

IT'S FINALLY FAIR FRIDAY: THINGS TO KNOW FOR OPENING WEEKEND

FRANKLIN, Tenn. -- The first weekend of the Williamson County Fair is on the horizon and the schedule is packed with new and old attractions, exhibits, demonstrations and plenty of fried food that's sure to please the crowd.

Friday, Aug. 3 marks the beginning of nine days full of "Country Pride, County Wide"-themed Fair fun. The festivities will begin with a ribbon cutting at 5:30 p.m. in front of the Williamson County AgEXPO at 4215 Long Ln. in Franklin. The gates officially open at 6 p.m. with regular priced admission.

Don't miss the very first Jurassic Kingdom show -- a new and limited-time attraction this year -- at 7 p.m. in the Tractor Supply Livestock Arena. Jurassic Kingdom will only run through Tuesday, Aug. 7, so guests are encouraged to catch the show early! Ma'Ceo, Lady Houdini and the Kids Celebration Mega Show will each offer several performances Friday night and throughout the Fair. The first night of the 14th annual event will be capped off with a fireworks show at 10 p.m., and Fair Friday means unlimited midway rides are \$25 for all Fairgoers.

Saturday, Aug. 4 is Government Employee Day. Gates open at 10 a.m., and all government employees will receive free admission with a special ticket obtained from their employer, compliments of Cigna. Blue ribbon cakes and pies will be up for grabs at 4 p.m. during the 4-H Cake Auction located in the Picnic Pavilion inside the arena, with all proceeds benefiting the local 4-H program.

Catch four shows filled with tricks and turns from the BMX Bike Pros on the upper midway throughout Saturday, and other exhibits like Little 1s Farming, Children's Barnyard and the 4-H & Youth Village are open all day. Another bright fireworks display at 10 p.m. will round out day two, and the midway closes at midnight.

"Sweet" is the theme of **Sunday, Aug. 5**, with a cake decorating demonstration from Dimples Barton of local bakery Sweet Temptations at 1 p.m. in the Creative and Culinary Arts Room. The Loveless Cafe Biscuit Contest, judged by staff from the beloved Tennessee eatery, the Goo Goo Cluster Baking Contest, the King Arthur Flour Baking Contest and the "Williamson County Wide Best Peach Pie" Contest will take place in the Picnic Pavilion beginning at 3 p.m. Sunday is also Senior Day, where Fairgoers aged 55 and older can enjoy FREE admission beginning at noon when the Fair opens.

The Williamson County Fair Pageants will begin at 2 p.m. on Sunday with the Babies and Toddlers contest and will end with the selection of the Fairest of the Fair at 7 p.m. All pageants are held at the Performing Arts Center at Academy Park and are free for the public to attend.

Bluegrass Stage

Local talent will be showcased daily during the Fair on the NISSAN Bluegrass stage on the upper midway. First to take the stage on Friday night is Russ & Becky Jeffers Smokey Mountain Sunshine at 6:30 p.m. followed by Nathan Belt & The Buckles at 8 p.m. and Rocky Top Revue at 9:30 p.m.

On Saturday, check out Rockland Road at 5 p.m. and Crosswind at 6:30 p.m., followed by Mike Oldham & the Tone Rangers at 8 p.m. and Bluesgrass at 9:30 p.m. The Craig Morris King Cotton Trio, Williamson County Bluegrass and Sounding Joy will bring the Sunday serenades at 4:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., respectively.

For the full schedule and information on tickets and deals, visit www.williamsoncountyfair.org.

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