



VOL. 27 | NO. 7 | August 2021

★ Steele County Free Fair and ★
 United Way of Steele County to
 Celebrate Our Frontline Heroes!!

Wednesday, August 18, we will show our gratitude to our frontline heroes for their service above self, especially this past year, at the free Jason Pritchett concert in the grandstand. While we all tried to figure out how to live in this new version of our community, our frontline heroes went to work every day so that our basic needs could be met. We know the risk that they put themselves in and for that the residents of the Steele County Area wish to say THANK YOU!!!! The grandstand gates will open at 6:00 PM and this free concert will begin with opening act Travis Thamert at 6:30 PM. Jason Pritchett will take the stage at 8:00 PM.

Drawings will be held throughout the evening for fun prizes. A freewill donation will be accepted, with all proceeds going to Community Pathways (Food Shelf and Clothesline) and United Way of Steele County so that we can continue the work that you started and help our community in its rebuilding phase. We hope you can join us!

Entertainment Sponsored by: HyVee Owatonna, Godfather's Pizza, Camping World, and TownSquare Media.

All are welcome to enjoy this free concert and to show appreciation to our frontline workers!

Travis Thamert will start the celebration at about 6:30 PM, followed by Jason Pritchett at 8:00 PM.

Sponsored by:



★ SCFF OFFICE INFORMATION ★

PO Box 650
www.scff.org | (507) 451-5305
steelecountyfreefair@scff.org

If you would like to receive your Barker Newsletter by e-mail, please contact us and we will be happy to add you to the list.

★ Hometown Mobility ★

The Steele County Free Fair has contracted with Hometown Mobility for scooters, wheelchairs, wagons and lockers to be rented by fairgoers with these needs. Hometown Mobility will be located right by the North Elm entrance to the fairgrounds. Reservations are required to secure this equipment.



To reserve, please call 877-928-5388 or visit the Hometown Mobility website at www.htmia.com

Steele County Free Fair Barker

★ Opening Ceremony ★

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17TH 5PM

The Owatonna VFW will be conducting the opening ceremony for the fair starting at 4:50 PM on the United Prairie Bank Stage in Fair Square Park. "Just Friends" will be performing patriotic music as the flag procession approaches the park.

Several speakers will be on stage including Amanda Chubb, local VFW Patriots Pen Essay Winner and 8th grade student at St. Mary's School and Lileigh Nguyen, local VFW Voice of Democracy Essay winner and sophomore at Owatonna High School.

Military flags will be posted for each branch of the service and their respective songs will be sung.



The Exchange Club of Owatonna will be distributing US flags to those veterans in attendance.

We welcome all veterans, their families and friends along with the public to attend this inspirational opening ceremony as the 2021 Steele County Free Fair officially begins.

★ Hall of Fame Inductions ★

Livestock Hall of Fame and Equine Hall of Fame Inductions to take place on Opening Day of the Fair

The Livestock Hall of Fame program will be held on Tuesday, August 17th, 2:00 pm, in the Cattle Show Arena. Honored this year are Glen Johnson & Deb McDermott-Johnson and Richard Steinberg.

GLEN JOHNSON & DEB MCDERMOTT-JOHNSON



- Founded "Cow Camp" for Steele County youth through the Owatonna Community Education program.
- Hosted June Dairy Month "Breakfast on the Farm" multiple times.
- Glen dedicated more than a decade of service to dairy product promotion with the Steele County American Dairy Association
- Deb served as Director of Community Education for Owatonna Public Schools.
- Deb served as Secretary of the Minnesota Brown Swiss Breeders Association and was instrumental in bringing the national convention to Steele County.
- Bred an outstanding herd of Guernsey, Holstein and Brown Swiss cows. Exhibited 30-40 head of cattle from their herd at the Steele County Free Fair with "Cow Camp" students

RICHARD STEINBERG



- Founding member and has served as President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Show Superintendent of the Owatonna Rabbit Club.

- Responsible for numerous state conventions and rabbit shows, hosted in Owatonna, serving as superintendent for all of them.
- Served as show superintendent of the National Silver Martin Club Show at the Steele County Free Fairgrounds.
- Has judged countless rabbit shows including local, 12 states, Canada and 7 National American Rabbit Breeders Association conventions.
- Currently a member and served as President of the Rochester Area Rabbit Club for 21 years.
- Has been a Licensed Registrar since 1977 for the American Rabbit Breeders Association.
- Recipient of the American Rabbit Breeders Association Distinguished Service Award in 2016 and was awarded lifetime membership in 2017.

EQUINE HALL OF FAME – 12:30 PM Cattle Show Arena

MONTE AND NANCY MOWRY



- Active members, officers of the Owatonna Saddle Club
- Assisted in numerous Steele County horse shows and events
- Hosts to Girl Scout troops which earned horse activity badges
- In 2014 started a 'Dream' program called "Ride For The Brand-Americans With Disabilities". Focused on individuals with 'special needs' to come to their farm to ride and enjoy the horse experiences.
- Several of the horses used in "Ride For The Brand" have been purchased from the Rescue Pen. These horses have been given another chance to give their equine charm to help fulfill other dreams.
- Added other groups (Brands) so those individuals can have positive equine experiences. Those 'Brands' include: Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota; Realife; Operation 23 to Zero.

★ Great Outdoors Center ★

The Great Outdoors Center is taking on a new exterior look with siding, doors and windows being replaced in preparation for the 2021 Steele County Free Fair.

The indoors of the Great Outdoors Center will also feature some new exhibits this year. The Raptor Center will be in the Great Outdoors Center on Wednesday, August 18th and Thursday, August 19th. The National Eagle Center will be at the Great Outdoors Center on Friday, August 20th and August 21st. Be sure to check out these new exhibits as you take in the fair.

Raptor Center of the University of Minnesota: Wednesday, August 18, and Thursday August 19.

Warner's story

In 2009, Warner was found on the ground with head trauma from an unknown source and sustained permanent scarring to the retinas in both eyes. Unable to be released to the wild, he was placed at Warner Nature Center and lived there until the center's closure in 2019. He now has a permanent home with The Raptor Center as an educational ambassador.



Monarch Butterflies

Kathy Van Ommeren of Owatonna will also be in the Great Outdoors Center with different stages of the Monarch Butterfly and how they progress from little, tiny eggs to the full-grown butterfly. In fact, she will have in her display and presentation each day several butterflies ready to fly.



Paul Bunyan

Paul Bunyan will be visiting the Steele County Free Fair Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of the fair. Paul Bunyan is sponsored by House Chevrolet.



National Eagle Center: Friday, August 20 and Saturday, August 21.

National Eagle Center of Wabasha will have representatives present and Eagle demonstrations on Friday and Saturday. A program will be presented Friday at 1:00, 3:00 and 5:00 PM. Saturday programs will be 1 PM and 3 PM. Learn about eagle biology, ecology, and a presentation of one

of the National Eagle Center naturalists. The National Eagle Center is sponsored by West Bend Insurance.

Happy Tails

Happy Tails Pet Store will be completing the display at the Great Outdoors Center by putting reptiles and fish in the tanks along the wall. Snakes, Geckos, fish, cockroaches, and many other species will be on display.



★ New Fair Foods for 2021 ★



Amish Annies
Glazed donuts with whipped cream, fresh fruit, choc Sauce and Choc. Chips; Bacon crumbles and maple syrup; sandwich donuts with chicken and bacon; frozen cocoa.

Texas Bayou Billy Tea
Fresh brewed team – sweet tea, unsweetened tea, Hillbilly tea.



Depot Bar Food Caboose - Faribault
Walleye Fingers, MN wild rice soup, sausage on a stick, lobster tacos and more!



Wild Bills Olde Fashioned Soda
Root Beer, diet root beer, vanilla cream, black cherry, sarsaparilla, birch, ginger ale, grape and orange soda.

★ Grounds Crew 2021 ★

The Steele County Free Fair grounds crew has been extremely busy this summer. Scott Seykora is the head of the grounds crew and this year we have six new members. It has been a teaching and learning year for these 6 young men. New siding, windows and doors have been installed on the Great Outdoors Center, they have learned how to put up stalls and are also mastering the many tasks that need to be done in preparation for the 2021 Steele County Free Fair. If you see these young men on the grounds, thank them for their hard work. They keep the fairgrounds going during the summer.

Front Row L to R: Luke Effertz, Matt Seykora, Beckett Seykora
Back Row L to R: Jesse Deml, Evan Buck, Zac Kubicek, Scott Seykora





★ Bulls and Barrels ★

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21 7:30 PM

Bulls N Barrels will be of great grandstand entertainment Saturday evening, August 21, beginning at 7:30 PM. The show is sure to entertain the entire family with its action packed top ranked bull riding, comedy specialty acts and free style bull fighting. This event is not a rodeo. Tickets are available online at www.scff.org or at the grandstand ticket office.

Mutton Bustin' will also be part of the Saturday evening grandstand entertainment featuring area youth showing their riding skills. The cost to participate is \$5.00 per child and is limited



to the first 10 registered participants. Please stop in the Steele County Free Fair office to register. Participants need to be ages 3-10 and under 55 lbs. for safety of the animals.

Bulls N Barrels is sponsored by Plaza Morena Campestre Grill, Lava Burgers & Wings, Owatonna People's Press and Kibble Equipment. Mutton Bustin' is sponsored by Wolff and Sons of Owatonna.

★ Motor Events ★

**ANTIQUE TRACTOR PULL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17 6 PM**

The Steele County Free Fair is bringing back the Antique Tractor Pull on the grandstand track. Admission will be free and no tickets are required.



Sponsors for the event are Ron Janning – LG Seeds and Agroliquid along with Mike's Repair. If you would like to participate in the Antique Tractor Pull you may contact Ron Janning at 213-6548 or Mike Hartle. Opening night of the fair is a great time to come out, grab something to eat and watch this great event.



**DEMO DERBY
SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2 PM**

How do many people spend the final afternoon of the Steele County Free Fair? At the Demo Derby, of course! Do you have a Demo vehicle you would like to enter and compete with?

Contact IMP Demo Derby at impdemoderby.com for rules and regulations for each type of vehicle. Entry forms are available on our website: www.scff.org

Sponsors for the 2021 Demo Derby are: NAPA Auto Parts of Owatonna, Misgen Auto Parts, Kibble Equipment and Four Seasons Electric.

Tickets are available on the SCFF website: www.scff.org or at the grandstand ticket office.

★ Have You Seen the New Signage? ★



These new digital signs are located on I-35 close to Revol Greens and can be seen by everyone traveling on I-35.





Steele County Free Fair
PO Box 650
Owatonna, MN 55060

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Join Us This Year
August 17-22, 2021

★ **SCFF.com** ★



A Life of Service to the Steele County Free Fair

Richard (Dick) Reinhardt, age 95, passed away on Thursday, July 15, 2021. Dick will be deeply missed by his Steele County Free Fair family but will also be fondly remembered for his years of service to the fair.

A lifelong member of Owatonna, Dick's first job at the fair was taking tickets at a dance revue when he was 12 years old. Dick was elected to the Steele

County Free Fair Board of Directors in 1959, serving as treasurer from 1959 - 1996. From 1997 - 2016, Dick was the director of hospitality and the fair bank. After turning 90 years old in 2016, Dick formally retired from the Board of Directors but continued as Director Emeritus.

Dick will also be remembered for his 55 years of service to the Minnesota State Fair where he worked in the ticket audit office.

"Dick dedicated his whole life to the fair," said Fair Board President Dan Deml. "He always had a very realistic look of the fair. He knew what would work and what wouldn't and was always very professional."

We will miss your wisdom and smile, dear friend.



Jim Grass, former fairboard member, passed away on Wednesday, July 14th at the age of 91.

Jim worked his whole life on the farm and drove truck until he was 85 years old. His hobbies included hunting and fishing especially in Northern Minnesota, raising and exhibiting purebred Spotted hogs and purebred Simmental cattle at county and state fairs, and spending time with his family

especially enjoying his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He was a great supporter and volunteer of the 4-H and FFA programs and coached 4-H general livestock judging teams. Jim was a member of the Minnesota Pork Producers, Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association, Minnesota and National Spotted Swine Association, Minnesota and National Simmental Association, was honored for 50 years of exhibiting livestock at the Minnesota State Fair, was Inducted into the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Hall of Fame, was inducted into the Steele County Livestock Hall of Fame and was an Honorary Life Member of the Minnesota State Agriculture Society. Jim also received a Distinguished Service award from the National Barrow show.

★ **Memorials Received** ★

DONATIONS RECEIVED

Lorraine Jirele and Family
Milo Dahlin
Mary Kay Feltes
Solem Concessions
Kevin Christey
Allina Health

Randy Moore
Greg and Bonnie Krueger
Shirley Ann and Tammy Lohman

MEMORIALS RECEIVED

Bruce and BJ Busho
-in memory of Steph Radel
Wayne and Janet Starman
- in memory of Dylan Lattery
LuVerne Wanous
- In memory of Elmer Reseland

Karen Federly
- Bench and donation in
memory of Rene Erickson and
David Cameron
Johnson Family
- Bench in memory of Mark D.
Johnson