judging
10:00 a.m. – 5 p.m. Rides Open at 10 a.m., LAST BLAST \$20 Wristband (on-site)
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sandwich Auto Show, Racetrack Infield
Noon – 12:45 p.m. Cloggin Craze, HABS*
1:00 p.m. Draft Horse Pulls, Livestock Area Horse Arena
1:00 p.m. Demolition Derby, on the track
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Patchouli, ALS[^]
2:00 p.m. Sheep Lead Classes, Livestock Area
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Two Guitars and a Tuba, HABS*
3:00 p.m. \$6 Gate admission for everyone after 3 p.m.
3:30 p.m. Demolition Derby, on the track
HABS*=Home Arts Building Stage; ALS[^]=Ag Land Stage

EVERYDAY – All American Lumberjack Show, Buttons the Clown, Banjo Buddies Dixieland Trio, Dan Barth Entertainment, Carrie McQueen – Stilt Walking and Juggling, Mariachi America, Moo-Mania, Maggie the Milking Cow, Balster Magic Productions, Inc., Rob Thompson's Pure Magic, Chris Vallillo Original and Traditional Acoustic Roots Music, Rob Ot the Robot, Alf's World of Robotic Puppets, Shari Farley playing the Hammered Dulcimer, FFA Farm Zoo, Antique Farm Machinery, Arts and Craft Demonstration, Exhibits, Rides, Displays, Food Stands, Hospitality Pavilion, Music on the Home Arts Stage and Ag Land Stage

GENERAL ADMISSION PRICES

Adult \$9
Child 6-12 years old \$6
Child 5 years old or less Free

SEASON TICKET PRICES

Adult \$22
Child \$8

- ◆ Roofing Installation
- ◆ Siding Installation
- ◆ Door Installation
- ◆ Window Installation
- ◆ Gutter Guard Installation
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Matt Olson, newest Sandwich Fair Association Board Member

by Mark Harrington
This fair welcomes a new director, Matt Olson, to the Sandwich Fair Association Board of Directors, which is the guiding force behind the 131st fair.
Olson replaces Dick Delp and will finish that term. He had nothing but praise for Delp.
"He helped me a lot," Olson said. "If I needed anything he got it. He is going to be missed out there. He was there every day, mowing and doing mechanical stuff."

The Somonauk resident has been the Open Beef Show Superintendent for the last six years. Those duties include setting up stalls and announcing during the competition but he is quick to credit his workers. The Open Show is held Wednesday and Thursday while the Junior Show for youths aged 18 and under is Saturday.
Olson follows an extensive genealogical tree of Sandwich Fair involvement, starting with his dad Gene Olson, who worked over 50 years in the Round House. His uncle was Lewis

"Lou" Brady and his grandfather C.R. Brady, both long-time fair board secretaries.
Interestingly, Olson has never exhibited at the fair and does not live on a farm. His fair workload started when he asked about helping out that led to the next 22 years. Uncle Lou directed him to Don Stahl. Now he hopes to stay on the Sandwich Fair Association Board come election time at the annual December fair stockholders meeting.
"I'm very appreciative of the

board nominating me," Olson said. "I'm proud; it's an honor."
He did pass muster when asked about beef knowledge. A heifer is a female that has not had a calf. A heifer becomes a cow when she has her first calf. The bull or male becomes a steer when it is castrated. Cattle is another name for a group of heifers, cows, bulls or steers or a mixture of them.
No favorite cattle type for Olson: "I like them all. I'm greatly impressed by the quality and the big ones."

Visit Hospitality Tent to view second graders' artwork

by Jackie Dannewitz
Don't miss the second Grade Coloring Contest display in the Hospitality Tent. This annual contest is provided by the Sandwich Fair Education Committee, and is open to all Sandwich second grade

students attending LG Haskin, WW Woodbury and Prairie View elementary schools.
Coloring pages are distributed to second grade classes when school starts in August. Then all entries are judged and prominently

displayed in the Hospitality Tent during the fair.
Participation prizes are given, with special prizes awarded for first, second and third places, and ribbons for Honorable Mentions. This is a popular attraction full of color

and creativity that you won't want to miss!
As part of its goal to entertain and educate, the Fair delivers Fun Fair Facts activity books to all elementary school students in the Sandwich School District.



A moo-ving experience

by Jackie Dannewitz
Meet Daisy, our favorite cow at the 2018 Sandwich Fair. Pick up a copy of the FUN FAIR FACTS Activity Book and moo-ve around the fairgrounds with Daisy and her little feathered friend, Dot.
Look up, look down and all around as you stop and visit all five stamping locations: FFA Farm Zoo, Arts and Crafts Building, Craft Demonstration Building, Sandwich Fair History Museum, and Home Arts Building.
Explore Ag Land. What are the animals doing? Look for animals eating. Meet a cow face-to-face!

Then take a stroll around the rest of the fairgrounds and carefully observe the exhibits and attractions while you get your stamps.
When your book is complete, bring it to the Gazebo Information Center (in front of the Home Arts Building) for the final stamp and collect a prize!
If you want your own Daisy Cow BFF (Bovine Forever Friend), you will find her, other plush animals and other official Fair souvenirs at the Gazebo. Fun Fair Facts books are available at any of the stamping spots, the Hospitality Pavilion, and the Gazebo.
Have a grand adventure!



WSPY will be Broadcasting Live from the 131st Sandwich Fair with • Exhibitors Reports • Class Winners • What's Happening

SANDWICH FAIR 131st Annual Sandwich Fair – September 5-9, 2018

GATE ADMISSION PRICES

Parking is included with admission.

Wednesday is Children Free Day for kids 12 years old or less, with free gate admission Wednesday, and ride wristbands \$25 from 3 p.m. to closing.
Thursday is Senior Citizens Bargain Day with Senior Citizens admitted for \$6 until 5 p.m.. Ride wristbands are \$25 from noon to 5 p.m..
Friday is Bargain Day, everyone is admitted for \$6 until 5 p.m.. Ride wristband \$25 from noon to 5 p.m..
Sunday Bargain Day – Admission is \$6 after 3 p.m.. Ride wristband \$20, rides open at 10 a.m..
ALL TICKETS TO INFIELD / MAIN STAGE EVENTS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE SANDWICH FAIR WEB SITE (sandwichfair.com and click on "TICKETS") OR MONDAY, LABOR DAY, SEPTEMBER 3, AND TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, FROM 9 A.M. – 4 P.M. AT THE MAIN GATE TICKET OFFICE.

GENERAL ADMISSION

Adult \$9
Child 6-12 years old \$6
Child 5 years old or less Free

SEASON TICKETS

Adult \$22
Child \$8

INFIELD / MAIN STAGE ADMISSION PRICES

Wednesday, Sept. 5 • Harness Racing • FREE • 11 a.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 5 • Carrollton • FREE • 8 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 6 • NTPA Truck Pulls • 6:30 p.m.
Reserved \$20
Hot Seat \$20
Infield seat \$20 Child Infield Seat \$5

Friday, Sept. 7 • Justin Moore • 8:00 p.m.
Stage Pit Area \$35
General Admission \$25 (Festival Admission, standing)

Saturday, Sept. 8 • NTPA Tractor Pulls – Two Shows • 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Adult Hot Seats \$20
Reserved Seats \$20
Infield Seats \$20 Child Infield Seats \$5

Sunday, Sept. 9 • Demolition Derby – Two Shows • 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.
General Admission \$15 Child Seats \$5

The Sandwich Fair is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets. Artists subject to change. Children 12 years and younger must have a ticket for entertainment events. All sales are final. NO REFUNDS, RAIN CHECKS or EXCHANGES.

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Morphey—photography, arts, crafts

by Mark Harrington

Photographers consider the Sandwich Fair one of their destinations every year.

"If they take first to third here, they feel they can win anywhere," Becky Morphey said. "They say the Sandwich Fair is the one to enter compared to other county fairs."

Some years up to 3,200+ photos are displayed in the fine arts and crafts building, one of the highest fields among the nearly 25,000 entries from livestock to baby booties, making the Sandwich Fair one of the largest in the Midwest. Only 3,421 were farm animals last year.

From sunsets to cats and dogs to children, the photography competition starts at age eight.

"Some of the serious photographers enter in every category," said Morphey, who has been the superintendent of photography since 1986.

This is one competition though that has to stay current with technology slides/transparencies have dipped from at one-time 600+ entries to 30-50 entries with just five photographers still entering slides/transparencies. With these numbers this will be the last year for slides/transparencies. We will be exploring other techniques to replace the slides/ transparencies category.



Becky Morphey,
Superintendent,
Amateur Photography
and Arts and Ceramics

"Cell phone pictures took the place of slide/transparencies in the Junior division several years ago which has allowed more kids to easily compete," Morphey related. "We're always looking for new categories and are happy to take suggestions. People tell us what they'd like to see". Suggestions have spawned reptiles and amphibians to selfies to spider web categories. We try to keep up with yearly events. Last year's eclipse was a new category and in 2016 it was the Winning Chicago Cubs.

Monday, Labor Day of fair week, photographers start to bring their photos for display. Photos are accepted until 6 p.m. Tuesday. At 6 p.m. the doors close and the 30+ workers armed with staplers go to work hanging the photos in the correct categories. Each photo has to be stapled to the boards and because of high entries they often reach to the ceiling. If your photo is at the top, please know

see **MORPHEY** page 16

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*Prices shown are subject to change based on site conditions.

2018 Sandwich Fair Association Board



Front left to right: Nancy Rex, Secretary; Ken Tyrrell, Vice President; Larry Dannewitz, President; John Wagner, Treasurer. Back left to right: Matt Wilson, Harold Dannewitz, Gene Frieders, Ron Henrich, Bill Haag, James Webber. Not pictured: Dan Breunig, Scott Breunig, Dick Delp

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Larry Dannewitz	President	Vegetables	John Wagner	Other		
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Additional Directors					Class of Speed	Jerry Dudzik
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William Haag	Matthew Wilson	James Webber	Art	Pam Nelson	Hospitality Pavilion	Nancy Updike
Superintendents, Co-Superintendents & Assistants					Caretaker	James Webber
<i>General Livestock Superintendent – Kenneth Tyrrell</i>					Concessions and Displays	Ron Henrich, Larry Dannewitz, Matthew Wilson
Open Show					Crafts and Demonstrations	Barb French
Beef Cattle	Matt Olson	Foods	Pam, Penny, and Karen Monkemeyer	Electricians	Harold Dannewitz and Reed Johnson	
Dairy Cattle	Elaine Tuttle	Culinary Competition	Cindy Akre	Entertainment	Larry Dannewitz, Kim & Ron Henrich	
Draft Horses	Philip Nielsen	Junior Show				
Sheep	Brad Temple	Grains, Seeds and Forages	John Wagner	Ag Land Entertainment	Gary Skinner	
Dairy Goats	Kurt Mattson	Vegetables	John Wagner	Antique Farm Machinery	Roger Peterson	
Swine	Richard Delp	Herbs	John Wagner	Sandwich Auto Show	Tracy Rogers	
Rabbits	Mike Jackson	Fruit	John Wagner	Gazebo Information, Education	Karen Breunig, Jackie Dannewitz and Joan Hardekopf	
Poultry	Mike Crayton	Pumpkins	John Wagner	Parking and Police	Scott Breunig, William Haag	
Junior Show					People Movers	Kenneth Tyrrell
Beef Cattle	Sandi Frost	Plants and Flowers	Cathy Meyer	Sandwich Fair Historian	Joan Hardekopf	
Dairy Cattle	John Tyrrell	Clothing and Needlework	Pam, Penny and Karen Monkemeyer	Ticket Sales	Nancy Rex	
Sheep	Al Dietz	Foods	Pam, Penny and Karen Monkemeyer	Fair Data Manager	Chris Schank	
Dairy Goats	LaVerne Mattson	Arts and Ceramics	Becky Morphe	Livestock Data Manager	Kim Hoffman	
Swine	Eric Hatfield	Amateur Photography	Becky Morphe	Assistant Livestock Data Manager	Dianna Richards	
Rabbits	Carole Hartel	Crafts	Diane Stahl	Fair Manager	Brad Anderson	
Poultry	Mike Crayton	Collections	Anne Hilliard			
<i>General Display Building Superintendent – John Wagner</i>						
Open Show						
Grains, Seeds and Forages	John Wagner					

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2018 Sandwich Fair Times

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Vendors galore – Find it at the fair

by Mark Harrington

If you leave the Sandwich Fair empty handed... well, something went wrong.

Vendors are there for a reason, hawking products or at the minimum, getting you to later think, hey maybe even dream, about their product. If you go to the fair a second day, consider it sold.

Three big buildings and tented booths feature those hawkers and their entrapping lingo. Step right in. You need this! How can you live without it? They are the original infomercial before TV, a live QVC and Home Shopping Network right before your very eyes.

My first experience came as a youngster. My mom gladly bought us balloons from the little red wagon from Marseilles, still there today. What we didn't know, DID hurt us! Those balloons came attached to little willow-like sticks that later warmed our little bottoms in mom's 1960s-style attempt to reform us. Fifty years later, I can still hear that stick sing in the air, my anticipated lean forward, and the sting on our hands or heinie.

Need a rubber knobbed broom with the yellow pole. My wife and I have it. I will admit, those brooms are great at collecting yellow and black lab dogs hair off a hardwood floor. That broom even works when the white stuffing from the dog's toys is strewn all over. I bet it would work swell for those Lego pieces.

How about a silver telescoping flag pole? Now that was a good buy. Here's a family secret, whoever wins the Crosstown Baseball Classic each summer, gets their team's flag to brag under Old Glory. The last couple years, to my chagrin, has been the Cubs. After last season, the Blackhawks have dismayed and the Bears or Bulls, ugh! Neither flag flies over our home.

Husbands can be loving upon arriving home from the fair with two new bed pillows, the miracle one filled with something like soybeans. Let's just say, I am still searching for that heavenly lofty soft fall-asleep in two minutes and awake fresh pillow. I think that linked us to that Minneapolis "MY..." guy.

Got mice problems. Last year we bought a big blue bag of peppermint scented wooden granules complete with tiny bags to fill. We had a mice problem, little Mickey waving to my wife one morning under a kitchen skillet on the stove. I taught a teenager how to load spring traps with peanut butter, except his baited globs just invited six more over for

the buffet. However, my testimony is that no mice invaded our house. The problem is we couldn't find that blue bag until cleaning a closet 10 months later.

For years, I always stop by the antique clock repairman's booth. Every year, I grab his business card. Then 364 forgetful days vanish to the next fair. Still no chance at reviving one of our "dead" clocks. This is the year.. But hey, 12 antique clocks on walls and shelves looks like *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*, doesn't it?

Now one of the long time vendors has been the pans and pot seller. I remember long-time former coach Ernie Kivisto of East Aurora Tomcat Basketball fame hawking his wares. Hard to understand at times, but ever the effervescent, enthusiastic personality. Today, I can envision him still selling in heaven.

Some of our best photos came after my wife convinced me that our little girl and boy would look super attired in cowboy hats, one pink and one black one at the western wear store on the fairgrounds. Today, my favorite photo is them sitting in a convertible being sold in the automobile area. Oh by the way, we didn't buy the car.

We leave our dogs at home while at the fair. But we don't forget them. Those collars and leashes have been life, err, dog-savers. One door or backyard gate opening and they are gone lickety-split. Truth, the local fire and police department have saved my retirement, my marriage, and children relationships.

Strangers open their car doors, inside those four-legged lunkheads hop...Sadie and Grace on the gold collar badge and two phone numbers. "Why yes, they are our dogs. At the corner grocery store? Be right there!"

As for the leashes, the purchase was to allow us to walk the dogs, not the other way around. Except in three years, we haven't mastered the easy steps yet that the vendor keeps showing us on their huge stuff dog. This is the year to master the leash!

Whatever you do as a parent, watch what you tell the little tykes in the tent housing more than 100 breeds of rabbits, many for sale. My brain wasn't in sync when I told them "next year." Hey, how was I to know that the parking attendant would direct me to that entrance of the fairgrounds or that at below age eight, the kids would remember.

Being teachers and the fair just a few weeks after school has opened, the feet were begging and those green gel-like inserts were calling. I bragged

the next day at school in the teacher's lounge, and bought a few more pair for friends. We survived the next 180 school days.

We've never purchased a camper at the fair, just opening doors and going inside. One evening though, the kids and I venture into one, until we realized it was our old camper, identified by the teenage neighbors' BB gun ping dents on the siding.



You haven't experienced the fair totally unless you tell your wife of some bizarre way to make money at the fair. I am waiting for the sleep apnea concessionaire. Imagine their lingo: "Ladies, watch as this (chain saw) snoring husband uses this head-to-chin jockstrap, breathe-right nose tape, oval shaped vibrating sensor in the pillow, and an aquarium pump with tubes going in his mouth, nostrils, and ears. Sleep better tonight! Wait husbands, your wife snores?"

Two good purchases in all the years come to mind. We had our old kitchen cabinets easily re-worked and the honey from the Bee Man has been delicious. Have you spotted the queen bee, the largest one, in his display?

Waterfalls, crafts, disappearing brooks, used books, campaign materials, flowers, paintings, cement creatures, toilet seats, signs, garages, purses, candles, Ag products, T-shirts, socks, sunglasses, soft wool slippers, water softeners, gutters, and more can be found.

For all the Sandwich Fair has to offer, the best thing when it comes to vendors...we've haven't had to purchase a tombstone for me yet. Oh and for first-time fairgoers, two places do sell them.

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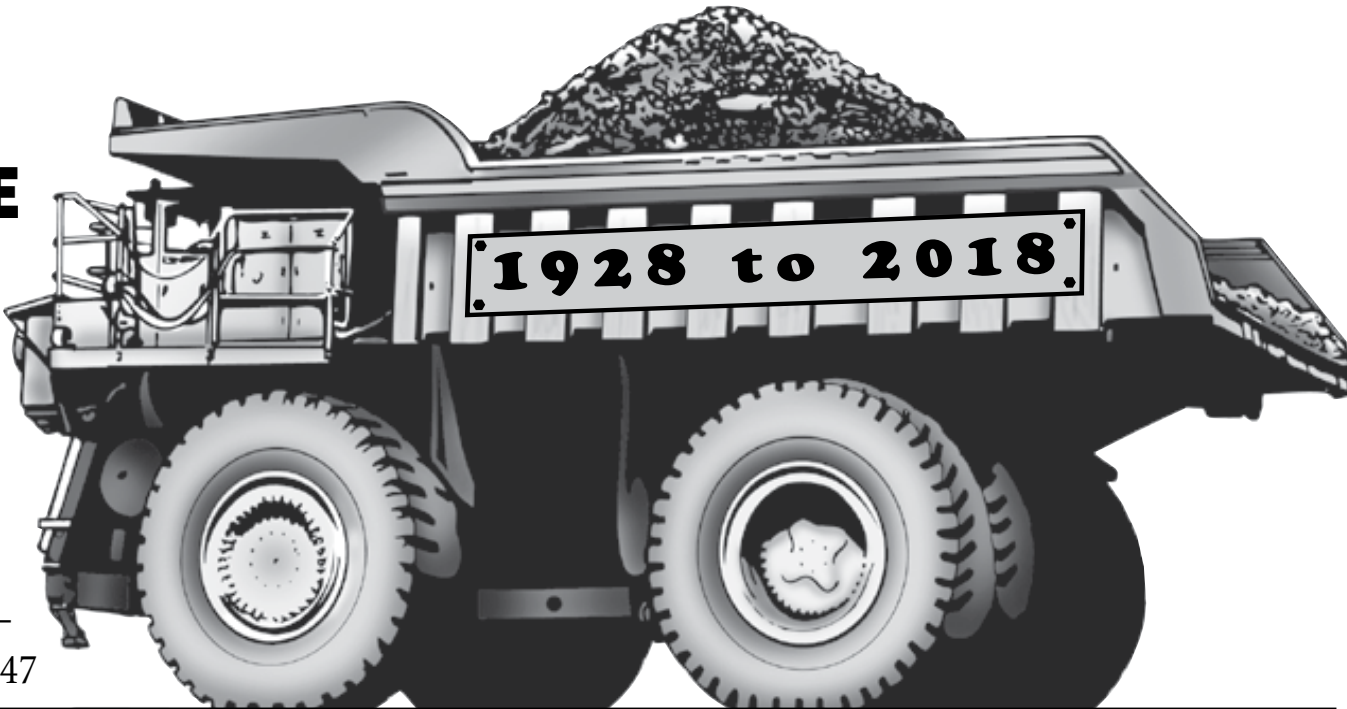
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Strolling acts, shows – a variety to please all

by Mark Harrington

Throughout the oak and hickory shaded fairgrounds, the strolling acts, well do just that, stroll and entertain along the way. No matter the weather or sore feet, these strollers will bring a smile or a laugh to kids to adults.

One of the coolest and wettest shows around will be the free lumberjack show, where the audience can cheer their favorite Minnesota north woodsmen, who throw axes at bull's-eye targets, compete in chain saw art, and saw through logs faster than you can say Paul Bunyan. During the show's off hours, there are lumberjack camps for the kids and a chance for all ages to try their skill at the famous logrolling. Find them at the eastern fairgrounds, near the second midway and giant slide.

Professional athletes compete with axes, modified racing chain saws and cross cut saws on land. There's chain saw carvings and giveaways. But the biggest is the competition the logrolling.

The best thing about strolling acts, you can follow them around the walkways of the fairgrounds, then continue with a new show at every stop.

Back again for another Sandwich fair week, are the following acts.

While he makes you laugh, smile, or just a wave, Buttons The Clown has been a funeral director from LaMoille, Illinois, down the road southwest of Sandwich. His cheery friendly voice lets you know he is around. One question: How does he fit in that miniature car?

At nine feet tall, Carrie McQueen can juggle, blow bubbles, dance, do balloon art and more, even walking a calf. All while balancing on aluminum stilts. Actually she is 5'4" tall but grows to 9'3" when aboard to the stilts where she becomes elegant with different costumes and graceful. At that height, she's safe with her comedy but will try juggling bowling pins.

If you see a crowd gathered on the streets of the fairgrounds, chances are it's Ed or Earl the smallest farmers in America. Ventriloquist Rob LeMaster brings not only these two cranky funny guys to life in the Moo-Mania Show, but bring life to Gertrude the Goose and Hershey the Cow as well. The impromptu shows are part agricultural comedy and magic.

"If I have a kid come up to me and say you're silly, that's happiness, a great compliment to my show," says LeMaster.

Here's part of their show highlighting Hershey, the cow.

LeMaster: Why is your head shaking?
Hershey: I'm making a milkshake.

Then Hershey might tell about his brother, the minister..."He's a holy cow."

Moo-mania is a quick-paced show with audience participation, what more, even the adults laugh.

Nationally-acclaimed singer-songwriter Chris Vallillo will take folk music lovers back to the people and places of rural America with his six-string and bottleneck slide guitars and harmonica. He was host for Rural Route 3, a award-winning syndicated radio show for several years. His "Abraham Lincoln in Song" album climbed to number 10 on Billboard's Bluegrass Album Charts.

If you see a talking tractor, it's only Johnny, of the Alfie's World of Robotic Puppets.

Not just your ordinary puppets, these are four-foot tall. With a hidden microphone and hearing device, these puppets can listen, thus able to carry on a conversation with children or adults. They can even ride self-propelled vehicles such as a tricycle or pedal tractor. The operator just blends in with the crowd.

So look for Officer Paddy, Harold the Horse, Clarence the Cow, Okee the Pink Pig or Olaf the farmer. That's just a sampling of 15 possible characters making the fair trip.

Always a fan favorite wherever they

stroll is Banjo Buddies isn't just about a New Orleans or deep South flavor. They play and sing the old-time favorites like "You Are My Sunshine."

Having released eight albums, the group performs from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. daily. They have been inducted into the Illinois Hall of Fame as Entertainers of the Year. Performing at the games of the Chicago Bulls and White Sox, and at Great America Six Flags, the trio is lead by Ann Stewart and her rich alto voice.

"A swinging style, each and every song is played as it was written today," said the review. In addition, they are considered to be a small group art the top of the jazz banjo world.

But not just jazz or dixieland, this band will remember the Roaring '20s, blues, novelty songs, big band tunes. Stewart plays jazz banjo but a trumpet and trombone blends the music.

The Dan Barth Traveling Medicine Show operates from an antique Prairie Schooner wagon, usually in the center of the steam train tracks. If you're looking for Tiger Fat Salve, Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic, or Doc Kilmer's Swamp Root elixir, then Barth only talks about it, not selling it. His show is a reproduction of an old form of entertainment for small towns.

His show has been recognized and recorded by The Smithsonian Museum and by PBS TV. Performances have been held with the White House, the Super Bowl, and the Olympics. He learned from some of the original performer to craft his show into an authentic piece. In fact, Barth worked with the grandson of Buffalo Bill Cody.

And if you have a dental problem, his sign on his wagon says it all ... painless tooth extractions for one dollar. But this is a variety show of yesteryear sprinkled with humor and storytelling.

This review was made: "lively and creates a pleasurable experience for all visitors" or "a quintessential entertainment professional".

Voted in the top 19 out of 692 magicians serving Chicago by the Expertise Web site, magician, illusionist, and comedian Tim Balster brings his show to amaze fairgoers. You might see birds appear or disappear, sleight of hand or small magic to saw a woman in half or floating an audience member in thin air.

"He sweeps audiences into a world of wonder," writes on audience member. Balster has appeared in more than 4,000 shows in 46 states.

Now if south of the border is your kind of music, the talented Mariachi America band in their charro attire will perform. The culture of the area has changed and the fair connects with all people.

Mariachi groups are expected to play requests, so they may need to know hundreds of different songs. There songs can range from machismo, love, betrayal, death, politics, revolutionary heroes and even animals and country life.

Called the funny magic guy, he strives to make everyone feel as though the show is just for them, according to those who have witnessed his unexplainable close-up sleight-of-hand magic. Rob Thompson and Pure Magic is ropes, rings, and cards tricks sprinkled with funny comedy. He may even make it snow in September with one trick.

In one show he says, "laugh cause the jokes are not getting any better."

A life-size human robot will mechanically step-after-step along the way... Rob Ot the Robot.


Dan's mind is always on the audience. His number one consideration is what will make them smile, laugh, ooh and ahh, all while carrying away a little history they may not have known about before. He may be in it to make a living, but he really wants his audience to have experienced something unique for their time and he genuinely appreciates their attention.

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See our Exhibit at Booth 315

Vendors come from near, far

by Mark Harrington

When you talk to Ron Henrich, part of the concessions, amusements, and vendors team of the Sandwich Fair, be ready for enthusiasm. Between he and his wife, the fair is in their blood, the love of the fair overlooks the number of hours required for a successful fair.

"We do not want to see any open spaces," he said, adding that right up to the first day of the fair, new vendors might be going into a vacant last-minute spot.

Henrich, who started hanging banners as a teen, said he has a waiting list of vendors and over abundance of same category vendors. In the past months, he has made phone calls and sent e-mail, sent contracts, and searched for payments. Deadlines and deadlines.

There is one secret ingredient (pun intended) when it comes to food stands. Henrich has to balance the number of stands selling the same menu. "You can only have so many turkey legs, corn dogs, and taco stands."

New vendors come and others depart, often leaving a void like the chocolate chip ice cream sandwich man from Princeton, Illinois a few years ago, or the handwriting analysis man with the flashing computer light board.

Then, there is Kings and Son, a third generation, selling tombstones with

their signature free yardsticks, now found in antique shops. Smoke curling at one end signals taste buds for Fay's Pork Chop Bar-B-Que.

More than 300 vendors dot the fairgrounds and inside four commercial buildings. Rental fees start at \$400 for five days and upwards. The number of local booths or people assisting other booths is increasing.

Valley Expo arrives August 31 to set up booth dividers in the commercial buildings while Berg Tents set up the week prior to the fair. Then comes the electrical hookups from fair man Harold Dannewitz and his crew.

"It all comes together in two weeks before the first fair day ... amazing," Henrich said. He credits his predecessors John Halloran and Donnie Bark for establishing an atmosphere of "how can we help (the vendor)"?

Possible new vendors this year include a pineapple whip non-cream cool treat, fire starters for the grill, jewelry and wallet engraving, flowers, and more. Inside the Sandwich Fair Museum or the Home Arts building, old photos show the newest farm machinery or technology in work chores those early days of the fair.

Interested parties looking to sell at the fair, should go to the Sandwich Fair Web site for the application form, processes, and regulations.

How well do you know the Fair?

- All new questions this year. Answers at the bottom. No peeking.
1. How many laps do the harness racing horses run around the race track?

- Two
 - One
 - Three
 - Four
2. What musical group entertained teens in the 50s and later in the back of a pickup truck as senior citizens?

- The Bruenig Brothers
 - Harold Dannewitz and the Amps
 - Bub and His Boys
 - Frieders and Titzels Polka Band
3. If you exhibit foreage, where would you go?

- Horticultural Building
 - Fine Arts Building
 - Home Arts Building
 - Livestock Building
4. True or False: You can preview and buy a tombstone at the fair.

True
5. Name one of the earliest carnival rides (steam powered) at the fair.

- Merry-go-around
 - Ferris Wheel
 - Tilt-a-Whirl
 - Scrambler
6. Back in the 1960s and '70s carnival, people tossed nickels or dimes to win:

- A Stuffed animal
 - Plates and bowls
 - Goldfish
 - Jewelry
7. Where would you find a dam, get-of-sire, junior, kid, doe or yearling?

- Dairy Goats
 - Sheep
 - Beef
 - Swine (pigs)
8. Where do the mice come from for the popular Mouse Game?

- Local pet store
 - Livestock barns at each fair
 - Carnival worker's house
 - Rescued from research labs
9. Where is the other Sandwich Fair?

- Iowa
 - Montana
 - New Hampshire
 - Texas
- 10 True or False: The Sandwich Fair is the oldest fair in Illinois.

True
11. Which one is a pig?

- Duroc
 - White Rock
 - Shropshire
 - Holstein
12. In question 13, list the breeds with their common name.

ANSWERS: Caught you peeking. 12. In order: Pig, Chicken, Sheep, Cow, 11. Duroc 10. False, but it is the oldest continuous fair. 9. C (held in October) 8. B, Z, B 6. B 5. A 4. True 3. A 2. C 1. A

Souvenirs – rich fair history

by Mark Harrington

They will be lined up early Wednesday morning of fair week, for many a tradition. Forget breakfast, these fair fans want special trinkets, sometimes buying in bulk.

Souvenirs are part of the rich Sandwich Fair history, dating way back to ruby-stained press glassed at the turn of the century. Today, those pieces can fetch \$600 to \$1,000 on auction websites.

Antique postcards from the turn-of-the-century of the fair brings upwards to \$400. Back then it cost one cent for the postcard and one cent for the stamp. It was the beginning of 'email' because some towns had mail delivery twice a day. You could invite someone over in the morning and get a reply that late afternoon, all prior to everyone having a telephone. For the fair, those postcards were easy advertisements.

Even current fair director Larry Dannewitz admits he once had a felt cowboy-like hat with his name stitched on the front with a big feathery plume once. They wore them to school minus the feather.

Twenty five years ago, an idea became one of the most highly sought after Sandwich Fair collectibles.

At the fair's gazebo, this year's fair pin will be one of the blue ticket booth that allows fairgoers to enter. Jackie Dannewitz has been designing the pins since 1998, taking over from local artist Quen Carpenter. Her favorites are last year's round pin with the windmill paddles and Quen's artwork of the roundhouse.

Some people collect the fair's postcard with the special postmark. You can take time to write a brief message and mail it from the post office trailer near the livestock area

entrance. College students studying, grandchildren, and senior citizens love to receive them.

Starting at the Sandwich Historical Society booth, the coveted 2018 toothpick holder is white porcelain with a patriotic insignia. New this



year will be a patriotic poster with the words Sandwich Fair emblazoned on top. Both celebrated the Illinois Bicentennial celebration.

For the first time, six tiles will be sold, each depicting a different sketch of the Sandwich Fair and its historical buildings from the past or today.

"The proceeds help maintain the (Old Stone) museum," said Joan Hardekopf, fair historian. "It helps us operate for the rest of the year and is our main source of income."

From previous fairs, other souvenirs toothpick holders, fair advertising posters, and Sandwich area historical books will be available for purchase. Hardekopf says the posters, often featuring Victorian ladies, have all been reproduced by the historical society. No old ones have been discovered in years.

While usually the line forms early at the booth, including the gazebo, on Wednesday, but most items remain available throughout the fair week.

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2018 Sandwich Fair Times

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2018 Sandwich Fair Souvenirs available at Gazebo

by Vivian C. Wright, Ed.D.

Souvenirs are one of the traditions at the DeKalb County "Sandwich" Fair. They go on sale Wednesday, September 5 at the Gazebo at 9 a.m.. Some of the items are available in limited quantity, so fairgoers come early for the best selection of collectibles and gifts.

This year's souvenirs highlight the ticket offices and the windmill. The ticket office design is on the stoneware magnet, a wooden ornament, and a lapel pin. The magnet has a navy background; it complements previous years' magnets in size and style. The wooden ornament is laser-cut from maple suitable for a shade pull, Christmas tree, or mobile decoration. The lapel pin, one of the most sought-after souvenirs, is enameled with light blue.

The windmill design is featured on the navy ball caps, the black ceramic mugs, and the shirts.

A hand-painted, authentic Polish Pottery is this year's custom-made collectible; the oval dish is six inches across and has distinctive blue and gold swirls. It is suitable for candy or a party dip.

Continuing the tradition that began in 2004, the Gazebo will sell a soft-stuffed animal designed by Glory Be. This year's plush animal is "Daisy," a

brown and white cow. She will be featured in the children's book as well.

A new item this year is a hardcover 10" x11" book. A "Fabulous Fair Alphabet" by Debra Frasier is suitable for children as well as adults. New are shirts for children and a large postcard.

Children's shirts are ash gray color in the following sizes: Onesies 6, 12, 18 mo; Toddler 2T, 3T, 4T; Youth xs, s, m, l.

Adult T-shirts are available in two styles: short sleeved in mint green and long sleeved in coral. Additionally available is a navy over-the-head sweatshirt with a hood.

Several items are returning this year: note cards with artwork by local artist Jackie Dannewitz and postcards. Fairgoers who are completing their collections of lapel pins and plush animals will find a few available from previous years.

These items may be purchased only at the Gazebo located just north of the Home Arts Building near the WSPY broadcasting tent from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the fair. For more information visit SandwichFair.com.



How to enter your items for exhibition at the Sandwich Fair

by Mark Harrington

Labor Day weekend is usually a crazy, hectic time for some Sandwich Fair enthusiasts, especially if the old family is involved.

Dad is dusting off his antique exhibits; his son is building Lego creations. Daughter, mom, and grandma are baking snickerdoodle cookies and picking flowers. Grandma is picking out her best canning jar of bread-and-butter pickles, and last winter's project, a latch hook rug. Even last year's school art projects become entries.

That's all part of the more than 21,000 entries last year that over 177,00 fairgoers pointed at in awe. "Cool, look-at-that, and wow," are the common lingo of admirers.

Being a part of the Sandwich Fair

and creating excitement and memories, there is an easy way. But be warned, this part of the fair can be addictive without a cure.

Some fair exhibitors may enter 25, 50, 75 or more than 100 entries in one fair. The Sandwich Fair has one of the largest number of entries in the Midwest, even surpassing some state fairs. Other Illinois county fairs, as one long-time fairgoer humorously claimed, "may have three tomatoes on a pie tin" in a building.

Any age can enter. For kids, there is a junior division although they can compete against adults.

There are two ways to enter: online at the Sandwich Fair website or by stopping to get a premium booklet at the fair office. Either way, Sandwich Fair Association Board Secretary

Nancy Rex says the key to entering is "to read and follow the rules."

The process starts with searching the premium book, available at the Sandwich Fair Office or by going online. Pick a category and follow the rules. Pay the entry fee and receive a free ticket pass for all five days.

But there are deadlines to follow, usually the sometime during the third week of August. Once you enter, you can not change or add other exhibits unless you want to pay another entry fee.

At home, it is better to mark each item with your exhibitor number, often using a small round sticker. For glass, a dry erase marker will work. Each item needs to be tagged, some clipped, stapled or tied with strings. Usually Monday and Tuesday are the days to bring entries to the fair. Again, consult the fair's premium booklet.

Don't forget to pull off the bottom of the exhibit ticket called a claim stub; that is the only way to get your items back. If you know the location of your exhibits, organizing them in an order, will allow a quicker pickup come Sunday night. Waiting 30-45 minutes after the building reopens Sunday night may avoid waiting in lines.

A good wagon or cart will be helpful if you are bringing multiple items. If you forget something like string, tape, or stickers, the friendly superintendents and clerks may have supplies and are there to assist. Questions are expected and appreciated to help ease your anxieties.

There is a certain level of commitment, however. You have to take the exhibit to the proper fair building on the deadline Monday or Tuesday on the days before the fair. You can pick-up your entries on Sunday evening, usually between 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the building your exhibit is enter.

Another secret to entering in the fair, is when you bring your entries. Sandwich Fair Board Secretary Nancy

Rex says to "know where (which building) to enter."

Now the fun begins. The excitement builds as you enter the building on fair day to see your exhibit. Will there be a first, second, or third place ribbon? Those ribbons earn various amounts of prize money. That's how some people eat, ride, or vendor purchase around the fairgrounds.

Now be fair warned; there may be disappointment when the exhibit does not place. But the trick is to look at the other three prize winners to see why judges did not pick your entry. All exhibitor's names are covered from judges' viewing.


Many exhibitors have years of experience. An adult may compete against an 80-year old. An eight-year old may take on a 17-year old in the junior divisions.

Some entries come from all over the state, even the Midwest. One secret is to enter many different items, at least to try and break even on the entry fee. Rules allow for entering a second or third place ribbon earning entry or no ribbon the following fair years.

For example, an antique Sandwich Manufacturing Company corn grinder took third, then second, and finally first place over three years. First place winners are not allowed to enter that item ever again. Some superintendents have photos of previous fair winning items to avoid repeat firsts.

This fair week is the time to enter the Fine Arts and Crafts building, the Home Arts building, the Horticulture building, or the Antiques and Collectibles building to see what you could enter. There you can find the quantity of competition, quality of competition, display tips, or just a few exhibits in one category to possibly insure an easier win.

So, if you haven't entered this year; now is the time to start planning for the 2019 Sandwich Fair. Join the madness, the fun, and become addicted.



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PRESIDENT

continued from page 1

stalls, trucks and stands filled with delectable treats. Don't forget to check out the many entries in home goods, horticulture and livestock, and see who's going home with the blue ribbon or the coveted purple best of class! Every fall the DeKalb County Fair in Sandwich, Illinois is a desired destination.

As Illinois celebrates its Bicentennial year, the Sandwich Fair is honored to be chosen as one of the many great destinations that attract visitors to our state and our area.

For the safety of our fairgoers the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department provides round the clock security for the entire five days of the fair. The sheriff's office and first aid stations are located in the center of the grounds near the Round Office. Restroom facilities and mother/baby tents are provided for family comforts. Whether it is your first Sandwich Fair, or your 90th, we hope you enjoy your time spent with us. Also, take time throughout your visit, to thank the many volunteers, workers and exhibitors. That's what makes the Sandwich Fair something to look forward to each year.

See you at the fair!

Larry Dannewitz

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“Do you need a rooster to make eggs?” – Crayton has heard it all

by Mark Harrington

After 42 years of supervising or helping in the poultry barn, Mike Crayton has heard the questions.

“Do you need a rooster to make eggs?” is his favorite. He dispels the myth of smelly chickens. Then he defines what makes a cock (old male) from a cockerel (young male) to a hen (old female) to a pullet (young female) to visitors.

Chickens or poultry are housed in the historic horse barn, near the Ag Land Stage. Last year in the midnight hours, the flock had a visitor with drooling taste buds. “That was the first time we’ve had a raccoon,” said Crayton. “Raccoons and chickens do not mix. They’re looking for meat.”

Some years, more than 800 birds have been exhibited, but the usual amount is around 500.

Certified American Poultry Association judges are the competition scorers. They are looking at body shape, the condition of the bird, how many feathers,

feathers on the legs or not, and five different types of combs. “The



more feathers, the better,” Crayton said. “We keep the birds in single cages, so they don’t get pecked at (by the other chickens).”

Preparations are necessary for fair ribbons and prize money.

“You have to wash chickens’ feathers and blow dry the feathers, clip their toenails and beaks too,” said Crayton. “Jersey and White Rocks are the more popular exhibited breeds.”

Roosters are interesting creatures. Crayton says they crow three times a day, early as 3 a.m. to 4 a.m., 11 p.m. to noon and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and 5-6 p.m. before bedtime. There are special times.

About the writer – Mark Harrington

The writer of these stories in 2018 Sandwich Fair Times began his fair experiences early.

Attending his first Sandwich Fair when he was just one month old, Mark Harrington was passed around inside the Log Cabin Methodist Church Stand while his mom worked. His dad was a night watchman.

He is a fourth-generation original stockholder of the Sandwich Fair. He grew up in Oswego after his family moved from their 1850s farm south of Sandwich.

For 32 years, Harrington was a public school teacher in Minooka and Lisle, where he taught first, third, and fifth grades while coaching junior and high school sports. Previously he was a sports writer for newspapers in Aurora, DeKalb, Oswego, and Kendall County.

Harrington can be heard on WSPY-FM 107.1, where he does news reports and The Weekend Story, a feature broadcast. He was awarded first places for Best Spot News and Documentary-Series by the Illinois Broadcasters Association June 2018.



ROUND OFFICE..... continued from page 1

cure that day to calm the child was a small stuffed animal. The child was reunited with her parents at the DeKalb County Sheriff’s Office two doors away after a public address announcement was made.

For parents with children, they will admonish, if separated or lost, meet at the Round Office. Parents can use other sites within the fairgrounds like the gazebo, the Home Arts Building, or the train ride.

If fairgoers lose something, the best chance for finding the item is the Round Office, even if it’s a pink watermelon jacket for a curly hair two-year-old.

When it’s cold, jackets appear. When it’s hot, sunglasses and hats appear.

Over the course of two days last year, more than 50 cell phones were turned in to Swanson at the Round Office. Purses containing cash and credit cards are common. But the more unique was the lost diamond ring.

Back in the day, the Round Office was the judge’s tower for horse racing, usually harness, where they could see the dirt track that is today’s outer road inside the fairgrounds. When the current track was built, the

tower was lowered.

Just tell the kids - look for the big yellow two-story building, the largest on the fairgrounds in the middle. Go to the little red Round Office nearby, despite that it is not round. Or go to the nearest vendor. Or find the police officers patrolling the streets of the fairgrounds.

Then there is the case of the missing parents, actually, the call over the squawky loudspeaker that Mark and Kent report to the Round Office, your parents are missing, circa the 1960s.

In addition, if you have a complaint, the Round Office is the place to lodge it, although compliments are always readily taken as well.

For example, there was the time, a complaint was lodged against a vendor selling inappropriate T-shirts. Or the moment, when a couple strolled in and wonder if alcohol was sold on the fairgrounds the polite answer was no. That followed their response of “good, we like that the fair is a family affair.”

Need to know where something is or where you parked, the Round Office is the information booth. You can save the embarrassment by remembering if you came in the farm animal side or the carnival side.

“Sudden noise get the hens up and started clucking and clucking more,” says Crayton, adding that the tractor and truck pulls gets them going for about one hour until they get used to it. But not the country or rock music playing on the Ag Land Stage across the street. “They love country music,” he smiles. “It calms them.”

Meanwhile, when Max Armstrong shows up for his the annual WSPY live radio Noon Show at the Ag Land Stage, the hens swoon over hearing his baritone voice, softly clucking adoringly. The roosters crow disapprovingly at the Indiana outsider in their territory, especially if Armstrong mentions market reports.

Crayton has seen people talk to the chickens. “Chickens understand you as far as voices and they’ll cock their head back and forth.”

People do strange things to the chickens in the barn. Crayton, who does not do chicken impersonations, said fairgoers cluck or crow or poke their fingers in the cage despite the signs warning against it.

“The adults are worse than the kids,” he said. “Some will open the cage door or unlock it, then we have to chase the loose ones. They like to poke their fingers in the rooster cages because the roosters do a little dance.”

At the end of the barn, Crayton keeps a Silky for children to pet. As superintendent of the poultry barn, his favorites are the Polish with big crests on their heads and the fluffy Silkies.

Crayton said chickens lay egg every other day 10 months to two years old, then the production dwindles. “This old hen I have here, she’ll probably lay three eggs a year and that’s about all for her.”

Chicken facts are Internet plenty. If you fear chickens you have Alektorophobia. If not keep, reading.

- Chickens have three eyelids.
- Brown green, blue, or pink eggs, some say the ear lobe color is the key, matching the color to the egg.
- Chickens are the oldest living relative of the T-Rex dinosaur.
- A lifetime of one chicken’s waste will power a light bulb for five hours.
- Record for yolks in one egg is nine.
- Humans populate the earth at 7.4 billion but chickens are at 25 billion.
- Sorry giraffes, chickens have more bones in their necks.

- Human heart beats are 60-100 times a minute while chickens beat at 300.
- Don’t turn off the light...chickens can not see in the dark but they do dream and can see full color in the outdoors.

- Smart, chickens can recognize 100 human or chicken faces and problem solve. Their brain is similar to a human.

There are more than varieties of chickens and colors: those fluffy feathery legs or the razzle-dazzle feathered head toppings? Big white hens that look like a relative of Foghorn Leghorn and his trademark saying “ah say, boy, ah say,” Pick your favorite!

You may not find the answer to the “Why did the chicken cross the road?” but fairgoers are always amazed inside the poultry barn.

Just don’t say Colonel Sanders or chicken nuggets around the chickens. It might ruffle their feathers...

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Horse competitions

by Mark Harrington

Tucked away on the western edge of the fairgrounds, a touch of the Old West comes to the Sandwich Fair, fast becoming a popular place for entertainment. The only thing missing are the mountains.

Between strains of country or western music or both, the Western Speed Show is held at 9 a.m. Wednesday and the Draft Horse competition starts at 9 a.m. Friday.

Four D barrel racing is one contest where three barrels are placed in a cloverleaf. After all times are recorded, the top seven times are broken in a new class and works down with the next seven. "It gives kids and beginners a chance," said co-superintendent Steve Hilleson.

In pony plug, one barrel is set down in the middle of the dirt arena. "They can turn left or right without knocking the barrel down."

The two-flag competition features a unique twist. Horse riders grab a flag that is tucked in a pail of sand atop a barrel then race to the next barrel to stick it the empty pail.

When it comes to the draft horses Friday, Phillip Nielsen says to get there at 9 a.m. and stay all day because the morning show is different than the afternoon show.

"These horses are two-and-a-half times bigger than regular horses," he gushed. "Impressive, see the best and the top, elite."

The nearby Waterman resident calls the Sandwich Fair show the best, describing the tree-shaded atmosphere, the crowd's reaction, and the weather of sunny days-cool nights.

"People have a chance to be up close and see and smell the sweat of the horses," he said. "You can hear the traces, the jingles, even feel the ground shake when the horses come on by."

Clydesdale, Percheron, Belgians, and Shires are the common breeds at the show. "They are just massive," Nielsen said. "Two thousand pounds compared to a regular 800 pound horse."

He calls the afternoon the fun part of the show, a "high-energy event."

There are hitch classes, cart competition, draft ponies, and the unique riding a draft horse, where an egg-spoon contest, a barrel race...typically the horse is more a working than riding horse.

In the junior showmanship, age 18 and under kids demonstrate how to handle the horse, how to run the horse, keep the head up, and keep it moving, then standing, along with grooming. Nielsen believes it is important because it grows the future of draft horse shows.

"It's an opportunity not to judge the horse, but to judge the kid."

Ladies will compete in the cart horses. Then come the wagons, costing between \$7,000 to \$20,000. Think of the Budweiser Beer Super Bowl commercials. Nielsen said the harness is special, a six-horse hitch costing \$15,000.

In the tandem competition, two horses are extremely difficult to handle because the second horse is 20-feet away from the bit to the driver's hand, said Nielsen. "In the unicorn contest, there are two horses and one up front," he tells. "That was used for extra power on when snow was on the road in the days past. The lead horse opened up the road, so the other two would have at least one side to go through."

Four horses are lined up in pairs

and the six-horse hitch is more difficult. "The driver sits 30 feet away from his hands to the horse's bit. The horses respond more to his voice and he has to manage the extra (harness) lines."

The Sandwich Fair differs from

the big indoor arena shows. Nielsen adds that spectators have the chance to walk around and talk to the horse owners and ask questions. People can watch the contestants braid the manes and tails.



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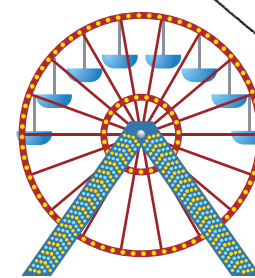
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FAY'S BBQ

PHILLIPS DRIVE

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Car parking - paving the road for fairgoers with a smile

by Mark Harrington
They are usually the first people you meet at the Sandwich Fair.
One of the hardest and thankless jobs, but without these workers, the fair would be jumbled chaos. More than 170,000 fairgoers rely on them.
Car parkers.
When you first enter the fairgrounds, they direct you to the row filling up and lined up by other parking attendants. Then enthusiasm and excitement spills out of the parked cars. That's an estimate of 70,000 cars for the fair's run.
Some times.
Jake, who has parked cars for 13 years, explains. "They don't want to park by the trees," he says. "Or they want to park by the trees in the shade. What they don't understand is 30 minutes from now, their car won't be in the shade."
Then, sometimes there is the

swearing.
"I've been spit at," Jake continues. "I can't tell you how many times I had to nicely tell them to watch their mouth because there's little kids around."
"You've got to smile a lot," said Scott Bruenig, one of the parking officials said about his crew of 16.
If that isn't enough, other hazards of the job exists.
"You have to move fast enough so you don't get trap between bumpers," said Trinity, her first year parking cars.
"Last year a car backed into me and sent me flying forward," Jake adds. "This year, I was clipped by a mirror as the car was passing me."
Starting at 6:30 in the morning, sometimes the parkers stay until the last car drives in or out. After five days and a few hours from closing time, four of them found enough time finally

to sit by the shady side of a car. Sun-burned and dusty, they wore their lime green safety vests and orange caps.
Often people want to pick their parking spot. "It's a game of monkey see, monkey do," said Jake. "When one takes off to a different spot, they all follow instead of following our signals and going single file."
Besides parking and directing traffic, Bruenig said his 16 workers "sometimes help find lost cars," adding if the fair didn't have them, the first ones parked would not get out too easy. Everyone wants to be close up."
Despite the rows being marked, the gazebo workers field the questions of where did I park, how do I get out, or which way did I come in. The easy answer they give is: "did you come in the carnival, exhibits, or the animal side of the fairgrounds?"
So, why do car parkers do this job?
One parker called it "a paid vacation." Another added a perk of the job, "getting into the fair for free." Still, the best day is the old folks, who treat them nice and "are pretty awesome," said a tired worker.
In the old days, cars followed the tradition of the horse and buggy

era...parking in the eastern end under the giant oak and hickory trees. Having a picnic for a meal at the car or buggy was just part of the fair.
Smoother operations exist than in the 1960s and 1970s when autos came in one main gate (two aisles) on Suydam Road. Then you bought your ticket from the seller, who carried a canteen-like roll, and move up to hand the ticket to another person, who dropped the stubs into a steel milk can.
Those lines could stretch down Center Street into town. On the weekends, the cars might back up nearly to Plano on Route 34.

Yet even today, people (following GPS directions or Siri), forget or are unaware that the Pratt Road entrance (north of the fairgrounds) from Somonauk or East Sandwich Road is the quickest route into a fun day at the Sandwich Fair.
Oh, then there was the one week-day when the rain poured and poured and poured. By the late afternoon, the car area was flooded with many being rescued and pulled out by tractors, forcing the fair to shut down by 4 p.m..

MORPHEYcontinued from page 3

the judges climb ladders to examine them
Eight judges start at 7 p.m. Tuesday, working in teams of two. They work well into the night judging all 158 categories. After that is completed all eight judges come together to award the Best of Show winners. This is done by assessing all the first place ribbon winners. This process usually takes the longest. This is where disagreement and compromises between the judges produces the Best of Show. "Each judge looks at something differently," said Morphey. Some of the criteria judges are looking for are clarity, center point and the title entered in the correct category. Wednesday morning, the doors are opened with all photos being judged and ribbons hung, and Best of Show displayed.
When we first started, if we had 1,000 entries that was a big entry year," Morphey said. "Now with digital photos and cell phones the numbers have exploded in both Open and Juniors divisions.
Every year, the state of Illinois sends a medal for the Superintendents to award to a Junior exhibitor in all the departments. Morphey usually waits until the weekend to award the medal. She likes to watch the Juniors as they come in to see if they have placed in anything. "The Juniors try really hard and need encouragement to continue to enter. Sometimes it might be an exceptional picture or it might be a really good picture that did not receive a ribbon but the Junior needs the encouragement." There is a superintendent choice plaque that is awarded to an Open and a Junior exhibitor. It is usually a picture the she has noticed and really liked. Sometimes it is a ribbon winner and sometimes not. Over the years, one photo has stood out in Morphey's memory, it was on a farm, a grandpa and his grandson are walking down the lane with the young grandson only able to hold on to one or two fingers. It just told a cute story.
Another unique contest in Photography is the Themed Photo Competition contest. The photographers are given a theme and they have 90 minutes to take two photos on the fairgrounds and submit the photos. The photographers are the ones that judge the photos. Every year the theme is top secret said Morphey with a grin. That theme is revealed at the contest's start and not before.
Over the 32 years of being superintendent there is a camaraderie among the 35+ workers which makes the organization task easier. Families and friends have been generational from grandparents to parents to spouses, in-laws, teen, and children all pitching in to get the job done. Morphey commented her assistant (Jodi Brummel) of 30 years resigned to take a less active roll only working one day. It has been hard to replace her but several of her family still work. Some workers enjoy set-up and some enjoy tear down. They come armed with staplers or screwdrivers or staple removers as tools for set-up and take down.
Sunday at 6 p.m. the buildings close and reopen as soon as workers are in place. The photographers are asked to stand in a line of 1-10, 11-20, 21-over photos entered. Workers are assigned to one of those lines. The more experienced workers are in the 21 and over line, new or younger workers 1-10 photos entered, speeding up the process for picking up photos.
If your photo doesn't earn a first place blue ribbon, Morphey says the photographs can be reentered the following year.

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Fri, Aug 24	Plano at Aurora Central Catholic.....	7:00pm
Fri, Aug 31	Geneva at Kaneland	7:15pm
Fri, Sept 7	McHenry at Yorkville	7:15pm
Fri, Sept 14	Joliet Central at Oswego East (h).....	7:30pm
Sat, Sept 15	Oswego at Joliet West	1:00pm
Fri, Sept 21	DeKalb at Kaneland (h).....	7:15pm
Fri, Sept 28	Coal City at Sandwich (h).....	7:00pm
Tues-Thu, Oct. 2, 4	Little 10 Soccer at Hinckley-Big Rock	TBD
Fri, Oct 5	Sandwich at Plano (h)	7:00pm
Sat, Oct 6	Kaneland at Yorkville (h)	(td) 10:00am
Fri, Oct 12	Joliet Central at Oswego (h).....	7:00pm
Fri, Oct 19	Ottawa at Yorkville (sn)	7:00pm
Sat, Oct 20	Football Play-off Pairings Show	7:45pm
Fri/Sat, Oct. 26-27	IHSA First Round Playoffs	TBD
Fri/Sat, Nov. 2-3	IHSA Second Round Playoffs	TBD
Fri/Sat, Nov 9-10	IHSA Quarter-Finals.....	TBD
Fri/Sat, Nov 16-17	IHSA Semi-Finals.....	TBD
Fri/Sat, Nov 23-24	IHSA State Finals.....	TBD

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Broadcast schedule could change throughout the season.
vww v(h) = homecoming; (sn) senior night; (td) = tape delay; TBD = To Be Determined



Step back, Sandwich Fair Museum offers pieces of bygone fairs

by Mark Harrington
“I remember that!” “I never knew that!” “I have that one.”
Those exclamations are heard every year.
If you want to see the history of Sandwich Fair souvenirs, then the fair’s own museum is housed in the former green secretary’s office building. One secret, if it’s hot outside, this place is the only air conditioned building for fair spectators.
A different year is spotlighted in the fair history. Fairs ending in the year with an eight will be

highlighted, the prized display from 1867, a framed piece showing the list of officers rules, and the type of exhibits. Back then the fair was called the Union Agricultural Institute and held the first part of October.
Sandwich Fair Historian Joan Hardekopf has one favorite in the museum, a ruby stained glass hat donated by Rick Lindner in honor of his mother Marie.
Inside fairgoers can see a time line of photos, posters, souvenirs, advertisements, newspaper stories, buildings, and activities from those

fairs ending in the year eight. A display of a fair ticket and an 1873 poster are included. In addition, a parade of toothpick tumblers from 1992 to 2018 and all the postal cancellations of Sandwich Fair pasts can be viewed.
You can even stand in front of the old ticket booth and imagine selling tickets for a few cents back in 1888. Fair trivia buffs like to reminisce about the grandstand acts, like Reba McEntire or Blake Shelton before they became famous.
For some people, they love

looking at the names on the attendance registers for a previous fair, looking for family and friends from long ago. They like to see what their parents and grandparents might have seen. A DVD shows movies of fairs past as well.
Back again is a souvenir keepsake for the kids, the Fair Facts booklet where kids pick up the booklet at the gazebo, then journey throughout the fairgrounds to get different pages stamped. At the end, the child turns it into the gazebo for a small prize.

WEAVER

continued from page 1



for the Sandwich Fair, his voice will be silent when the horses round the final curve, kicking up dirt, and heading for home this fair season. Mid-July, he bid the Sandwich Fair a resignation goodbye.
Back in the day he may have called winners and losers, trotters or pacers and an occasional galloper in 150 races a year throughout Illinois and Wisconsin county fairs. Of the Sandwich Fair track, he rates it “as good as any in Illinois.”
Before the race if possible, he studied the race card program. Only armed with a clipboard and the race program in one hand, he grabbed the microphone by his free hand. In the tower, the timer provides the minute-second splits while Buck Weaver relayed them to the crowd, all the while focusing his eyes on the driver’s colors and the the color of the horse’s saddle pad twice around the half-mile track. No binoculars on a fancy neck holder for Buck.
Sadly, the look in his eyes tells it all... harness racing may be a vanishing sport in the state of Illinois. In 1997, the Sandwich Fair race program showed 14 races each day (ten in 2004) spanning two afternoons, today just a quick four on only one day.
“They used to race horses three heats years and years ago”, he said. At Sandwich, there was a spring meet in June to test a new horse or build

experience. During fair week, races might run three or four afternoons soaking up several hours.
He knows the reason for Illinois county fairs dwindling to one day of racing, a lack of mutual meets so there is a shortage in the agricultural premium fund. State budget woes and cutbacks have sliced away the prize money. Horse owners and drivers have followed the money trail to Indiana and eastward beyond.
Now Buck Weaver had raced at Sandwich, the outcome...“didn’t have enough horses.” Then came his life’s opportunity. “I owned horses with Don Busse and they raced down there. Something happened to Charley Haight (auto accident). They were short an announcer, so I got some of his jobs.”
Even one of his horses claims a Sandwich Fair legacy after Buck’s early day fair rituals, stopping the diner operated by St. Paul’s Catholic Church.
“Someone would order and a man working would repeat it, two cheeseburgers” Weaver drawls. “So we named a horse Two Cheeseburgers. And he wasn’t a bad horse.”
His daughter Sara Weaver related this story from a county fair near Green Bay, Wisconsin, the announcer entertaining how horses get their names, sharing Two Cheeseburgers. “After the races, a lady came down from the grandstand and said I know exactly what food stand you are talking about; that’s the county fair I grew up with,” Sara said.
He chuckles when saying the best thing about the Sandwich Fair is the little train ride. Daughter Sara says she caught up the bug as her dad would drag her on the fair harness racing circuit, her dad proudly bragging, “She could (announce) if she wanted.”
In his driving days, Weaver smiles and chuckles, “more losses than wins.”
However, he fondly remembers his horses’ names backed by a story.
On Roxburg’s Bob: “There’s Roxburg’s Bob’s picture right over there,” he points to a table. Number Two? “Yeah,” he beams. “Roxburg’s Bob was the best three year old in Northern Illinois at that time.”

On Kings Day: “Won at Maywood in the fall and later went on to stand at stud in Wisconsin for some owners.”
On Frontier Nibs: (whom Buck trained) “He was the world record holder for a three-year gelding on a five-eighth mile track at Quad Cities Down.”
On Game Guy: “He wins in Sportsmans in Chicago, and that was a prime track.”
On Bernie Frisco and mare Beaver Jester: “All of the offspring, we hung the name Jester, and some colts carried the Frisco name.”
Buck Weaver worked for the Busse family in Kirkland in northern DeKalb County. Don Busse was 1963 National Driving Champion and his son Daryl in 1975, the only father-son team to win national driving titles. Was Buck Weaver the man behind the success?
“Partly, I showed up every day,” he laughs. “Well, we trained, cleaned stalls, fed horses.”
Announcers can have trouble with names. Weaver knows one immediately.
“Zantasticzensation,” he says. “Hard to say.”
His daughter laughs, saying he doesn’t like long names, where owners take several words and make it into one.
Now Weaver grinned when asked how to pick a winner, “study the program and the past performance of horses; hopefully they repeat.”
Here is one recollection from Weaver. “Right across from the Sandwich Fair, VF Beck had a farm and he had real nice horse that race against Roxburg Bob called Fairside Pal.”
So began this fun, lively banter with this reporter and Buck in July near Harvard, Illinois

Who won the race?
“I really can’t remember.” It wasn’t your horse right? “It might not have been.” How many first place horse races were you in? “Did I win?” Yeah cause you’ve been telling me you didn’t do too well. “Not very many.”
But his daughter has done the research and chimes in...15 or 20 (wins) maybe.
“Any horse race I ever won, it wasn’t because I was the best driver but because I had the best horse,” Buck chuckles, a fondness for chestnut (or red) horses. “One of the greatest horses ever was almost white, Greyhound.”
One race stood above many races when a driver suffered a fatal heart attack, falling out of the sulky cart onto a Wisconsin track. Other races he remembers include the time the Searle brothers (Steven and Tim) raced against each other, or the Magee father-son (Gary and Mike) competition, or announcing while his own son Wayne Weaver driving Better

Pickens to a third place finish in 2004 Sandwich Fair or daughter Sara driving the horses on the dirt tracks.
Sara Weaver tells her Wisconsin county fair friends about Sandwich Fair all the time. “I will always tell them that you haven’t really experienced a county fair until you’ve gone to Sandwich.” Buck’s favorite thing about the fair is the little train.
His father was tagged with the moniker Buck after the famous White Sox player of the early 1900s, you might know him as the third baseman (Buck Weaver) in the classic film “The Field of Dreams.” This Buck Weaver remembers his ancestors from west of Batavia, Illinois.
Not growing up on a farm, the neighbor’s barn had harness horses in stalls. A friendship with the Busse family in nearby Kirkland, led to his life-long friendship with harness racing as a trainer, groomer, driver, and announcer. Like it was yesterday, Buck tells how to train horses.
“First, you have to get them broke to drive. Then teach them to turn and go the right way of the race track against time. Usually they say 60 days from the haystack to the racetrack for a veteran horse.”
His driving style as he says, “take what comes” agreeing every race is a different decision to get out fast and lead, hang back, make a charge, go inside or move to the outside.
Ironically Buck Weaver is in the Wisconsin Harness Racing Hall of Fame, but not in Illinois which he softly replied ‘no’ when inquired. However, he did receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from an Illinois group. For the Sandwich Fair, he says “one of the most successful fair men I ever knew was (SFA Board Director) Dutch Hough.”
Wednesday at the 131st Sandwich Fair, the fair association will honor Buck Weaver’s success with a plaque to be nailed to the wall inside the judge’s tower prior to the first race at 11 a.m..
One more race, twice around the half-mile Sandwich Fair oval track, the hooves quickly pounding the dirt, sulky cart wheels spinning with jockeys encouraging behind the tight grasp of leather reins. If you listen carefully, you will hear Buck Weaver reeling off the quirky names...Trotting Sally, Mr. Cool Breeze, Cheer for Freedom, Happy Pappy, Fox Valley Bandit, Hollys Pretty Legs, Master of My Heart, Jezzabell Hotspur, Cocktail Peanuts, and Impress Me More.
Horse racing aside this September, he is guarantee to watch a Sandwich Fair harness race. More importantly though, you’ll probably find him holding a fork in a church food stand, staring down at a mouth-watering slice of delicious homemade pie, after eating a cheeesseburrrrger that is. Now that’s a first place winning day.

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2018 Sandwich Fair Times

17

Justin Moore – back for repeat performance, Friday night

by Mark Harrington
Back for a repeat performance, Justin Moore headlines the major music act Friday night on the grassy infield of the race track. The question will be can he load that area like Old Dominion did last year, an estimated 6-8,000 music goers, considered an all-time record. Moore has a following after appearing at the Sandwich Fair in 2012.

He has charted eleven times on the Hot Country Songs, including with the #1 singles "Small Town USA", "If Heaven Wasn't So Far Away", " 'Til My Last Day", "Lettin' the Night Roll", "You Look Like I Need a Drink", and the top 10 hits "Backwoods" and "Point at You".

It would seem appropriate, a small town fair and a country song "Small Town USA." Here are some of the lyrics:

These are my roots and this is what I love

Cause everybody knows me and I know them

And I believe that's the way we were supposed to live

Wouldn't trade one single day in small town U-S-A

Give me a Saturday night my baby by my side

A little Hank Jr. and a six pack of lights

Old dirt road and I'll be just fine

Give me a Sunday morning that's full of grace

A simple life and I'll be okay

Here in small town U-S-A

Around here people break their backs just to earn a buck

We never get ahead but we have enough

I watch people leave and they come right back

I never wanted any part of that

I'm proud to say that I love this place

Good ole small town U-S-A

Four albums span from 2009 entitled Justin Moore, then Outlaws Like Me and Off the Beaten Path to 2016 with Kinda Don't Care.

Steve Leggett of Allmusic raved in his review: "He is that good kid from a small town with a rowdy heart of gold who just happened to be able to sing about it."

On the jumbotron video screen, fairgoers might experience his "If Heaven Wasn't So Far Away" song and video that won the 2011 Inspirational Country Music Awards Mainstream Inspirational Country Song and the Inspirational Video award. In 2014 he won the the Academy of Country Music Award for New Artist of the Year.

Arkansas native Justin Moore spent three years putting together his fourth studio album, 'Kinda Don't Care'. The project is chock-full of new music and earned the singer his third consecutive No. 1 album debut. The platinum-selling entertainer kick started the album with his sixth chart-topping

single "You Look Like I Need A Drink" and follow-up single "Somebody Else Will." With 16 tracks on the deluxe version, "Kinda Don't Care" provides a stellar set list for Moore's live shows which also feature No. 1 hits like "Point At You" and "Lettin' The Night Roll." The Valory Music Co. recording artist has earned multiple ACM, ACA and ACC Awards nominations, tallied millions of track sales as well as placed seven singles in the Top 10 at Country radio. His previous album, "Off the Beaten Path", scored a No. 1 album release. A known road warrior, Moore has shared the stage with Hank Williams Jr., Brad Paisley, Miranda Lambert and Brantley Gilbert and is currently on his headlining American Made Tour with Lee Brice.

The title to country radio hit maker Justin Moore's fourth studio album may suggest he doesn't give a damn, but when it comes to the music, nothing could be further from the truth. On "Kinda Don't Care", the Arkansas singer, outdoorsman and family man reaffirms his commitment to recording honest, entertaining country songs. Sure, they may be unapologetic at times, but that's Moore, an artist who refuses to ever project anything he's not.

"The title refers to how uptight our society has become. It's in a place right now where we are consumed with being politically correct. Sometimes you just have to worry about being correct and telling it like it is," says Moore. Which is what he's always done with his impressive string of hits, from his five Number Ones, including "Small Town USA" and "If Heaven Wasn't So Far Away," to the gold-certified singles "Bait a Hook" and "Backwoods."

All of those songs, as well as his most recent chart-topper "Point at You" and his current rising single "Kinda Don't Care," possess an undeniable confidence and attitude that distinguishes Moore from the crowded Nashville pack. Above all else, there's that unmistakable voice, which propels "Kinda Don't Care's" 12 songs and a 16-track deluxe version of the album.

"The goal was to create a feel-good record. There is still the same hill-billy and Redneck stuff on the album, but we also made the most modern-sounding record of my career," says Moore, the 2014 ACM Awards' New Artist of the Year winner. "I wanted to release a record that would fit in perfectly on country radio, but one that pushed myself creatively. Besides, in the end, if I'm singing, it's always going to sound country."

Co-produced by Moore's long-time collaborator Jeremy Stover, as well as Scott Borchetta and Julian Raymond, "Kinda Don't Care" opens with a bang, a Wild West fantasy titled "Robbin' Trains" that imagines what Moore and his crew might be doing had they been born in the 1800s. "It's

like the modern-day country version of Bon Jovi's 'Wanted Dead or Alive,'" says Moore.

Equally evocative is "Rebel Kids," a snapshot of those rowdy teenage years that Moore delivers like a rural Springsteen, full of lived-in small-town pride. "That song is totally me and speaks to my fans," he says. "It's one of those kinds of relatable songs we've had on every album, like 'Small Town USA' and 'For Some Ol' Redneck Reason.'"

Likewise, "Kinda Don't Care's" title track, bolstered by weeping steel guitar, celebrates the merits of just letting loose: saying to [heck] with watching your weight, pouring a cold one and even lighting up a smoke — at least for one night.

But Moore doesn't allow himself to get comfortable or too lost in country's past. While he honors the genre's tradition, he isn't afraid to push the envelope. The funky "Somebody Else Will" cries out to be a radio hit, bouncing forward with a moody bass line and Moore's atmospheric vocals detailing a now-or-never moment in a bar. "We discovered a really cool R&B feel, especially in the verses," he says. "It's a song that everyone who has heard it just loves."

"Got It Good," written by the Cadillac Three's Jaren Johnston and Neil Mason, along with producer Stover, elevates Moore's game. Mixing simple acoustic guitar over drum loops, it's proof that country boys like Moore can be at home in the club.

But it's "Hell on a Highway" that best marries the singer's twangy vocals with modern-day production. A classic 'she's gone' song, the mid-tempo track is custom-made for burning up the pavement with the setting sun in the rearview.

"This record just feels different to me," says Moore. "My favorite artists and albums are those that have unique voices or sounds, and that's what "Kinda Don't Care" is like. There are not a lot of people who sing like I do, and mixed with Jeremy's production, it's really special. I've been fortunate to have had success because of it."

The album reunites Moore with Brantley Gilbert, one of his closest friends and duet partners. Together, they team up for the irreverent rocker "More Middle Fingers," a one-finger



salute to politicians, bankers and all-around haters. "It's the evolution of 'I Could Kick Your Ass,'" says Moore, referencing the fan favorite off his 2009 debut. "I loved it because if you just heard the idea, someone may be offended by it. But if you take a second to listen to the lyrics, who wouldn't agree with it? I knew I needed Brantley for it. We actually recorded that together in the studio and it really helped raise the energy level."

The pair are doing just that right now on the road, bringing their Take It Outside Tour to amphitheaters around the country. Moore relishes being onstage, where, even in the glare of the spotlight, he's able to connect with fans and show them he's just like them.

"One of the things I hear most often after shows is, 'Man, you're so normal.' I guess people have this idea that, if you have any small amount of fame or success, you're supposed to be some kind of freak show or superhero. But I'm the same guy I was before I signed a record deal. When I look in the mirror," he says, "I still see Justin."

Justin Moore, a guy who, despite what is emblazoned on his strongest album yet, really does care. About his fans, his family and, especially, country music.

"Everyone growing up has dreams," says Moore. "Mine just happened to come true."

As fair president Larry Dannewitz said in June, "it will be tough to follow (numbers of concert goers at Old Dominion, 2017) but we'd be excited to be near it."

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From reviews, this band is great for dancing and great for listening, making it hard to stay in your seat. Members are from Millbrook, Sandwich, Plano, and North Aurora. Many songs are three-part harmonies. They play Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame artists from Elvis, Chuck Berry, Chicago, the Doobie Brothers, Bob Seger, The Guess Who, the Rolling Stones, the Beatles, to the Eagles and Bruno Mars.

Thursday 7-10 p.m. ROCKIN' MOXIE

Rachel McPheeters belts out songs of Pink, Joan Jett, Patti LaBelle, Pat Benatar, Gin Blossoms, No Doubt, Tom Petty, and Alanis Morissette for starters. But what makes this band unique is McPheeters mom, in her '70s, plays keyboard and sings harmony to songs outside her era. Her husband even learned to play the bass. The Elburn band covers hit songs of the '90s. McPheeters describes her band as having an attitude, a swagger, thus the name Rockin' Moxie. "Soulful, bluesy, yet at the same time with female anthems," she says.

Friday 7-11 p.m. RAY'S ROCKETS

The Streator, Illinois based band that defies aging, playing the 50-70 decades even singing a few pop and bubble-gum tunes. Advertised as early rock-n-roll through the 1990s, this group features a horn section. As the song says, "reminiscence about the days of old with

that old time rock-n-roll." The band says even country if people ask for country: "People say we look like we are having a good time and we try and transfer that back to the audience.""

Saturday 1-4 p.m. THE ROCK BARN BAND

The accolades read "bringing down the house," "promises a great time," and "packs the people in."

Saturday 7-11 p.m. THE ETHAN BELL BAND

From nearby Yorkville, the band has toured the Midwest, even down in Nashville, Tenn. Billed as blurring the line between country, pop, and hip-hop, the band has opened for Chris Bryant, The Marshall Tucker Band, Love and Theft, and Dylan Scott. From this, two singles have been produced "Party Bus" and "Hold Your Own." They credit their musical influence to the likes of The Zac Brown Band and Florida-Georgia Line. You might be singing to Free Bird to Sweet Caroline.

Sunday p.m. 1-4 p.m. PATCHOULI

Returning again, the acoustic guitar duo, Bruce Hecksel is a master guitarist while Julie Patchouli has been compared to Joni Mitchell. City Pages writes..."amazing, I compare it to taking a yoga class in a field of running mustangs." The Victory Music Review wrote "Their music takes me back to the early '70s at country hippy party on a sunny, blissful days...like a warm, sunny inviting beach." Original sound, rhythms, harmonies. Folk jazz with a little Latin and African influences, they use marimba, pan flute, African drum, piano and 6-12 string guitars.

Carrollton – Wednesday night



by Mark Harrington

Breaking the mold and for the first time, a gospel-recording artist comes to the Sandwich Fair when Carrollton performs on the main stage Wednesday night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. But don't let that label "gospel" deter your attendance. If you like The Eagles, well...

In these times, their big song has been "Let Love Win," is sure to resonate with fairgoers:

Oh, it goes places we're afraid of going

It's not a fist it's a hand wide open Reaching out to the down and broken

Even in this darkness hope will rise again

Based between Louisville and Cincinnati, the band gets its name for the half-way meeting place between those two cities the boys call home for rehearsals, Carrollton, Kentucky.

Here are what some reviewers say.

"Barn-burning, southern gothic chorus with blue collar lyrics."

"Southern rock with a hint of southern gospel."

"Rustic warmth with arena-filling hooks."

"Stripped back appeal and honest songwriting."

"Bold sound, tight harmonies, indie-rock vibe."

Their music has been compared to The Eagles, Hootie and the Blowfish, and Jeremy Camp. From their website, the band writes about their own life experiences and others met while touring. This group features intricate instrumental work with soulful sound, energetic melodies, driving beats, and even tender ballads.

"We wanted to try something different," said fairgrounds manager Bradley Anderson. "A different genre instead of (former main stage) country shows in the week."

Two albums Breathe Deep and Holding on To You Sunlight and Shadows have been released with top 20 charts positions on several songs, including Billboard Magazine. The latest album has been called a beautiful mountain top days of sunlight mixed with the days of shadows. However, a new album release in a few weeks may take them to the top again on the charts.

Here is a short list of their songs This is Life, Everything or Nothing, Tell Me, Shelter, Made For This.

Worship leader comprise this band with southern harmonies of pop and rock. Some call them an American contemporary Christian music band.

HOME ART BUILDING STAGE ENTERTAINMENT

Just behind that showpiece big yellow building in the center of the fairgrounds, there is entertainment a plenty at the Home Arts Stage. Just a great place to relax, while you enjoy a fair refreshment or treat.

Wednesday 6:30-8:30 p.m. JAKE MACK AND THE LESSER STAGGS

A Rock-Americana quartet, this is a high-energy band with an eclectic repertoire original material. Writes one admirer: "they grab the listener with clever hooks." Playing 200 shows a year, this band has been on WGN and Chicago radio.

Thursday 6:30-8:30 p.m. BARBARA AND THE BOYS

Recording a 45 single with Hooty Sappenticker and The Boys Cobra on the flip side, this is a rock-n-roll novelty band. Influences are credited to Carole King, Otis Redding, James Taylor, even George Gershwin. "A house party feel at every fun show," writes on reviewer.

Friday 6:00-8:00 p.m. WINDS OF CHANGE

Saturday 11:00-2:00 p.m. REDHORSE

Playing a variety of instruments, this Sandwich area band's highlights range from blues, folk rock, Americana/country, classic, rock-n-roll, Motown, and covers all with their popular original music. You also hear vibes

of harmonica, mandolin, banjo, ukulele, or washboard. A CD is entitled "Speed of Light." Their description reads a fresh sound, charisma, better than the originals. This band covers the Beatles to the Grateful Dead to Jimi Hendrix.

Saturday 4:30-7:30 p.m. THE CLASSIX

This is a non-stop fun, dancing shoes boogie band, the premier classic rock band from the 1930s to the 1980s yet they been known for their jazzy side too.

Sunday Noon-12:45 p.m. CLOGGIN' CRAZE

An early American form of dance resembling tap dancing featuring precision and enthusiasm with steps such as stomp, kicks, heel drags of the basic step of double-step and rock step. But the advance featuring numbers like Kentucky Darg, Pothole, Outhouse, Shave and a Haircut, High Horse, and Mountain Goat. Two taps are nailed to the shoe bottoms unlike one for tap, dancing to popular or country music.

Sunday 2:00-4:00 p.m. TWO GUITARS AND A TUBA

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IN MEMORIAM

For the Sandwich Fair, it takes an army of people, many volunteers, to put on the grand classic of fairs in the Midwest. However, sadly every year the fair association bids goodbye to people who have passed away.

Three people will be missed this year.



Tom Merkel, 62 of Sandwich, served the fair in various ways for more than 35 years, managing the office since 2008.

"He was the man behind the scenes," Sandwich Fair Board President Larry Dannetwitz said. "He guided many processes associated with the fair from beginning to end.

Tom took care of many behind the scene activities that happen year round to make the fair run smoothly."

Just a few weeks before last year's fair, Tom

Merkel, the fair's office manager, died leaving a big void. The tall lanky guy greeted you at Suydam Road office fair counter, not just during fair week but year round. If you had a question, he was the answer man.



John A. Fox, 83, of Somonauk served for more than 50 years, his last duty working as night watchman. His obituary in June put it simply, "he loved being night watchman at the fair."

Dannetwitz recalled that John Fox had deep roots in Sandwich Fair history. He had followed his dad Ray Fox, who was on the first night watchman crew, and

whom he took over as the lead night watchman. Watchmen walk around the fairgrounds all night to look for any suspicious activity and to alert the proper authorities.



Joe Webber, 48, of Sandwich was head of security for 22 years for the fair. He passed away at home a month after the fair.

"He was always involved in some way with the fair," Dannetwitz re-

membered.

"Joe seemed to be around when we needed an extra strong back and a lot of muscle to get the job done."

He followed his dad Jim "Biff" Webber, who was the caretaker of the grounds, which is now maintained by Joe's brother. He additionally served for many years as the head of the night watchman.

Hit and miss... antique trucks, tractors, engines

by Mark Harrington

Pop, whoosh, whoosh, whoosh, Pop.

Hercules, Fairbanks and Morse, John Deere, Stover, International Harvester (McCormick-Deering) or Sandwich.

Inside the miniature steam engine tracks, the past comes alive. Walking or riding the train are the ways to view it all.

Tractors, hit and miss engines, fire trucks, industrial size trucks...there's almost a need for more space.

For those coming from the city and suburbia, there is amazement. Roger Peterson has seen it in his duties in charge of the displays.

"I've seen people watching corn being shelled," he said. "They've never seen an ear of corn. That ear goes in and comes out with just the cob and they are amazed."

Hit and miss engines were made just down the street from the fairgrounds, thanks to a fire that wiped out Jacob Haish's factory in DeKalb more than 100 years ago. Haish employees moved down to Sandwich. From that factory came the Excess Power in 1913, the Light 6, the Big 6, the Cub. One and one half to 10 horsepower models. The popularity peaked during 1913-1930.

Those engines were high tech for the day, used in rural and in town settings alike.

On the farm, they would crush rocks, saw logs, shell or grind corn. In town, they could be used for running washing machines. In either locale, the machines could pump water. Peterson said a five inch rock could be crushed to three-fourths of an inch. "Pretty impressive," he adds.

When electricity arrived, the end-of-an-era came first in towns, although Peterson points out that south of Sandwich on the farm relied on gas engines since the electrical current didn't hum until 1930. However, the end helped win World War II when many were scrapped for the iron and steel community drives.

People are fascinated by the popping noise of the hit and miss engines. Peterson shared his expertise in an explanation.

"Not every revolution (turn) of the flywheel, do they fire," he said. "The engine fires inside, there is an explosion in the cylinder. The pop comes out the muffler. About every five to ten revolutions it is coasting, then the

engine slows up and fires."

With a governor to set and control the speed, as the speed decreases, then the machine fires or *hits* to maintain its average speed. If the machine exceeds the speed, it doesn't fire or *misses*, the name hit-and-miss engine. When more power is needed for a chore, Peterson says they really pop, almost every time.

Comparing the gas engines to today's electric motors riding lawn tractors is simple.

The hit and miss can weigh 235 to 3,200 pounds and the speed is usually kept below 500 rpm. For the day of doing chores by hand, that speed was amazing. Those machines had to have a set controllable speed or be staked down or be bolted into a heavy base to prevent bouncing, shaking, and flying apart.

Electric motors today weigh 50-100 pounds and the rpm is 360. Motors then became smaller for chores at farm and home, thus the hit and miss engines faded into oblivion, stored in the barn back corners collecting dust and rusting in weedy farm areas until a revival for collectors and in shows.

Oil cups on top were used to lubricate the machines, being placed higher than the machine to lubricate the pistons just by dripping. That oil, dust, and chaff from the chore makes cleaning the machine a priority. Keep a machine full of water, gasoline, and oil, it could run all day.

Back in the day, Peterson said an engine might cost \$100. Today, the collectors will pay \$400-\$500 for a common engine and Peterson says upwards to \$20,000-\$30,000. "Those are a little different in design, more elaborate, and rare. They were newer for the day and very expensive. Not everyone could afford one."

Fire trucks return to the fair. The earliest is a 1920s and then the ones in the '60s. People like the old stuff, says Peterson.

But tractors are another favorite for him. When asked for his favorite, he admitted it was a difficult task. "I like them all. It's a close tie with John Deere and International (for the biggest number in the fair display)."

A persons fascination with tractors may come with a comparison.

"The days gone bye," said Peterson. "A lot of kids nowadays see these big fancy tractors with cabs and air conditioning."

Every fair week, the big boy comes out, the steam traction engines, the era before the gasoline tractors when the power came from burning coal or wood to produce steam. Peterson calls them the most unique. Of course, the inside of the track allows one to watch the famed and loved Augie Otto steam miniature train.

In addition, children can watch and make rope the old-fashioned way with a crank, a neat souvenir. Down

on the farm way, kids can turn the crank on small corn shellers. There will be a working blacksmith. On display will be barbed wire, miniature gas engines and insulators.

Of course, you can always stand, smell, watch, and drool, all for free, as the cooks turn the big grates on the pork chops.



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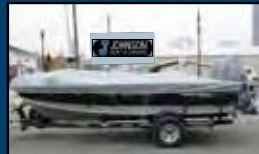
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