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For Immediate Release

For more information contact:
Greg Stewart @ 248-7160

FINAL WEEKEND PUSHES FAIR ATTENDANCE OVER 312,000

A record breaking attendance on the final Saturday and a large crowd on the last day of the Central Washington State Fair helped push this year's attendance to 312,191. On Saturday 59,551 people came through the gates, making it the biggest single day attendance ever. Last year on the final Saturday, 57,261 people attended the Fair, which was the previous best single day attendance.

Last year's total Fair attendance was 319,351. This year's attendance was down about 2% from 2015 but Fair organizers were still extremely happy with how things ended up.

"We had a great final weekend," said Fair president and general manager Greg Stewart. "Really the whole fair was great. The weather was good and people really seemed to enjoy everything we had to offer."

On the final Sunday of this year's ten day event 44,966 people 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.

This year the temperatures were mostly 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. The nice early fall weather always helps attendance, making this year one of the best in the past ten years.

In 2014 attendance was 315,107. In 2013 when the Fair experienced cool, rainy weather, attendance was 269,253. In 2012, when the weather was warm and sunny all 10 days the attendance was 304,769.

Over 301,500 attended the Fair in 2011, and in 2010, when the Fair had another run of almost perfect early fall weather, 312,149 people came the Fair.

Again this year 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 of the U.S. Cellular Concert Series at the Corona Stage.

On opening Friday the fair presented Foghat, followed by country singer Clay Walker, and Norteno band Los Rieleros on Sunday.

On Tuesday of the fair, legendary pop group Boyz II Men drew a huge crowd. Other entertainment throughout the week included Hinder, Rachel Platten, Grand Funk Railroad. On the final Saturday country legend Clint Black performed to a sold out audience, and on the final Sunday, Norteno singer Michael Salgado also drew standing room only crowds.

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

Other attractions that drew plenty of interest was the Creature Feature Extreme, the All-Alaskan Racing Pigs, several street performers, exotic animals at Walk on the Wild Side and the many farm animals at Barnville.

The Fair also presented non-stop entertainment on the Pacific Power Stage including America's Got Talent winners The Olate Dogs.

Stewart said fair management and staff are already making plans for next year's event, when the fair will be celebrating its 125th birthday. Anyone with any fair history or memorabilia

they would like to share is asked to contact the Fair at 509-248-7160. The dates for the 2017 fair will be September 22 through October 1.

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