



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2019 FAYETTE COUNTY FAIR KICKS OFF TODAY

Uniontown, PA – The annual Fayette County Fair will welcome thousands during its 10-day run, July 25 to Aug. 3.

A county staple, the fair began in the early 1950s on the O.W. Rittenhouse and Edward Higbee farms with a series of small-scale “field days,” before its founding members became the Fayette County Agricultural Improvement Agency in May 1955.

In 1957, former county commissioners purchased land in Dunbar Township that would become the Fayette County Fairgrounds. The first official fair was held there in 1958, with 2019 marking its 61st year on the site.

Following decades of continuous growth, the Fayette County Fair now boasts nearly 90,000 annual visitors, making it one of the largest Pennsylvania fairs.

Fair board members pride themselves on the variety of entertainment they’re able to offer for people of all ages each year - from one of the best carnivals on the east coast to demolition derbies in the outdoor arena, huge music acts to the beloved fair pig races.

Fair board member Danielle Allen Angelo said 2019 fairgoers can expect the perfect mix of new and returning attractions.

“I just love a fair. I enjoy seeing all the different entertainers, walking through the animal barns, talking to and meeting new people,” Angelo said. “I think the fair is a way to bring all kinds of people together. You’ve got acts from all over the country, as well as Fayette residents from all walks of life coming together in one place, so you’ll see city people talking with country people and it’s just so nice to see everyone interacting.”

Powers Great American Midways, which Angelo called “one of the best carnivals in the country,” will return this year, with its spectacular rides, games, prizes and more.

Other family-friendly attractions will include the barnyard petting zoo, performances by Josh Knotts and Lea of Extreme Illusions and Escapes, daily shows by the Bears of Bearadise Ranch, demonstrations by the Axe Women Loggers of Maine, strolling shows by Danny Grant’s Cowboy Circus, wood carving, a Keystone Fireworks display and more.

“The Cowboy Circus was here last year, and we’re so excited to have Danny back,” Angelo said. “He’s very relatable, and I love seeing how much fun he has with the kids. Isn’t that what a fair is all about?”

This year's festivities kick off Thursday evening with the opening ceremonies, Fayette County Fair Queen Contest, preliminary judging for many contests and more.

As the Fayette County Fair is, first and foremost, an agricultural fair, the county's many, thriving 4-H programs will take center stage daily. A full activity schedule, jam-packed with youth displays and demonstrations, is available online.

On Friday, country superstar Jo Dee Messina and special guest Steve Smith will perform on the Lady Luck Stage.

On Saturday, Fayette County natives and fan-favorites, The Clarks will return for another performance you won't want to miss. Special guests Blended Reality will open the show.

Fairgoers can rock out on Sunday to a performance by The Fabulous Hubcaps. On Aug. 3, Angelo said, younger audiences will relate to the fair's closing headliners.

"We're very excited for Jo Dee Messina and all of our performers, but Gabby Barrett just recently being a runner-up on American Idol has allowed her to connect with younger audiences," Angelo said. "Local artist Tim Litvin will open for Gabby, so again you'll have that young connection."

Entertainers slated to take to the Mike Kelly Toyota Stage throughout the week include the Andy Davis Band, Katelyn Rose Band, Greedy Gretchen, Kourtney Zufall, Detour, The Cellar Dwellers and Refuge.

In addition to dozens of food and craft vendors, art displays, 4-H shows and more, the Chevron Outdoor Arena will also boast a full event schedule. Fairgoers will enjoy everything from tractor pulls to motocross, monster trucks to demolition derbies.

Angelo said that, while she enjoys visiting small-town fairs all over the country, there's nothing like the level of nonstop fun the Fayette County Fair has to offer.

"It's just great to be able to meet people, talk about the entertainment, bond over the animals or share the best gyro you could ever eat," she said. "It's the best time of year."

For a complete fair schedule and more information on all the Fayette County Fair has to offer, visit www.fayettedfair.com.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

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