

October 5, 2015  
For Immediate Release

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### **THE CENTRAL WASHINGTON STATE FAIR FINISHES ON A HIGH NOTE**

Almost perfect Fair weather for the ten day run of the annual event helped boost attendance to 319,351 when the Central Washington State Fair closed on Sunday making it one of the best attended fairs in recent history. The total is a 1.35% increase over last year when attendance was 315,107. On the final Saturday an all-time one day record of 57,261 people streamed through the gates, and on the final Sunday another 49,731 came to the Fair to get one last chance to see the animals, ride the rides, take in the entertainment and eat the unique fair foods.

In 2013 the Fair drew 269,253, but that year was hit with several days of cool, rainy, inclement weather. In 2012, when the weather was warm and sunny all 10 days the attendance was 304,769.

This year the temperatures were in the 70's and 80's every day, and the evenings, for the most part, were pleasant allowing fairgoers a chance to stay and enjoy all the attractions.

“We couldn't have asked for better weather,” said fair president and general manager, Greg Stewart. “It was perfect, and we think the people who came out this year found one great fair!”

When the weather cooperates Fair attendance usually surpasses the 300,000 mark. Over 301,500 attended the Fair in 2011, and in 2010, when the Fair experienced another run of almost perfect early fall weather, some 312,149 people enjoyed the Fair.

“We think everyone definitely found their happy,” said Stewart, referring to the fair this year, “*Find Your Happy*”.

Food lovers found unique tasty treats at over 60 different food booths, and thrill seekers were entertained all ten days by the dozens of midway rides and games presented by Butler Amusements.

The other big draw was the entertainment at the Budweiser Stage and the Coca-Cola Grandstand.

On opening Friday the fair presented the country group Parmalee, followed by the rock band Blue Oyster Cult on Saturday, and Latina songstress Graciela Beltran on Sunday.

On Tuesday of the fair, legendary pop group the Beach Boys drew a huge crowd. Other entertainment throughout the week included John Anderson, Loverboy, Maddie & Tae, and Eric Burdon and the Animals. On the final Sunday, Norteno band Conjunto Primavera drew the largest crowd of the Fair.

Big crowds also took in two days of sprint car races on the opening weekend, and both the Monster Truck show and two days of Demolition Derby had full houses on the final weekend.

Other attractions that drew plenty of interest was the mega exhibit Discover the Dinosaurs, the All-Alaskan Racing Pigs, some new busker acts including Mr. Statue and Manfred the Singing Horse, along with the exotic animals at Walk on the Wild Side and the many farm animals at Barnville.

The Fair also presented entertainment on the Pacific Power Stage including the Ty Herndon, Hell’s Belles, Barracuda, and a country tribute that featured the music of Kenny Chesney, Jason Aldean and Toby Keith performed by singers who looked like them.

Stewart said fair management and staff are already making plans for next year’s event. The dates for the 2016 fair will be September 23 through October 2.

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