

Racine County Fair

Stars, Stripes and
Summer Nights
July 24-28

**RACINE COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS**

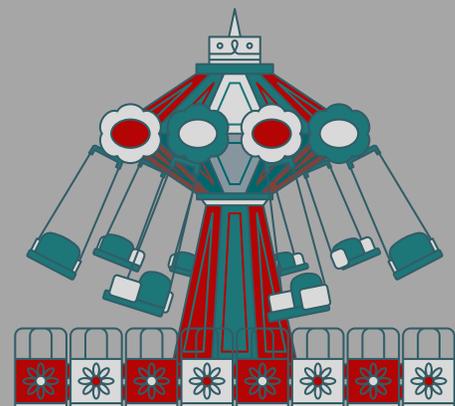
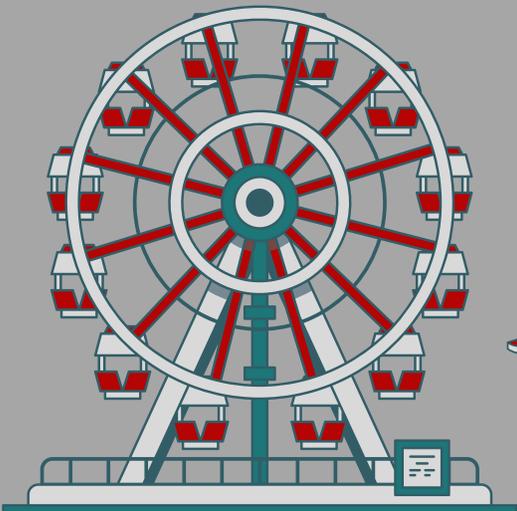
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'Stars, Stripes and Summer Nights'

102nd Racine County Fair aims to entertain with five days of activities

The theme for this year's Racine County Fair is "Stars, Stripes and Summer Nights." The fair will be celebrating its 102nd year. It has a rich history that tells the story of how dedication and perseverance have directly contributed to the continued success of the event throughout the years.

Those who have seen the iconic Racine County Fairgrounds sign "Since 1923" might be curious about the history of the fair.

The Racine County Fair traces its roots much farther back to the 1850s when the first annual agricultural fair was held in the township of Yorkville.

Throughout that century, locations ranged across the county from Racine to Burlington. One consistent theme in these early fairs was the presence of competitive horse shows and racing, according to history shared on the fair website.

After the absence of a county fair for 30 years, a group of "ag-vocates" formed the Racine County Agricultural Society and selected Burlington as the temporary location of the county fair in the fall of 1922.

The committee considered several locations throughout Racine County for the more permanent location of the annual fair,



ultimately deciding on Union Grove's Old Settlers Park.

"The Racine County Agricultural Society and Racine County Fair continue to grow and celebrate the agriculture, industry, and community that makes our county so special," the website states.

In order to provide an expansive experience to fairgoers, the Racine County Agricultural Society purchased the 100 acres while renting Old Settlers Park during the fair season.

The Agricultural Society has evolved over the years. They now meet annually to select a 39-person Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is entirely made up

of passionate and hardworking volunteers who meet monthly to plan the annual Racine County Fair.

Over the years, the Racine County Fair has included exhibits from thousands of young people, hundreds of commercial vendors, dozens of musical acts, and ever-evolving grandstand feature entertainment.

"We have had over 100,000 people through our gates in a single year and been featured on local and national TV programming including the show *Carnival Eats*," it states.

The Racine County Agricultural Society prides itself on providing an experience like no other in the county and combining

new and fan-favorite activities during a week filled with community moments.

"We challenge you to immerse yourself in the 'Farming through the Ages' exhibit, try a new fair food, learn about raising animals from our youth exhibitors, fly high on a midway ride, and yell 'Start your engines' at the Demo Derby.

The Agricultural Society also states it hopes "this brief look into our history excites you as the Racine County Fair approaches each year and that you'll join us in celebrating the fair for years to come."

If you go...

- WHAT:** Racine County Fair
- WHERE:** Racine County Fairgrounds, 19805 Durand Ave., Union Grove
- WHEN:** Wednesday, July 24 through Sunday, July 28
- INFO:** racinecountyfair.com



Racine County Fair 2024

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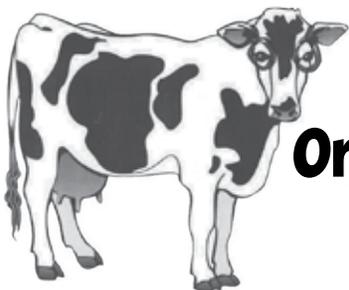
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above: Ellie Brown, 5, and Pam Grasser, Kansasville, enjoy a thrilling bumper car experience in the carnival area at the 2023 Racine County Fair. **left:** Margaret Metzen, 18, of Raymond 4-H, grooms one of her goats inside the barn at last year's fair. **on the cover:** Rogan Sorensen, of Franksville, takes a trip down the fun slide at the 2023 Racine County Fair. This year's fair will be held Wednesday, July 24 through Sunday, July 28. The theme this year is "Stars, Stripes and Summer Nights."



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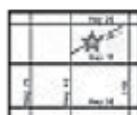


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420776

Hinkel to reign as Fairest of Fair in Racine County

By Jason Arndt
STAFF WRITER

Jennifer Hinkel's passion for the Racine County Fair began as a youngster, exploring the barns, watching exhibitors showcase animals, and participating in multiple activities.

Hinkel, who is originally from Franklin, said she became so fond of the fair that she eventually joined the Raymond 4-H Club and exhibited a dozen projects.

Years later, her passion continued, with the 2015 Franklin High School graduate competing for Racine County Fairest of the Fair on two other occasions before earning the crown on the third try during the May 31 coronation ceremony at the Racine County Fairgrounds in Union Grove.

Hinkel, a former Wisconsin Honey Queen and American Honey Queen, expressed disbelief when her predecessor and Wisconsin Fairest of the Fair Kelsey Henderson passed the baton at the ceremony.



Family inspiration

Before she began showing at the Racine County Fair, Hinkel recalled spending time on the fairgrounds with her family, including parents, Rose and Bill, and brother, Christopher.

"I didn't know about the Racine County Fair until my parents took me there for my first time," Hinkel recalled, adding she walked through the horse barns and watched exhibitors showcase projects.

"I was just amazed at all they were doing," Hinkel said. "That is what kicked off my knowledge of the fair and sparked my love for it. Then I was able to join Raymond 4-H."

As a Raymond 4-H member, she participated in a dozen projects, including horses, swine, poultry, shooting sports, basketry, photography, foods, electrical, and woodworking.

As an exhibitor, she learned all she could about the Racine County Fair, even as a youth.

"Even while I was a junior exhibitor showing, I was active in showing in the open class at the same time," she said. "I participated in some of the contests that the fair offered. I wanted to do it all and see as much as I could of the fair."

Hinkel, a former Racine County Fair intern, also became a Racine 4-H Outstanding Teen and decided to compete for the title of Racine County Fairest of Fair in 2019 when she became Fair Royalty.

Hinkel had since run for Fairest of the Fair once more until she won the crown this year.

"I couldn't believe it actually happened," she said. "For years, I knew I wanted to run for the position."

Hinkel earned a lifetime membership to the Racine County Fair, a \$2,000 scholarship, and will represent the fair at the Wisconsin Association of Fairs convention in January at Chula Vista Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. She will vie for the title of Wisconsin Fairest of the Fair at the convention.

Other candidates who sought the Fairest of Fair consisted of Sydney Van Swol, of Kansasville; Emma Henningfeld, Franksville; Paige Koenecke, Union

Grove; and Maggie Metzen, Franksville.

Fair spokesperson

The Racine County Fair, themed "Stars, Stripes and Summer Nights," will be held from July 24-28 on the Racine County Fairgrounds.

Hinkel acknowledged her role carries importance, noting she will be responsible for outreach and welcoming thousands of visitors to the annual event.

"The Racine County Fair has always been something that I have looked forward to every single summer," she said. "It is a way to not only highlight the fair, but also the people involved behind the scenes that helped make this possible. Without the support of the 39 board members, who are volunteers, the Racine County Fair wouldn't be possible. The role is important to me and it's a way to reach new people that come to the fair."

Hinkel said the Racine County Fair offers something for everyone, even adults, who could come and enjoy a series of live music presentations.

Additionally, the fair features multiple

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

“The Racine County Fair has always been something that I have looked forward to every single summer.”

– Jennifer Hinkel,
Racine County
Fairest of the Fair

"For me, it was always a highlight and an end goal. I have seen so many people selected, and I have gotten to know quite a few of them over the last couple of years while being 4-H Outstanding Teen and then as Fair Royalty."

Hinkel, 26, who earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing with a minor in communications at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, became inspired to run for the third time in honor of her late mother, Rose, who passed away.

The carnival

Provided by Alpine Amusement, the carnival will be open from noon to close every day of the fair, Wednesday, July 24 through Sunday, July 28.

Mega Bands

Want to ride all day, every day? Purchase a Mega Band prior to your visit.

Mega Bands will be \$55 each and on sale through July 23 only at Community State Bank locations.

Daily Wristband

Visiting for a day? Take advantage of the day ride wristband. You can also

purchase daily wristbands and tickets at the fair. Daily wristbands are available and can be purchased at ticket kiosks in the carnival area.

Daily wristband hours of use are noon to close, Wednesday through Saturday.

Wristband prices: \$30 per person per day. Thursday special: \$25 per person to ride from 1 to 5 p.m.

Tickets

Tickets can also be purchased for individual rides. The number of tickets needed for the rides varies. Tickets can be purchased at ticket kiosks in the carnival area.



top: Kelsey Henderson, 2023 Racine County Fairest of the Fair, passes the crown to successor Jennifer Hinkel during the coronation ceremony held in late May on the Racine County Fairgrounds in Union Grove. **above:** Hinkel, the 2024 Fairest of the Fair, is congratulated by her brother, Christopher, and father, Bill, after she earned the crown.



A family tries to win a prize at one of the carnival games at a past Racine County Fair. The Carnival is open from noon to close every day of the fair.

RACINE COUNTY FAIR 2024

Stars, Stripes and Summer Nights • Schedule of Events

The hours of operation for the fair are Wednesday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Note: Junior and Open Class exhibits (including animals and competitive exhibits) close around 5 p.m. on Sunday. All events are subject to change.

Wednesday, July 24

OPENING DAY

Noon to close – ride wristband for \$30

- 9 a.m. Judging – Junior Poultry Breed, Junior and Open Rabbits, Junior Dairy
- 9:30 a.m. Judging – Junior Poultry Showmanship
- 10 a.m. Poultry Photo Contest
- 10 a.m. Junior English Horse Show
- 11 a.m. Pictures with a Goat – Goat Barn
- Noon Official Opening of the 102nd Annual Racine County Fair – Fair Office
- 2 p.m. Judging – Open Class Dairy
- 2 p.m. Pictures with a Goat – Goat Barn
- 3 p.m. Goats on Parade
- 3 p.m. Cake Decorating – Open Class
- 3 p.m. Garlic Braiding Demo – Open Class
- 4 p.m. Gebel Girls – Center Stage
- 4 p.m. Cowboy Mounted Shooting Demo – Horse Arena
- 4:30 p.m. Dog Demonstration – Showcase Stage
- 5 p.m. Cowboy Mounted Shooting Demo – Horse Arena
- 6 p.m. Live Craft Challenge – Open Class
- 6 p.m. Truck and Tractor Pull with Combine Demo – Grandstand
- 7 p.m. Lara Bell – Activity Building
- 7:30 p.m. Northcape Express – Center Stage

Thursday, July 25

CHILDREN'S DAY

Noon to close – ride wristband for \$30

- 8:30 a.m. Rooster Crowing Contest – Poultry Barn
- 9 a.m. Judging Junior Swine, Swine Showmanship
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Day Activities – Hospitality Tent
- 10 a.m. Judging – Junior Horse Western Show

Daily activities

- Live Stingray Encounter – Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Wild World of Animals – Wednesday, 3 and 6 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, 1:30, 4:30 and 7 p.m.
- Bingo by Lions Club of Waterford – starting at 5 p.m., Thursday and Friday; noon to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday
- Racing Pigs, Goats and Ducks – Wednesday, 1:30, 4:40 and 7:30 p.m.; Thursday through Saturday, noon, 2, 4, 6 and 8 p.m.; Sunday, noon, 2, 4 and 6 p.m.
- All-Star Stunt Dogs Show – Wednesday, 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.; Thursday through Sunday, 2:30, 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.
- Nick's Kids Show and Barnyard Adventures – Wednesday through Sunday 2, 4, and 6 p.m.
- Kids are People Too – Wednesday through Sunday 1 and 3 p.m.
- Petting Pen – Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to noon, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., and 6 to 8 p.m.
- Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show – Wednesday, 4 and 6 p.m.; Thursday through Sunday, 2, 4 and 6 p.m.
- 10:30 a.m. Kiddie Tractor Pull Registration – Children's Area
- 11 a.m. Pictures with a Goat – Goat Barn
- 11 a.m. Kiddie Tractor pull – Children's Area
- 1 p.m. Monster Truck Rides – Grandstand
- 1 p.m. Cream Puff Eating Contests – Center Stage (pre- registration required at Farm Bureau)
- 2 p.m. Pictures with a Goat – Goat Barn
- 2 p.m. Chocolate Bomb Making – Open Class
- 4 p.m. Cookies with the Queen – Youth Building
- 4 p.m. Tim Castle – Center Stage
- 4:30 p.m. Dog Demonstration – Showcase Stage
- 5 p.m. Monster Truck Meet and Greet (free) – Grandstand
- 6 p.m. Trick Riding Demo – Horse Arena
- 6 p.m. \$1,000 Winner Takes All Cabbage Judging – Open Class
- 6 p.m. Fair Night Photo Shoot – Open Class Building
- 7 p.m. Breaking Cadence – Activity Building
- 7:30 p.m. Monster Truck Show, presented by JM Motorsports – Grandstand
- 7:30 p.m. Boys N Toys – Center Stage

Friday, July 26

4-H/FFA/YOUTH DAY

Noon to close – ride wristband for \$30

- 8 a.m. Judging – Junior and Open Goats
- 8:30 a.m. Judging – Junior Poultry Market Class
- 9 a.m. Judging – Open Class Beef
- 9:30 a.m. Judging – Junior Beef
- 10 a.m. Horse Drill Team Demonstration – Horse Arena
- 11 a.m. Judging – Junior and Open Sheep
- 11 a.m. Poultry Auction sign up

Center Stage

The Center Stage provides a variety of entertainment throughout the fair. "Enjoy tons of local talent while also enjoying our beer and wine garden. There is something going on here all five days, including a 9 a.m. church service on Sunday," fair officials said. The schedule for Center Stage is as follows, subject to change.

- Wednesday, July 24 – 4 p.m., Gebel Girls; 7:30 p.m., Northcape Express Band
- Thursday – 4 p.m., Tim Castle; 7:30 p.m., Boys N Toys
- Friday – 4 p.m., Cheryl McCrary Band; 7:30 p.m., Eddie Butts Band
- Saturday – noon, Matt Meyer; 4 p.m., Cork N Classics; 8 p.m., Weird Science
- Sunday – 9 a.m., church service; noon, Swing House Big Band; 3:30 p.m., Sadie; 7 p.m., The Steve EL Show (Elvis)

- 1 p.m. Saw and Shingle Making Demo – Antique Tractor Area
- 2 p.m. Steve Meisner Legacy Band – Activity Building, sponsored by Community State Bank
- 2 p.m. Horse Drill Team Demonstration – Horse Arena
- 3 p.m. Saw and Shingle Making Demo – Antique Tractor Area
- 3 p.m. Cheryl McCrary Band – Center Stage
- 4 p.m. Cookies with the Queen – Youth Building
- 4:30 p.m. Dog Demonstration – Showcase Stage
- 5 p.m. Stuff that Puff Food Contest – Open Class
- 5:30 p.m. Antique Tractor Parade – Grandstand
- 6 p.m. Sue Isaacson Memorial Showmanship Competition
- 6:30 p.m. Truck and Tractor Pull – Grandstand
- 7 p.m. Under the Lights Speed Event – Horse Arena
- 7 p.m. Trick Riding Demo – Horse Arena
- 7 p.m. Lunch Money Bullies – Activity Building
- 7:30 p.m. Eddie Butts Band – Center Stage

Saturday, July 27

Noon to close – ride wristband for \$30

- 8 a.m. Horse Show – Gymkhana – Horse Arena
- 9:30 a.m. Livestock Auction – Sale Arena. Sale order: Lambs, Goats, Beef, Swine
- 10 a.m. Beer and Wine Judging - Open Class
- 10:30 a.m. Dog Demo – Showcase Stage
- 11 a.m. Pictures with a Goat – Goat Barn
- Noon Matt Meyer – Center Stage
- 1 p.m. Log Sawing and Threshing Demo – Antique Tractor Area
- 2 p.m. Wine Tasting – Beer and Wine Garden
- 2 p.m. Pictures with a Goat – Goat Barn

- 3 p.m. Milk in the Bottle Competition – Goat Barn
- 3 p.m. Log Sawing and Threshing Demos – Antique Tractor area
- 3 p.m. Trick Riding Demo – Horse Arena
- 4 p.m. Cookies with the Queen – Youth Building
- 4 p.m. Knitting and Crocheting Challenge – Open Class
- 4 p.m. Cork N Classics – Center Stage
- 4:30 p.m. Dog Demonstration – Showcase Stage
- 6 p.m. \$1,000 Winner Takes All Youth Competition – Open Class
- 7 p.m. Bootjack Road – Activity Building
- 7 p.m. Bulls -N- Barrels Bull Rodeo and Barrel – Grandstand
- 7 p.m. Trick Riding Demo – Horse Arena
- 8 p.m. Weird Science – Center Stage

Sunday, July 28

Noon to close – ride wristband for \$30

- 8 a.m. Garden Tractor Pull – Grandstand
- 9 a.m. Church Service – Center Stage
- 10 a.m. Horse Fun Show – Costume Class
- 10 a.m. Beer Bloody Mary's and Mimosas – Beer and Wine Garden
- 11 a.m. Pictures with a Goat – Goat Barn
- 11 a.m. Fur and Feather Auction – Rabbit Building
- Noon Swing House – Center Stage

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Grandstand attractions

Truck and Tractor Pulls

Wednesday, July 24, 6 p.m., free with paid fair admission.

Freestyle Monster Truck Show

Thursday, July 25, 7:30 p.m., free with fair paid admission. Information regarding possible pit access and rides and associated costs will be released closer to the event.

Truck and Tractor Pulls

Friday, July 26, 6:30 p.m., free with paid fair admission. The Antique Tractor Parade will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Bulls-N-Barrels

Saturday, July 27, 7 p.m., free with paid fair admission.

Garden Tractor Pull

Sunday, July 28, 8 a.m., free with paid fair admission. Those interested in participating in the Garden Tractor Pull can visit racinecountyfair.com and under the Menu choose Grandstand then scroll down to the event for a link.

Demolition Derby

Sunday, July 28, 2 and 6 p.m., free with paid fair admission. Those interested in participating in the Demolition Derby can visit racinecountyfair.com and under the Menu choose Grandstand then scroll down to the event for a link.

2024 Tickets

General admission

Adults (14-62 years old) \$12
Seniors (62 and older) \$8
Juniors (8-13 years old) \$6
Children (7 years old and younger) free

Bring three non-perishable food items and receive half one adult admission between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on opening day, Wednesday, July 24

Season pass

Five-day Fair Pass \$45

Advance tickets can be purchased on the website at racinecountyfair.com. Note that amusement ride tickets will be sold only in the carnival area.



Hannah Oxendine-Morey hangs out with her pigs named Daphne and Vulcan during a previous Racine County Fair.

CHAD HENSIK Racine County Fair



Parking information

Parking at the fair is free. There are two entrances to the Racine County Fair. Visitors can access the fairgrounds parking lots from both Highway 45 and Highway 11.

Senior Citizen and Handicap Parking is available inside the fairgrounds at Gate 6.

The Racine County Fairgrounds are at 19805 Durand Ave., Union Grove, WI 53182.



Bath time

above: Brielle Ryshkus, 17, of Union Grove, washes a chicken she showcased at the Racine County Fair.

JASON ARNDT Racine County Fair

So much to do

The Racine County Fair has plenty to keep visitors of all ages entertained including Wild World of Animals, Nick's Kids Show and Barnyard Adventures, and a Petting Pen, all of which will feature daily shows. **above, at right:** Truck and Tractor Pulls are a highlight for many fairgoers.

FILE PHOTOS Racine County Fair





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Fair to host variety of musical genres

The Racine County Fair is headlining several musical performances at the Activity Building. From classic rock to country to polka music, there's sure to be something for everyone to enjoy. The musicians slated for this year include:

Breaking Cadence

Breaking Cadence is a rock party band that plays a variety of hits from the 1960s to today.

Breaking Cadence is the fastest growing band in Milwaukee, according to the band's Facebook page. The multi-festival headlining band is highly energetic and puts on a high-energy show that keeps the crowd moving.

Steve Meisner Legacy Band

Steve Meisner, who died in June 2023 at the age of 62, shortly after being diagnosed with cancer, was a multi-talented musician, entertainer, composer, and arranger. He began playing the accordion at the age of 5 and went on to earn a living in the music business since he was 16. Steve's family has a rich musical heritage. His father, the late Verne Meisner, had a successful music career



Boys and Toys



Eddie Butts Band



North Cape Express Band



Matt Meyer



Weird Science

for over 57 years.

Steve's brand of music was extremely versatile and appealing to a wide audience. He made a name for himself by taking the music he grew up with from his father and adding his own imagination and feeling. He brought his brand of traditional American polka into the 21st century with a fresh spark and swing while retaining the roots of this music.

From a young age, Steve was on-task to promote quality music that can be accepted by all ages. His main goal has been to persuade the general public's stereotypical view of polka music to bring a new awareness to the masses.

"I believe that good music is simply good and I believe people know the difference. They may not always understand what the mechanics of it are, but they feel it. And that is where I've always placed my faith in people. They too feel that good music is simply good and it makes them feel good," he said.

In Steve's 46-year musical career he performed with the nation's top accordionists, polka icons and musicians, amassed 22 LP/CD credits, six singles, and seven video releases with full production credits. He has performed nationally coast to coast and internationally averaging as many as 250 performances annually, including performances at the Lawrence Welk Theater in Branson MO, Stardust-Monte Carlo-Hacienda-Orleans, Plaza Casino's in Las Vegas, the Library of Congress, the Kennedy Center, and the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall in Washington DC.

A post from early this year recaps what's happened since Meisner's death.

"Life during the second half of 2023 was different and sometimes difficult without seeing Steve Meisner and hearing his music. Although we have already surpassed the 6-month mark since Steve's passing, in some ways it feels like it has only been a few weeks since we heard the tragic news.

"The members of Steve's band, along with help from other musicians and friends, realized their goal of fulfilling all of the performance dates that remained on Steve's schedule. With only a few exceptions, all of the fairs, festivals, Oktoberfests, weddings, parties, restaurants, and bars kept the Steve Meisner Legacy Band on their schedule so fans could enjoy the music as originally planned – just as Steve would have wanted.

"The Steve Meisner Legacy Band has agreed to book events throughout 2024. The schedule continues to take shape," the post states. "While the number of performances will be a fraction of the yearly schedule Steve used to maintain, music lovers will still be able to enjoy some Meisner music played by the guys from his band."

For more information, visit stevemeisner.com.

The Lunchmoney Bullies

The Lunchmoney Bullies are from southeast Wisconsin and another returning fair favorite. The group plays cover rock, county, reggae and rap songs, with a twist.

For more information, visit lunchmoneybullies.com.

Bootjack Road

Hailing from country towns in Wisconsin, Bootjack Road is one of the Midwest's newest rockin' country band.

"The band's sound combines all things country/rock, with a few contemporary jams sprinkled in – and they're all played with edgy, contemporary muscle. Vocals are strong, and their talent and performance skills are sharp as a tack," a reviewer wrote.

"Our goal has always been to connect with our audiences," says the band on its website, www.bootjackroad.com. "We might seem like a ragtag bunch, but there's passion and sincerity that underscores everything we do, and that's apparent every time you hear us play."

Comprised of Joey Carini (guitars, vocals), Brad Schwechel (drums, percussion), Justin Haugen (lead vocals), Jeremy Kirschnik (bass, vocals) and Corey Kirschnik, (fiddle, soundman) the hardworking ensemble has earned the spot as Wisconsin's most sought-after country rock band, the website states.

Performing an average of 100 to 120 shows per year throughout the Midwest, including headlining at Country Thunder, the band brings toe-tapping music to the masses – one gig at a time.

Genesee Depot

Genesee Depot began performing years ago in their hometown of Redgranite. Now they typically do anywhere for 30 to 70 events a year, according to the band's website.

Genesee Depot is predominately a county cover band, but do offer original music as well.

Although the band does

mostly covers at their events, concertgoers will notice they put their own spin on songs, adding harmonies or hearing the two sisters take on songs normally done by guys. With the three lead vocalists being siblings they easily switch out rolls and provide great energy and dimension.

Genesee Depot did their first original release to the world June 22, 2018, and they have streamed in 16 different countries. They hope to reach even more people with this next album.

Taking Center Stage at the Fair

The Center Stage provides musical entertainment. Watch local talent while enjoying the beer and wine garden.

Schedule

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

4 p.m. • Gebel Girls
7:30 p.m. • Northcape Express Band

THURSDAY, JULY 25

4 p.m. • Tim Castle
7:30 p.m. • Boys and Toys

FRIDAY, JULY 26

4 p.m. • Cheryl McCrary Band
7:30 p.m. • Eddie Butts Band

SATURDAY, JULY 27

Noon • Matt Meyer
4 p.m. • Cork N Classics
8 p.m. • Weird Science

SUNDAY, JULY 28

9 a.m. • church service
Noon • Swing House Big Band
3:30 p.m. • Sadie
7 p.m. • The Steve EL Show (Elvis)

On stage at the Activity Building

Live entertainment at the Activity Building will include:

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

Lara Bell • 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 25

Breaking Cadence • 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 26

Steve Meisner Legacy Band • 2 p.m.
Lunchmoney Bullies • 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 27

Bootjack Road • 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 28

Genesee Depot • 6 p.m.

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Frequently asked questions (and answers)

Officials can't wait to see the participants and visitors at the 2024 Racine County Fair.

Before arriving, it may be worth reading through some of the frequently asked questions.

GENERAL

What are the fair hours?

"Every day of the Fair is filled with fun for the whole family," organizers said.

Official hours for the fair this year are Wednesday, July 24 through Saturday, July 27, from 8 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., and Sunday, July 28, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Note: Junior and Open Class exhibits (including animals and competitive exhibits) close around 5 p.m. on Sunday.

All events are subject to change.

Do I have to pay for parking?

Parking at the fair is free. There is also parking for handicap and senior citizens inside Gate 6. Check out the parking map on page 7.

What is the cost of fair admission?

General admission tickets:
 Adults (14-62 years old) \$12
 Seniors (62 and older) \$8
 Juniors (8-13 years old) \$6
 Children (7 years old and younger) free
 Bring three non-perishable food items and receive half one adult admission between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on opening day, Wednesday, July 24

Season pass

Five-day Fair Pass \$45
 Advance tickets can be purchased on the website at racinecountyfair.com. Note that amusement ride tickets will be sold only in the carnival area.

How do I reserve a camping space during the fair?

Camping is reserved for exhibitors. Any exhibitor interested in camping can contact the Fair Office. Please note, there is a waitlist for camping.

Those interested in camping near the fairgrounds can visit the website, racinecountyfair.com and check out the local lodging page for information on campgrounds nearby.

Are the grounds wheelchair accessible? Are wheelchair rentals available?

The Racine County Fairgrounds is wheelchair accessible. Most of the fairgrounds is paved.

The fairgrounds also have handicap parking available inside Gate 6.

Wheelchairs are available in the fair office on a first come, first serve basis.

Are there ATMs on the fairgrounds?

ATM's are available throughout the fairgrounds.

AUCTIONS

How do I become a buyer for an animal auction?

Individuals and businesses are welcome to be a part of our annual animal auctions. Beef, sheep, swine, and goats are sold on Saturday of the Fair, and rabbits, turkeys, chickens and ducks are sold on Sunday of the fair.

Those interested can register to be a buyer before the start of each auction.

How do I buy a pie or wood carving?

Pies and woodcarvings are available for purchase Sunday of the fair.

These auctions will occur in the pavilion next to the Expo Center.

CARNIVAL

What are the carnival hours?

The carnival will be open from noon to close every day of the fair, Wednesday, July 24 through Sunday, July 28.

What is the price of a season carnival pass?

Mega Bands will be \$55 each and on sale through July 23 only at Community State Bank locations.

What is the cost of a daily carnival pass?

Daily wristbands are available and can be purchased at ticket kiosks in the carnival area.

Hours of wristband use are noon to close, Wednesday through Saturday.

Wristband prices: \$30 per person per day. Thursday special: \$25 per person to ride from 1 to 5 p.m.

For more information, visit racinecountyfair.com.

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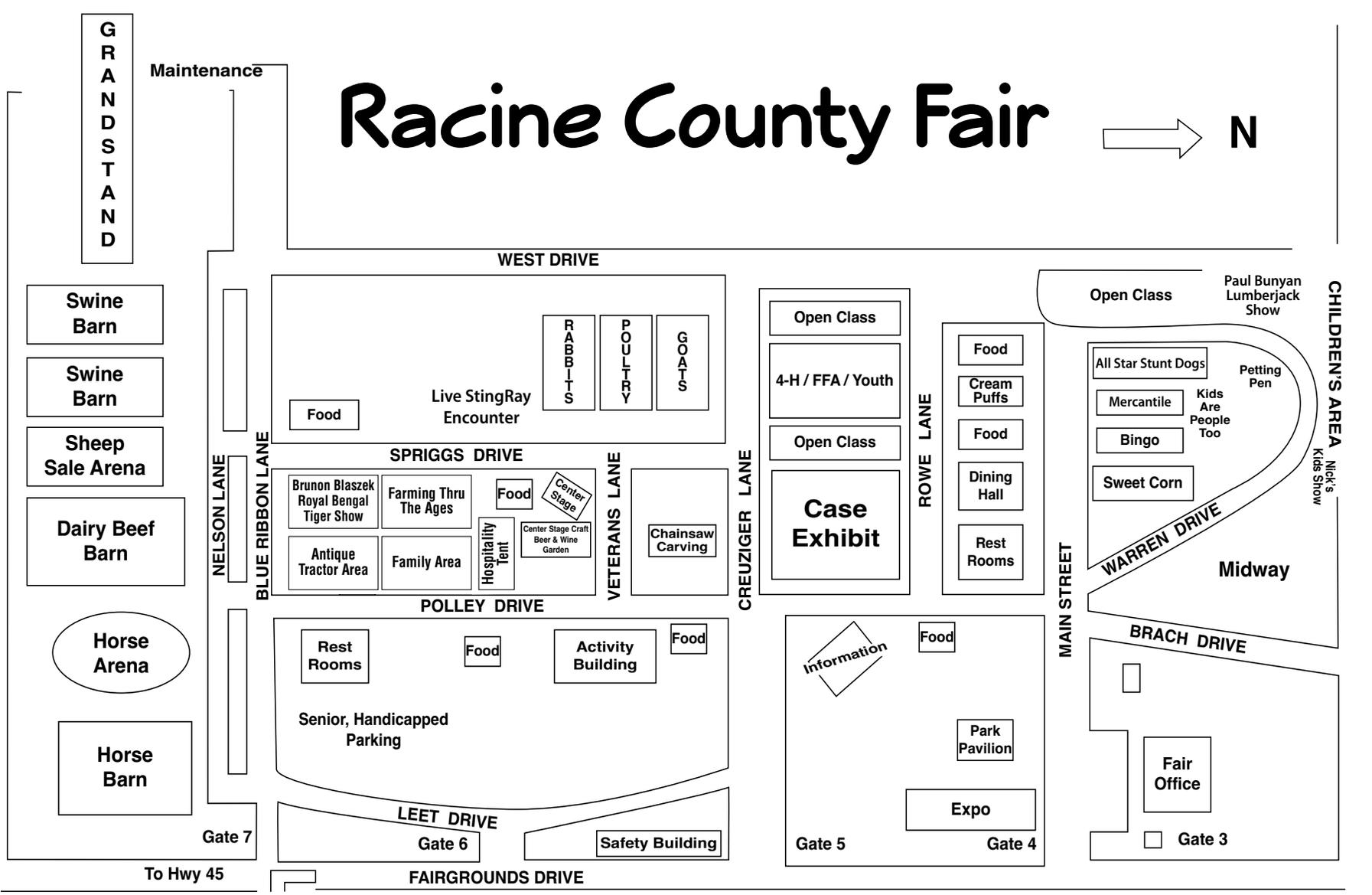
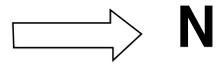
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Racine County Fair



Tips to increase odds of fun at the fair

Fairs dot the landscape in late spring, summer and fall, offering fairgoers plenty of attractions and rides to fill warm days and evenings.

The Racine County Fair will be held Wednesday, July 24 through Sunday, July 28 this year.

Families who plan ahead for the festivities – at the county fair or other fairs – may be able to improve their experiences.

Purchase passes in advance

Some fairs enable visitors to purchase entry tickets, parking passes and even game vouchers online.

There are often advantages to doing so, such as bundling discounts. Buying tickets in advance also cuts down on time spent waiting in line. Advance tickets can be purchased on the website at racinecountyfair.com.

Devise a basic plan

Look over the list of attractions and activities to gauge what you want to get out of the fair.

With kids in tow, you'll likely want to check out any children's rides or animal exhibits and interactions.

Save time by creating a generalized plan in advance, but remember to be flexible,



JASON ARNDT Racine County Fair

especially when going with other families.

Keep safety in mind

Fairs attract thousands of people and that can lead to confusion if children become separated from their parents.

Write your mobile phone number down and put it in your child's pocket or bag, so he or she doesn't have to memorize it.

Consider finding the tallest attraction at the fair or something that can easily be spotted or found and make that the meeting point if anyone in the family or group becomes lost.

Snap a photo of youngsters upon arrival so that you'll have a recent image and know exactly what they are wearing if you need to engage law enforcement.

While this advice varies, some parents

tell their children to find another parent and ask them to help them contact security.

Time your visit

If the fair runs during the week and into the weekend, weekdays are likely to be much less crowded.

Also, while not ideal, a cool day or one with a slight drizzle will cut down on crowds and improve the ability to see more things and get on more rides.

Factor in food

Fair food is an indulgence to enjoy when fairs come around. Rather than go overboard, pick one meal or item that the family will enjoy.

Bring a backpack, if permitted and fill it with bottled water and other light snacks so that you can tame hunger pangs and not bust the budget at the food stands.

Understand game odds

Fair games are largely designed to earn the event money and not to cash out prizes to all participants (though they can be won.)

The chances of winning the grand prize – which may be a giant stuffed animal – usually are low so it's best if children do not become overly concerned with winning a prize, especially a large one.

Play the games for fun and memories and not to walk away with the biggest prizes.

In addition to these suggestions, parents can bring sunscreen and insect repellent and dress for comfort and not fashion.

These strategies can help families make the most of the area fairs this year.

(METRO CREATIVE)

SUNDAY SCHEDULE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Noon	Chocolate Dessert Contest – Park Pavilion	2:30 p.m.	Pie Auction – Park Pavilion
1 p.m.	Hay Bale Throwing Contest – Dairy and Beef Building	3 p.m.	Chainsaw Carving Auction – Park Pavilion
1 p.m.	Log Sawing and Threshing Demo – Antique Tractor area	3:30 p.m.	Sadie – Center Stage
1:45 p.m.	Favorite Pie Contest – Park Pavilion	4:30 p.m.	Dog Demonstration – Showcase Stage
2 p.m.	Demo Derby – Grandstand	5 p.m.	Trick Riding Demo – Horse Arena
2 p.m.	Pictures with a Goat – Goat Barn	6 p.m.	Genesee Depot – Activity Building
2 p.m.	Trick Riding Demo – Horse Arena	6 p.m.	Demo Derby – Grandstand
2 p.m.	Meet the Winning Photographers – Open Class	7 p.m.	Steve El Show (Elvis) – Center Stage



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Last year's fairest to serve as state ambassador

By Jason Arndt

STAFF WRITER

Kelsey Henderson spent countless hours representing the Racine County Fair last year in her role as the 2023 Fairest of the Fair.

Henderson who earned the title in June 2023 channeled her passion for agriculture and the fair by welcoming visitors, highlighting exhibitors, and showcasing events.

Now she will represent more than Racine County, with Henderson receiving the 2024 Wisconsin Fairest of the Fair crown in January.

She was selected among 35 contestants and became just the second from Racine County to earn the crown. The first was in 2012 when Richelle Kastenson became the Wisconsin Fairest of the Fair.

Kastenson, who was on hand during the Wisconsin Fairest of Fairs convention, said she and other Racine County Fair Board members are beaming with pride at Henderson's achievement.

"She is a wonderful person inside and out, so we are very excited that she also gets to represent our county," Kastenson said. "Seeing Kelsey up on stage, she was really fun to listen to."

Kastenson recalled her own tenure as Wisconsin Fairest and believes Henderson is up to the challenge.

"Our fair board and our fairest committee on the county level are just so proud of Kelsey," Kastenson said. "She represented us so well, and she has just done a great job this year. We are so excited for what her future holds and how she is going to represent everyone. She is going to do a phenomenal job."

Henderson, like other contestants, participated in many interviews in various settings – and interacted with other officials – before earning the fairest title.

She is spending this year traveling throughout the state, promoting the educational, agricultural, social and culture of fairs. Henderson will also promote commercial opportunities available at Wisconsin Fairs, according to Mid-West Farm Report.

Additionally, she will serve as an official ambassador for the 2024 Wisconsin State Fair, which will be presented by US Cellular and held Aug. 1-11 in West Allis.

Henderson will greet fairgoers and special guests, perform as master of ceremonies for events, participate in contests and make media appearances showcasing the State Fair.

She is also traveling to county fairs all over the state this year.

Local upbringing

Henderson, who graduated from Union Grove High School in 2020, grew up around the Racine County Fair, exhibiting award-winning animals and being involved in Union Grove FFA and 4-H.

She is the daughter of Craig and Sue Henderson and has a younger sister, Madisyn.

Kastenson worked with Henderson most of last year representing the Racine County Fair and recognized Henderson's passion.

"She grew up exhibiting at the fair, so she took the passion and shared it with the public and she was helping us with our social media on the fair Facebook page," Kastenson said.

Leading up to the Racine County Fair, Henderson used the Facebook page to interview exhibitors, who talked about



above: Kelsey Henderson is just the second representative from Racine County to earn the state Fairest of the Fair title.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Racine County Fair

at right: Henderson, who served as the 2023 Racine County Fairest, embraces her younger sister, Madisyn, at last year's county fair after Madisyn showed a reserve grand champion pig.

JASON ARNDT Racine County Fair

their projects set for display at the annual fair.

"This past year, with our fair, she made these really cute videos and she really got to know different exhibitors," Kastenson said.

Henderson said since the day she earned the Racine County Fairest of the Fair title, she has been impressed with the overwhelming support from the community, including members of the Racine County Fair Board as well as Fairest of the Fair committee members.

"I have felt nothing but love and support from my county and it truly means the world to me," Henderson said.

Henderson graduated from Iowa State University in May with a degree in agricultural business and a minor in entrepreneurship as well as a marketing option.

When she completes her term as Wisconsin Fairest of the Fair, which will expire in January 2025, she will join John Deere full-time as a Marketing and Customer Support Development Program representative.

She said she appreciates John Deere for being willing to allow her to serve as Wisconsin Fairest of the Fair until her term will end early next year.

"They were willing to work with me, which I appreciate," she said. "They understand the personal mission that I have."

More to learn

As state fairest, Henderson was looking forward to gaining new knowledge about the fair industry, Kastenson said.

"She is going to learn a lot about the fairs in Wisconsin and the diversity of them," Kastenson said. "They are all so different and it is such an eye-opening



experience seeing how diverse they are and how similar they are.

"It's really a once-in-a-lifetime experience," she added.

Kastenson recalled her own journey as 2012 Wisconsin Fairest of the Fair and expects to see Henderson embark on many expeditions.

"Back when I was fairest during the summer months, I was driving about three to four hours daily to get to different fairs," Kastenson said, adding that she likely attended more than 40 county fairs. "The biggest thing that I took away from it is the connections that I made."

Kastenson said she's confident Henderson will embrace her new role.

"I definitely think she is ready. There is no doubt in my mind that she will do a wonderful job," Kastenson said.

Shari Black, CEO of Wisconsin State

Fair Park, said the group looks forward to working with Henderson this year.

"We are excited to have Kelsey take on this important role as Fairest of the Fair," Black told Mid-West Farm Report. "Kelsey's education, experience, and participation in fairs will serve her well as she travels throughout Wisconsin, promoting the Wisconsin State Fair as well as fairs around the state."

Ellie Szczec, of Waukesha County, earned first runner-up, followed Amalia Draxler from St. Croix County, Dane County's Aubrey Schlimgen and Aleah Hunter from Trempeleau County.

Henderson said she enjoyed meeting the other contestants.

"I got to interact with 34 other amazing girls, and they were truly inspiring to me. It was really fun to get to know all of them," she said.

HINKEL • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

children's activities, including a petting zoo and other interactive exhibits.

"There are so many things happening," she said.

Living through agriculture

Outside the Racine County Fair, Hinkel became the 2020 Wisconsin Honey Queen, serving as the spokesperson for the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association.

A year later, Hinkel earned the title of American Honey Queen, traveling through dozens of states as a representative of the

American Beekeeping Association and hundreds of producers across the United States.

On the national stage, she delivered educational presentations while conducting outreach efforts.

Hinkel, owner and operator of Buffalo Bill's Christmas Tree Farm in Franklin, also works as the agricultural communications and education coordinator at the Wisconsin State Fair in West Allis.

"I get to live and love the fair every single day," Hinkel said.

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