

FAIR

175TH WALWORTH COUNTY FAIR



**WALWORTH
COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS**

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walworthcountyfair.com

FAIR 2024

A Southern Lakes Newspapers publication



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'Stars, Stripes & Fair Delights!'

Walworth County Fair ready for six days of fun

The 175th annual Walworth County Fair will be at the county fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn, from Wednesday, Aug. 28, through Labor Day, Sept. 2. During the fair, the grounds will be open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday, and 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday. The fair office hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. during the fair.

The County Fair celebrates the area's youth and agriculture with numerous contests, animal shows, and projects. The family-friendly event attracts large crowds during its six-day run, offering people of all ages – from kids to the young-at-heart great food, fun rides, interesting displays, live music, and more.

The 2024 Fairest of the Fair is Josie Vance and Fair Royalty is Leslie Reinke. The 2025 Fairest will be crowned Wednesday, Aug. 28.

A few highlights

Sensory Friendly Time – being sponsored through a partnership between the Walworth County Fair Association and North American Midway, it allows kids and adults between the ages of 3 and 21 who have special needs (and are county residents or attend a school in the county) special time to enjoy the fair.

"This opportunity aims to provide a more calming and comforting atmosphere for young people with neurodiversity who may be especially sensitive to lights and sound," representatives said.

On Friday, Aug. 30, between the hours of 10 a.m. and noon, the carnival will shut down the flashing lights and music. Additionally, rides take extra time and care to load rides, and a guardian or caregiver will be allowed to ride along. This is an event requiring pre-registration, so check the fair website for details prior to next year's fair.

Favorite Cookie Contest – sponsored by King Arthur Baking Company, this event does not require pre-registration and offers two categories, youth and adult.

Open to all, bake your favorite cookie recipe using King Arthur Baking Company flour. Bring five cookies in or on a disposable container. Include the recipe and your name and phone number (on back) and attach the King Arthur flour UPC code.

Cookies need to be in place by 2:45 p.m., judging will begin at 3 p.m. Criteria for judging will be: taste, 50 points; overall taste and creativity, 25 points; texture, 25 points for 100 points total.

Pies in the Park – sponsored by Seymour Kremer Koch LLP, will be held Saturday, Aug. 31, beginning at 10:30 a.m.



'Stars, Stripes & Fair Delights' is the theme of the 2024 Walworth County Fair and the annual event welcomes county residents and visitors alike. Guests are reminded to allow enough time to see and take part in the many features, from the animal barns and product pavilion to live music and carnivals. There are also countless contests, auctions, and an endless array of food options offered throughout six-day run.

CHAD HENSIKAK *Walworth County Fair*

for pies in place and judging, followed by the pie auction at approximately 11:30 a.m.

This is open to all bakers and bidders to the best of homemade, delicious pie fun with prizes for the top three bakers. Ice cream pies are not allowed, and note that there is no onsite refrigeration. No pre-registration or fees. Simply bring your pies to the park!

Plein Air at the Fair – Fairgoers can see participating artists create art inspired by and created solely at the Walworth County Fair on Thursday, Aug. 29.

The top two will be named Grand and Reserve champions, and their paintings will be auctioned off Sunday, Sept. 1 at 3 p.m. at the Park Stage. Funds raised at the sale of the paintings will be used in the Arts and Crafts Building.

Barnyard Adventure – The award-winning area remains proud to emphasize the diversity of agriculture with numerous learning stations including Crops, Gardening, Dairy, Beef, Swine, Sheep, Goats, Poultry, Bees, Butterflies, and more.

Visit with incredibly knowledgeable beekeepers and butterfly experts, take part in free activities, and view their displays, including an enclosed working beehive and Monarch hatching presentation.

Also in the Barnyard Adventure area, don't miss The Learning Coop Tent, The

Barnyard Bin, Nana & Bubba's Pond, and the Adventure Stage (which features Nick's Kids Show, Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show, Magic Mike the Magician, and a variety of contests.)

New this year will be the "Unity Gardens," featuring companion gardening – because vegetables need friends, too – the "Freshly Picked" vegetable of the day

If you go...

WHAT: 175th Walworth County Fair
WHERE: 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn
WHEN: Aug. 28 to Sept. 2
COST: \$12 for adults, \$8 for seniors (Wed, Thurs, Fri,) \$5 for kids; free, 4 and younger
INFO: www.walworthcountyfair.com

spotlight, "Kids Can Compost" garden, as well as the return of the sensory garden bench, the Wisconsin cranberry crop bed, grapes, the beautiful sunflowers, and more!

Judging and demonstrations

For the area's youth, the fair is a culmination of a year's worth of work, whether it be with animals or agriculture projects and displays. From baking to vegetable growing to animal raising, the county's best and brightest proudly display their work at the fair.

One of the highlights of the fair is the annual Meat Animal Sale, which is the largest in the state, according to Larry Gaffey, manager of the fairgrounds.

"It's even bigger than the State Fair," Gaffey said.

He said the area's youth are key to the fair.

"The level of participation in fair exhibits by youth in the area is second to

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Walworth County Fair 2024

Southern Lakes Newspapers
 1102 Ann St. • Delavan, WI 53115 • 262-728-3411

Editor in Chief: Heather Ruenz
 Page Design: Jen DeGroot
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on the cover: The Walworth County Fair features everything from carnival rides and animals to a variety of food and entertainment, sure to satisfy people of all ages. This year's fair will run from Wednesday, Aug. 28 through Monday, Sept. 2. The theme is "Stars, Stripes & Fair Delights!"

PHOTOS BY DAVE DRESDOW, JENNIFER EISENBART, CHAD HENSIKAK *Walworth County Fair*



Grandstand welcomes plenty of entertainment



Tractor Truck Pull

A variety of additional events take place during the fair requiring tickets to be purchased in addition to general fair admission.

Rice Professional Rodeo

“Put on your cowboy boots and hats and join us for the Rice Pro Rodeo on opening night of the 175th Walworth County Fair,” organizers said.

The rodeo kicks off at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 28. Tickets to the rodeo are \$10.

It aims to be “an evening packed with bronc bustin’, bull riding, steer wrestling, team roping, and barrel racing,” organizers said.

Tractor Truck Pull

“Get ready for a heart-pounding showdown at PI Motorsports and Badger Truck Pullers,” organizers said of the tractor truck pull event, which will take place Thursday, Aug. 29.

The action kicks off with the adrenaline-fueled display of power starting at 7 p.m. and the

grandstands will open at 6 p.m. Tickets to the tractor truck pulls are \$10.

“Witness the awe-inspiring spectacle as elite truck and tractor pullers vie for glory,” they said. “Brace yourself for a night of thrills, cheers, and electrifying competition like never before.”

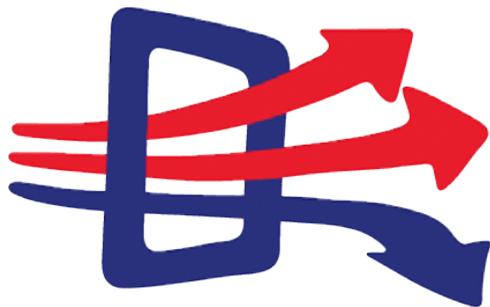
Demolition Derby

On Monday, Sept. 2, entertainment at the fair will wrap up with the demo derby. Tickets are \$10 per person in addition to fair admission.

“Prepare to go out with a bang as we close out the 175th Walworth County Fair with an EPIC blast of excitement at the three-heat Demo Derby, Presented by International Demolition Derby,” organizers said.

Packed with non-stop action and guaranteed to be a hit with the crowd, this event is a hot commodity, and tickets generally sell out, according to organizers.

The derby heats will be at 12:30, 3, and 5:30 p.m.



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Demolition Derby

One \$10 wristband ticket will get guests into the grandstand for one, two, and/or all three heats.

“Don’t miss your chance to be part of the exhilarating finale to an unforgettable fair experience,” they said.

Concerts

Ticket prices vary for grandstand concerts are in addition to general fair admission tickets.

For more information on the concerts and to purchase tickets, visit walworthcountyfair.com.

Nelly • FRIDAY, AUG. 30

For 24 years, Nelly has been connecting generations with his exuberant anthems, fusing musical genres, and engaging in multiple entertainment mediums including music, television and film.

The diamond selling, multi-platinum, three-time Grammy award-winning rap superstar, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and actor, Nelly has continuously raised the bar for the entertainment industry since stepping on the scene in 2000 with his distinctive vocals and larger-than-life personality.

Nelly’s album “Country Grammar,” spent

seven weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Top 200 and spawned the hits “Ride Wit Me,” “Country Grammar,” and “E.I.” He won two Grammy Awards after the release of his album, “Nellyville.”

The song “Hot in Herre” won the Grammy Award for Best Male Rap Solo Performance, and “Dilemma [feat. Kelly Rowland]” won for Best Rap Song Collaboration.

His collaboration with Florida Georgia Line on the song “Cruise (Remix)” received Diamond status. Nelly is one of just seven rappers to earn this achievement.

“Hot in Herre” continues to be one of the most commercially used songs in history, with Burger King tapping Nelly to be featured in their newest campaign with his personal meal - “Cornell Haynes Jr,” and Lays Potato Chips used Nelly and “Hot in Herre” in their latest commercial.

Nelly performed on last year’s Grammy’s tribute to 50 years of Hip Hop, and the music mogul has also left his mark in other aspects of the industry, introducing his hugely successful women’s clothing line, Apple Bottoms.

Currently he supports Make a Wish and provides education surrounding the music industry, providing scholarships for the last 18 years.

Brantley Gilbert

SATURDAY, AUG. 31

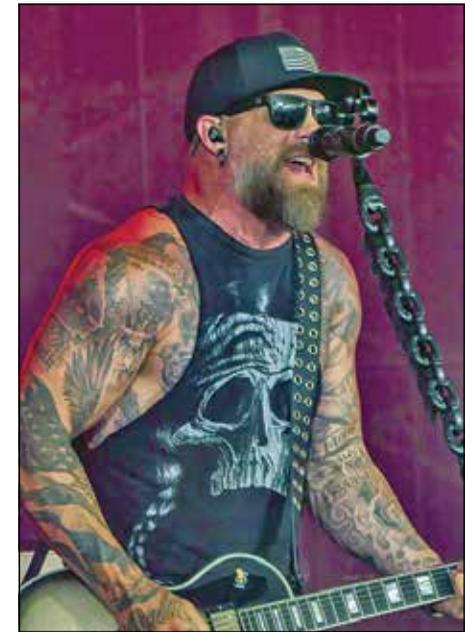
Country music sensation Brantley Gilbert aims to bring an unforgettable party for BG Nation and all fans.

With multiple Platinum albums and a dedicated fan base numbering in the millions, Brantley Gilbert has become synonymous with the perfect soundtrack for Saturday night revelry and Sunday morning reflection worldwide.

He has seven No. 1 hits under his belt, including chart-toppers like “Bottoms Up,” “One Hell of An Amen,” “Country Must Be Country Wide,” and “You Don’t Know Her Like I Do.”

Recognized for his songwriting talents, Gilbert boasts two chart-topping hits as a songwriter with “Dirt Road Anthem” and “My Kinda Party.”

Gilbert’s music delves into the complexities of life, seamlessly weaving between the joys of celebration and the depths of introspection. From his rowdy anthems to heartfelt ballads, he authentically embraces all facets of his identity, from being a loyal friend and man of faith to a devoted husband and proud father.



Brantley Gilbert

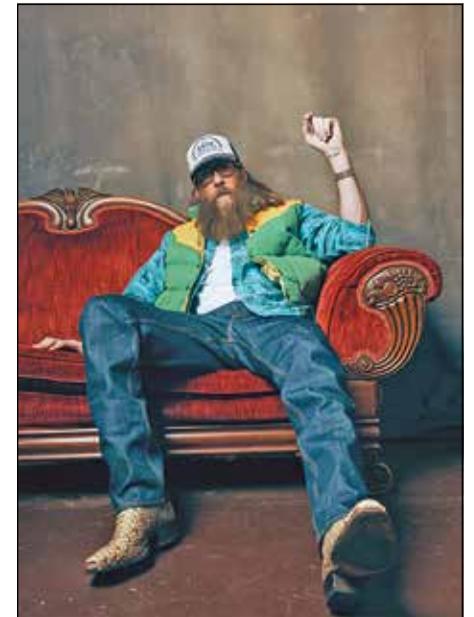
Crowder

SUNDAY, SEPT. 1

Grammy nominated, multi-instrumentalist, American Christian rocker, David Wallace Crowder is a Texas-based singer/songwriter known for his wide-ranging fusion of pop, rock, folk, electronic, bluegrass, and hip-hop.

He rose to success in the early 2000s as the leader of the church music group The David Crowder Band. Over the next decade, the band racked up numerous Dove Awards for their inspirational rock sound, releasing popular albums like *Illuminate*, *Remedy*, and *Give Us Rest*.

Rebranding simply as Crowder, the singer launched an equally successful, though more stylistically varied, solo career with albums like *Neon Steeple* and *American Prodigal*.



Crowder

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Record-breaking sale pays off for exhibitors

By **Tom Ganser**
CORRESPONDENT

It was a big day for youth exhibitors at the 2023 Walworth County Fair.

Nearly 400 beef, sheep, and swine were auctioned off at the Wiswell Center during the 174th annual fair, followed by the sale of the grand champions.

Walworth County Fairgrounds General Manager and CEO Larry Gaffey said in a follow up interview that more than \$1 million was raised at last year's auction, a new record.

While the animals were important to the event, to be sure, even more important were the hundreds of high school FFA and 4-H club members who worked so hard to show their livestock at the fair.

The auction sale of grand champion steer included Kyle Ellsworth (Grand Champion), Mason Smith (Reserve Grand Champion),

Jaclyn Kollwelter (Grand Champion Carcass), and Marcella Brummel (Reserve Champion Carcass).

Ellsworth, a graduate of Elkhorn Area High School, has been a member of the Spring Prairie 4-H club for 10-plus years.

He described winning grand champion as a "pay off for the hard work that I had put in over the years."

For Ellsworth, the challenge of the project was the hours of work required every day in raising steers. In terms of showing his steers, the tasks included washing them, giving them haircuts and blow drying them.

He shared his experiences in "learning all the skills about clipping, getting steer ready for the show, and putting in the best effort that I can to work on them," along with what he learned about showing steer at four pre-shows for the Wisconsin State Fair and at the state fair itself.



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As a piece of advice for others aspiring to raise a champion steer, Ellsworth said, “Don’t be afraid to ask questions and get other people to help you succeed further. Take time to ask questions and learn more about the project.”

Ellsworth’s grand champion steer at the ’23 fair, weighing 1,380 pounds, was purchased by Kunes Auto Group and Lake Lawn Resort for \$10 per pound. He planned to use the proceeds to support his college education where he said he will major in animal science.

Kollwelter, who at the time was a fourth grader at Washington Elementary School in Whitewater, left last year’s fair with the lasting memory of achieving Grand Champion Carcass for her steer.

She had been a member of the LaGrange 4-H club for a year at the time. Before that she was a member of Clover Buds.

After winning last year, Kollwelter described it as “a lot of celebration, which was really cool.”

For her, mastering how to walk steer was much more challenging than walking heifers. Asked why the difference, she simply said, “Steers are 10 times bigger, and when they step on your feet, it really hurts!”

She confessed the importance of being patient in walking steers.

“When I first started walking my steers, I learned that I had to tap their nose, and when I put my hand in front of their faces, they stopped,” Kollwelter explained at the time.

She also pointed to forming a relationship with steer, and the importance of “talking to the steer, petting it, and going up to it slowly.”

For Kollwelter, the joy in raising steer includes “getting a bond and connection with animals. When you really get to know an animal, it’s actually happy. You start to grow closer to it and you trust it more.”

With a little laugh, she admitted that as a result, the animal trusts her more as well.

AG Agronomy placed a successful bid of \$4 a pound for the 863-pound carcass. Kollwelter’s father said the proceeds were going into Jaclyn’s future college funds savings.

The 2023 auction sale of grand champion lambs (listed as “Wethers”) included Justin Johnson (Grand Champion), Wyatt Nixon (Reserve Grand Champion), Tori Tellrichard (Grand Champion Carcass), and Alaina Yates (Reserve Champion Carcass).

Nixon, who was entering his senior at Whitewater High School had been a member of the Richmond 4-H for two years after moving to Wisconsin from Indiana.

In a response that is common among the champion winners, he said a fundamental challenge of his project was “getting to the barn every day, and the long hours.”

“I learned how to be persistent in working with them every day, not skipping any days, and being dedicated to one for the entire summer,” Nixon said at the time.

He shared an unfortunate surprise during the year.

“I had some lambs that I had gotten in the earlier part of the year that unexpectedly died, so I had to switch to different animals to be able to work with and to show,” he explained.

For Nixon, it was essential to go on, no matter what “good or tragedies happen with your animals.”

Sharing his experience, Nixon also pointed to the importance of finding “a mentor to follow and guide you to the places you need to be.” He credited his parents for serving in this role.

Nixon’s lamb, at 146 pounds, was purchased by JJJ Brennan Farms at \$17 a pound.

The auction sale of grand champion pigs (listed as Barrows) included Ann Marie Odling-Cates (Grand Champion), Lainey Popp (Reserve Grand Champion), Addison Roeh (Grand Champion Carcass), and Trent Peterson (Reserve Champion Carcass).

Odling-Cates was about to begin her senior year at Williams Bay High School and had been a long-time member of Ridge Prairie 4-H.

“At first, I was just struck by the fact that I had just won. It meant everything to me. I worked so hard to get to that spot and winning it made it just that much better,”



One of the largest draws at the Walworth County Fair is the annual meat sale auction, which allows junior exhibitors to earn money from the animals they spend time raising. Above: At the 2023 fair, Kyle Ellsworth of Spring Prairie 4-H, earned grand champion honors with his steer.

TOM GANSEY Walworth County Fair

Odling-Cates said after last year’s auction.

For her, the most challenging part of her project was “knowing what to feed, because you can mess up in a heartbeat. I think that’s the hardest thing when it comes to raising pigs.”

Going to different shows and discussing with people what they feed their pigs, pointed her in the right direction, even though she admitted it was still a little “trial and error based.”

What did she learn?

“Responsibility is the biggest one for me, because you have to go out every single day and walk with them, wash them, feed them, and get to know the pigs so they’re not so scared of you when you show them,” she explained.

For Odling-Cates, mastering how to show pigs was a bit of a surprise, given that “pigs have different types of face shapes” and have

all different ways they want to be touched to get them to walk.

Regarding showing her grand champion, she said, “I had to hit in a certain spot to keep his head up. He has a crinkled ear, so it doesn’t stick up like most pigs. If you hit him in a certain spot, he’d jerk his head down.”

She also offered advice to others raising pigs.

“Spend time with them. Get to know your pig. Try to go to as many preview shows in the spring as you can. Really bonding with them helps a lot and makes a difference,” she suggested.

Odling Construction, JJJ Brennan Farms, and Complete Feed Service won the bid for Odling-Cates’ pig weighing in at 289 pounds at \$40 per pound. She said she planned to use the proceeds to help fund her college expenses on a path she hopes will lead to her becoming a pediatrician.

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Schedule OF Events

The Walworth County Fairgrounds will be open for the fair from 7 a.m. to midnight, except Monday, Labor Day, when it closes at 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 28

Honorary Marshals Day • Senior Citizens Day (admission for 62 and older, \$8)
North American Midway Entertainment
Wristband Day, 3 to 11 p.m., \$35

Judging/Demonstrations

- 8 a.m. Junior Swine Barrow Show, Swine Barn
- 9 a.m. Open Farm Products, Horticulture Building
- 9 a.m. Junior Dog Obedience and Showmanship, Activity Center
- 9 a.m. Junior Plant and Soil Science, Flowers and Houseplants, Junior Exhibits Building
- 9 a.m. Open Antiques, Antiques Building
- 9 a.m. Open Flowers, Horticulture Building
- 9:30 a.m. ... Open Photography, Cultural Arts Building
- Noon..... Open Foods, North Hall
- 7 p.m. Open Adult Dairy Showmanship, Activity Center

Peggy's Park Stage

- 10 a.m. Opening Ceremony, Honorary Marshal, Outstanding Seniors, Vendors, Exhibitors, Friends of the Fair awards
- 12:30 p.m. . Caribbean Eclipse Steel Drum Band
- 3 p.m. The Phenix Band
- 6 p.m. Fairest of the Fair Finals

Gazebo in the Park

- 2 p.m. Celebrating 175 years of the fair, vintage outfits, any era

Dueterbeck's Brew Haus Music Hall

- 1 p.m. Lara Bell
- 6 p.m. Karen Schook

Family Adventureland

- Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m.
..... Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show, Barnyard Stage
- 3 p.m. (and roaming throughout the day)
Magic "Mike" Magician, Barnyard Stage
- 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
..... Kai McNulty, Chainsaw Artist
- 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. – Prehistoric Dinosaur Adventure
- All Day Heavy Duty Dirt Machinery Experience
- Noon to
4 p.m. Demos by Superior Construction and Atlas Bobcat

Barnyard Adventure - Tent and Garden

- 10 a.m. Freshly Picked Food Tasting
- 11:30 a.m. Story Time
- 5 p.m. Surprise Make & Take for Kids
- 5 p.m. Butterfly Release

Barnyard Adventure – Learning Coop

- 10 a.m. Honeybees 101 with Kristine Karlson
- 11 a.m. Shaking up Mocktails with Staller

ADMISSION

- Adult admission\$12
- Junior (ages 5-12).....\$5
- Seniors.....\$8
- Kids 4 and youngerFREE

Senior Days:

- Wednesday, Thursday and
Friday (age 62 years and older)\$8
 - Lifetime passes..... \$450
- Prices are "at the door" admission

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call 262-723-3228 or visit
walworthcountyfair.com.

- Estate Winery
- Noon..... Pond Construction, Maintenance and Care of Koi Fish by Aquatic Realmz Maintenance Div. of Aquatics Unlimited
- 1 p.m. The Road to Raw for Pet Nutrition by Stella Chewy

Grandstand

- 7 p.m. Rice's Pro Rodeo, sponsored by Jake Leiser Painting

Thursday, Aug. 29

Senior Citizens Day (admission for 62 and older, \$8)
North American Midway Entertainment
Wristband Day, 3 p.m. to 11 p.m., \$35

Judging / Demonstrations

- 8 a.m. Junior Beef, Activity Center
- 8 a.m. Junior Sheep, Sheep Barn
- 9 a.m. Junior Cavies, Discovery Barn
- 9 a.m. Open Crafts, Cultural Arts Building
- 9 a.m. Open Woodworking, Cultural Arts Building
- 9 a.m. Open Canned Goods, North Hall
- 9 a.m. to
10 p.m. Plein Ai, throughout fairgrounds
- 3 p.m. Pride on Display, Antiques Building
- 6 p.m. Junior Meat Goats, Activity Center

Peggy's Park Stage

- 11 a.m. The Box Band
- 2:30 p.m. ... Thompson Duo
- 6 p.m. Bobby Messano Band

Gazebo in the Park

- 2 p.m. – Red, White and Blue Jeans Day

Dueterbeck's Brew Haus Music Hall

- 1 p.m. Kyle Young
- 6 p.m. Thompson Duo

Family Adventureland

- Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m.
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- 3 p.m. (and roaming throughout the day)
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Barnyard Adventure - Tent and Garden

10 a.m. Freshly Picked Food Tasting
 11:30 a.m. Story Time
 5 p.m. Surprise Make & Take for Kids
 5 p.m. Butterfly Release

Barnyard Adventure - Learning Coop

10 a.m. Growing a Tea Garden with Brenda
 from Pesche's Greenhouse
 11 a.m. Training Service Dogs with Canine
 Companions and C. Rupp
 1 p.m. Make and Take with Laura Zaraza,
 Stampin' Up

Midway Area

4 p.m. Kindschi's Kids Pedal Tractor Pulls
 registration – Pulls begin at 5 p.m.

Grandstand

Noon Antique and Stock
 Tractor and Truck Pulls

5:30 p.m. American Legion VFW Flag
 Ceremony
 7 p.m. PI Motorsports Tractor and Truck
 Pulls, sponsored by Pete's Tire,
 Elkhorn

Friday, Aug. 30

*Tanis Construction Day
 62 and older, \$8 admission
 North American Midway Entertainment
 Wristband Day, Noon to 11 p.m., \$35*

Judging/Demonstrations

8 a.m. Open Sheep, Activity Center
 8:30 a.m. Junior Dairy, Sheep Barn
 9 a.m. Open Arts, Cultural Arts Building
 10 a.m. Draft Horse Halter Class, Draft Horse
 Arena
 10:30 a.m. Junior Rabbit Showmanship, Small
 Animal Barn
 1 p.m. Dairy Auction / Miss "Q" Contest,
 Activity Center
 2:30 p.m. Junior Non-Rabbits Pet Show, small
 animal barn
 4 p.m. Junior Rabbits Pet Show, tent near
 small animal barn
 5:30 p.m. Plein Air Art,
 Cultural Arts Building

Wiswell Center

9:30 a.m. Meat Animal Sale
 3 p.m. Meat Animal Sale of Champions

Horse Arena

8:30 a.m. SMILES Open Benefit Horse Show

Peggy's Park Stage

1 p.m. Indigo Canyon
 4 p.m. Crooners and Divas Show
 7 p.m. Banana Wind, the Music
 of Jimmy Buffet

Gazebo in the Park

2 p.m. Patriotic Family Outfit Day

Duesterbeck's Brew Haus Music Hall

1 p.m. Dan Maguire
 6 p.m. Justin Wallace

Family Adventureland

Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m.
 Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show,
 Barnyard Stage
 3 p.m. (and roaming throughout the day)
 Magic "Mike" Magician, Barnyard
 Stage
 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
 Kai McNulty, Chainsaw Artist

1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.
 Prehistoric Dinosaur Adventure
 All Day Heavy Duty Dirt Machinery
 Experience
 Noon to
 4 p.m. Demos by Superior
 Construction and Atlas Bobcat

Contests – Barnyard Stage

11 a.m. Infant/toddler patriotic
 costume contest
 1 p.m. Cupcake Eating Contest

Barnyard Adventure – Tent and Garden

10 a.m. Freshly Picked Food Tasting
 11:30 a.m. Story Time
 5 p.m. Surprise Make & Take for Kids
 5 p.m. Butterfly Release

Barnyard Adventure – Learning Coop

10 a.m. Flower Farming with
 Crooked Oak Farm
 11 a.m. Sourdough 101 by Good Oak
 Farmstead
 Noon Painting a Make and Take,
 Glass of Art & More
 1 p.m. Make and Take with
 Laura Zaraza, Stampin' Up

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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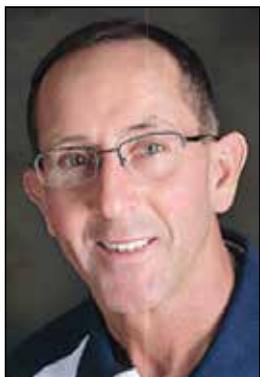
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Midway Area

10 a.m. to Noon "Sensory Friendly" Carnival Experience, sponsored by Tanis Construction
4 p.m. Kindschi's Kids Pedal Tractor Pulls registration – Pulls begin at 5 p.m.

Grandstand

7:30 p.m. ... Nelly, sponsored by Ecklund Group @properties

Saturday, Aug. 31

*Kunes Auto Group/RV Day
North American Midway Entertainment
Wristband Day, Noon to 11 p.m., \$35*

Judging/Demonstrations

8 a.m. Junior Poultry, Small Animal Barn
8:30 a.m. ... Junior Dairy Goats, Goat Barn
8:30 a.m. ... Open Dairy, Activity Center
9 a.m. Junior Rabbit, tent near Small Animal Barn
10 a.m. Draft Horse Cart/Hitch, Draft Horse Arena
10:45 a.m. ... Pies in the Park, Pie Judging, Peggy's Park Stage, open to everyone
11 a.m. Pure WI Honey Cookie Classic, Barnyard Adventure, Learning Coop Tent, open to everyone
6:30 p.m. ... Master Showman Contest, Activity Center

Wiswell Center

5 p.m. Walworth County Cloggers

Horse Arena

8:30 a.m. ... Boots and Saddle Open and Speed Show
9 a.m. Walenton's Rocking "B" Ranch Speed Show

Peggy's Park Stage

11:30 a.m. Pies in the Park Auction, all are welcome
1:30 p.m. ... Judson Brown Band
4 p.m. Underground Sound Jazz Band
7 p.m. Doo Wop Jukebox

Gazebo in the Park

2 p.m. Best Western Wear

Duesterbeck's Brew Haus Music Hall

1 p.m. Jenny Hundt
6 p.m. Kayla Seeber

Family Adventureland

Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m. Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show, Barnyard Stage
3 p.m. (and roaming throughout the day) Magic "Mike" Magician, Barnyard Stage
12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Kai McNulty, Chainsaw Artist
1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. Prehistoric Dinosaur Adventure
All Day Heavy Duty Dirt Machinery Experience
Noon to 4 p.m. Demos by Superior Construction and Atlas Bobcat

Contests – Barnyard Stage

11 a.m. Ring in the Steer
1 p.m. Pickle Eating Contest

GRANDSTAND ENTERTAINMENT

Wednesday, Aug. 28

7 p.m. Rice's Pro Rodeo

Thursday, Aug. 29

7 p.m. PI Motorsports Tractor & Truck Pulls

Friday, Aug. 30

7:30 p.m. Nelly

Saturday, Aug. 31

7:30 p.m. Brantley Gilbert

Sunday, Sept. 1

7:30 p.m. Crowder

Monday, Sept. 2

12:30 p.m./3 p.m./5:30 p.m.

Demolition Derby

Grandstand events listed above require tickets in addition to fair admission. To purchase tickets, visit walworthcountyfair.com.

Barnyard Adventure – Tent and Garden

10 a.m. Freshly Picked Food Tasting
11:30 a.m. Story Time
5 p.m. Surprise Make & Take for Kids
5 p.m. Butterfly Release

Barnyard Adventure – Learning Coop

10 a.m. The Wisconsin Honey Queen
11 a.m. Pure Wisconsin Honey Cookie Classic Contest
1 p.m. Make and Take with Laura Zaraza, Stampin' Up

Grandstand

9 a.m. Combines for Kids, combine rides, sponsored by Rote Oil
7:30 p.m. ... Brantley Gilbert, sponsored by Great Lakes Components

Sunday, Sept. 1

*Edge Broadband Family Fun Day
North American Midway Entertainment
Wristband Day, Noon to 11 p.m., \$35*

Judging/Demonstrations

7:30 a.m. ... Open Rabbit Show Registration, tent near Small Animal Barn
8 a.m. Open Beef, Activity Center
9 a.m. Open Goats, Goat Barn
9 a.m. Open Rabbit Show Judging, tent near Small Animal Barn
10 a.m. Draft Horse Hitch Class, Draft Horse Arena (Draft Horse Parade to follow at Grandstand)
10 a.m. Wool Fleece Contest, Sheep Barn
3 p.m. Favorite Cookie Contest, North Hall, open to everyone
3:30 p.m. ... Dairy Futurity Show, Activity Center

Wiswell Center

10 a.m. – to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Antique Appraisals by Barbara J. Eash (Certified Appraisers Guild of America)

North Hall
Noon..... \$5,000 Pinewood Derby Showdown,
sponsored by Advanced Auto Clinic

4-H Centennial Picnic Pavilion
2 p.m. Poultry Awards

Horse Arena
8:30 a.m. Linn Youth Benefit Open Horse Show
9 a.m. Walenton's "B" Ranch Speed Show

Peggy's Park Stage
10 a.m. Ecumenical Church Service
Noon..... Kickin' It With Carol
3 p.m. Woodcarving Auction
5 p.m. Van Wailin'
7 p.m. Kashmir

Gazebo in the Park
2 p.m. Farmer Wally Worth Day

Duesterbeck's Brew Haus Music Hall
1 p.m. Grant Milliren
6 p.m. Thompson Duo

Family Adventureland
Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m.
..... Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show
3 p.m. Magic "Mike" Magician, Barnyard

12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
..... Kai McNulty, Chainsaw Artist
1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.
..... Prehistoric Dinosaur Adventure
All Day Heavy Duty Dirt Machinery
Noon to
4 p.m. Demos by Superior Construction and
Atlas Bobcat

Contests – Barnyard Stage
11 a.m. Barn Doody Race
1 p.m. Cream Puff Eating Contest

Barnyard Adventure – Tent and Garden
10 a.m. Freshly Picked Food Tasting
11:30 a.m. Story Time
5 p.m. Surprise Make & Take for Kids
5 p.m. Butterfly Release

Barnyard Adventure – Learning Coop
10 a.m. Let's Can with Stephanie Slater
11 a.m. Benefits of Growing Herbs
Noon..... Flower Drying with Blue Barn Farms
1 p.m. Wisconsin Bats with Jill Roberts

Grandstand
11 a.m. Antique Tractor and Car Parade
7:30 p.m. ... Crowder, sponsored by Thrivent-
Shoreline Group

Monday, Sept. 2

Demo Day
Wristband Day, noon to 8 p.m., \$35

Wiswell Center
10 a.m. Fur & Feather Sale

Horse Arena
8 a.m. Wisconsin Open Horse Show
9 a.m. Walenton's "B" Ranch Speed Show
11 a.m. Equestrian Drill Team Competitions,
in memory of Rick Welch

Peggy's Park Stage
11 a.m. Sam Barrett
2 p.m. The Mathew Skiller Duo
5 p.m. Gary McAdams Band

Gazebo in the Park
2 p.m. Cooking Up Fair Memories, Apron Day

Duesterbeck's Brew Haus Music Hall
1 p.m. Lucky Pickers
6 p.m. aGOOstic

Family Adventureland
Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m.
..... Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show

2024 WALWORTH COUNTY FAIR • PAGE 11
3 p.m. Magic "Mike" Magician, Barnyard
1:30, 3:30, 5:30 p.m. Dinosaur Adventure
All Day Heavy Duty Dirt Machinery
Noon to
4 p.m. Demos by Superior Construction and
Atlas Bobcat

Contests – Barnyard Stage
11 a.m. Sweet Corn Eating Contest

Barnyard Adventure – Tent and Garden
10 a.m. Freshly Picked Food Tasting
11:30 a.m. Story Time
5 p.m. Surprise Make & Take for Kids
5 p.m. Butterfly Release

Barnyard Adventure – Learning Coop
10 a.m. Biodiversity in Your Garden by Blue
Barn Farms
11 a.m. "The Incredible Egg" with Karen
Gefvert
Noon/1 p.m. Introduction to Stained Glass and
Fused Glass with The Vinery

Grandstand
8:30 a.m. ... Horse Pulling Contest
12:30, 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m. Demolition Derby, (three
heats), sponsored by American Truck
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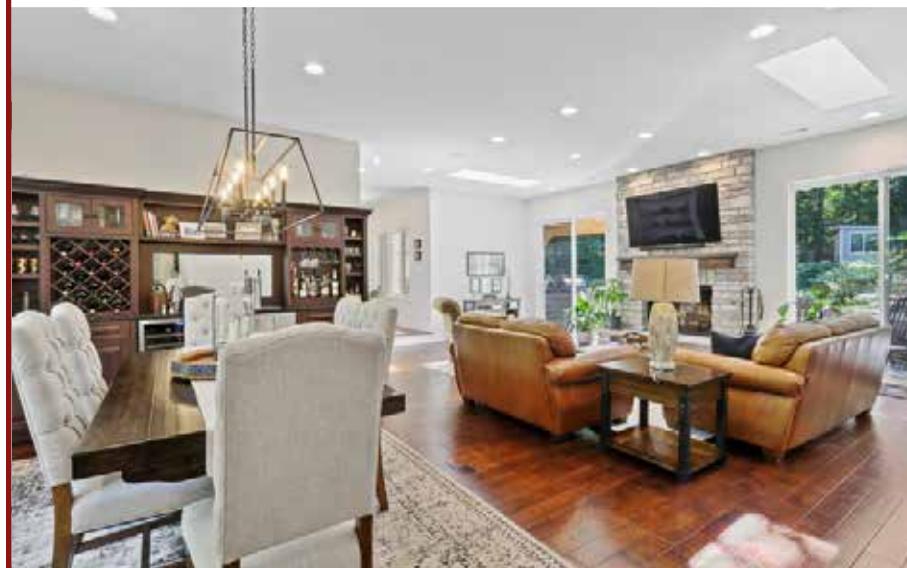
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Making all those years count

A recap on the fair's '23 outstanding senior honorees

By **Tom Ganser**
CORRESPONDENT

It's not surprising that the Walworth County Fair continues to share many traditions that have emerged since a cattle show organized by the Walworth County Agricultural Society was held in the Village of East Troy on Oct. 16, 1850.

A total of 35 first premiums, 17 second premiums, and 3 third premiums were awarded, and the first county fair was held in Elkhorn in 1851.

One of these proud traditions is the recognition of four Outstanding Senior Citizens. The honorees were presented citation from the Wisconsin State Legislature by Wisconsin State Senator Steve Nass and

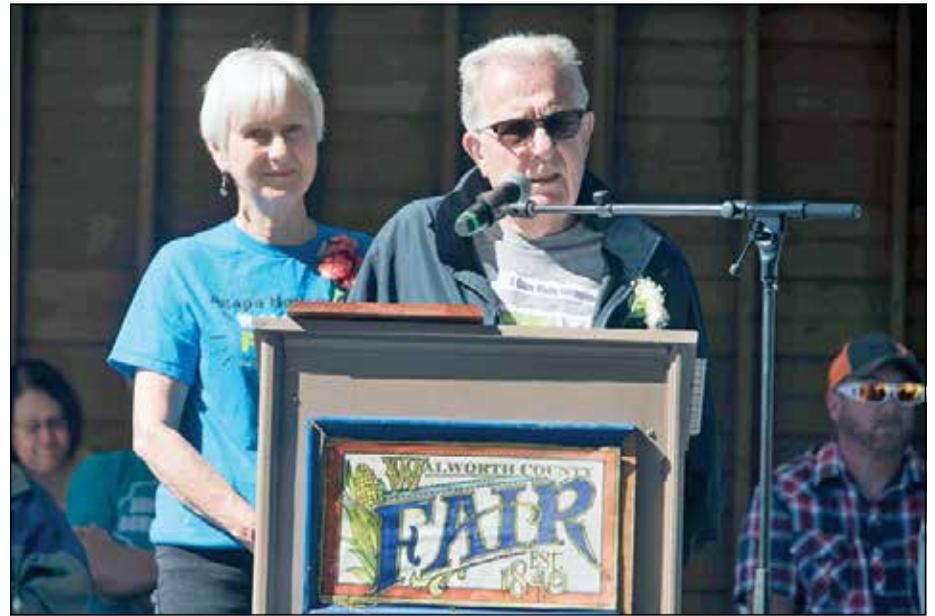
Wisconsin State Representative Ellen Schutt. Receiving the citations were Mike Flick from Williams Bay, Jo Dewart from Delavan, and Dan and Cheryl Mirkes from Lake Geneva.

"It's probably easy to go out and make a buck," Nass told those gathered. "But it's not as easy to make a difference. We are recognizing people today that were born with the special opportunity to make a difference."

Nass described Flick as, "An outstanding senior citizen whose presence radiates warmth and kindness to all who are fortunate enough to know him" and someone who leaves "an indelible mark of hope and encouragement wherever he goes."

Nass cited Flick's work with the Lakeland Community Church and especially its Celebrate Recovery Program, his service as a chaplain for the Kunes Auto Group, and his dedication to visiting and supporting inmates in the Walworth County Jail.

Noting that "Walworth County is a



At last year's 174th Walworth County Fair, four outstanding seniors were honored including, above, Cheryl and Dan Mirkes, shown accepting their award. State Sen. **opposite:** Steve Nass was one of the presenters at the 2023 event.

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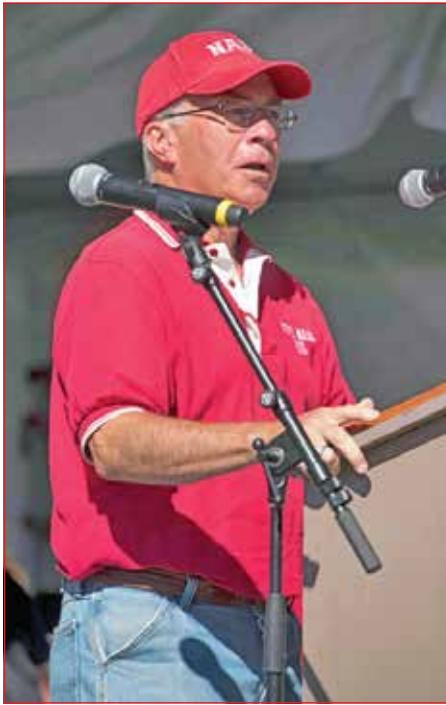
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wonderful place to live and with great people with hearts that are wide open to helping other people," Flick said he accepted the recognition on behalf of people in the county who help those in great need.

In an interview before the ceremony, Flick shared that learning of the recognition was "kind of amazing. I never expected it. It was a pleasant surprise."

Having supported the Lakeland Community Church's Celebrate Recovery Program for more than 10 years, Flick shared that the program, in fact, exists in more than 40,000 locations worldwide.

As one of 12 chaplains for Kunes Auto Group dealerships, Flick said, "Sometimes people hold things in the inside that they want to talk about but don't feel safe in talking. Everything is confidential. People go through all sorts of things.

"We can be standing under a car where the oil's being changed and praying with somebody," he added.

Schutt told the audience that Dewart is someone "who's always thinking of others and how she can help."

In sharing examples, Schutt described Dewart's pitching in as president of the Delavan American Legion Post 95 Auxiliary with bingo and fish fries, including cleanup duties.

Other targets for Dewart's generous service included volunteering for the Music by the Lakes series, supporting projects of the Williams Bay United Church of Christ, being an election official for the Town of Delavan, and helping out at the Walworth County Fair Barnyard Adventure.

In short, Schutt stated, Dewart is "the one person everyone looks to for help as she is constantly doing things for others."

Learning of her nomination for the recognition, Dewart confessed, "I thought somebody was playing a joke on me," adding, "it's a nice honor but I do things because I like to, I like to keep busy, and I like to help people."

She shared spending time with her "favorite Marine" veteran with dementia so that his wife can go somewhere.

With a gentle laugh, Dewart described her drive for helping others by saying, "It keeps

me busy, out of trouble, and I don't spend money."

When it came to Dan and Cheryl Mirkes, Nass highlighted their notable commitment to the Agape House and how they are "consistently there to mentor, teach, and welcome students, providing stability, love, prayer, and support to those who require assistance."

Before the presentation, Dan described the Agape House, affiliated with the Calvary Church in Williams Bay, as a ministry aimed at steering boys and girls from 12 to 18 years old back on track despite the trauma in their lives.

"We not only house them, but we also school them, and then we counsel them with certified counselors. We also try to zero in on their families," Dan said.

Cheryl, a registered nurse who later learned how to turn medical and patient information into an electronic format, taught computer skills to Agape House children.

Following his career in the hotel food and beverage industry, Dan taught Personal Finance at Agape House.



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The Plein Air at the Fair event is an opportunity for artists to create artwork inspired by and created solely at the Walworth County Fair. Fairgoers have the opportunity to watch the artists in action on Thursday, Aug. 29 throughout the fairgrounds. The top two pieces will be sold to the highest bidder at the Park Stage at 3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 1.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WALWORTH COUNTY FAIR *Walworth County Fair*

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The Walworth County Fair offers many events at no additional cost after the price of admission, including:

- Junior Class Competitive Exhibit Areas, showcasing Junior Class non-livestock and livestock exhibits
- Open Class Exhibit Areas, featuring displays of Open Class non-livestock and

livestock exhibits

- Pride on Display Contest, highlighting the open class Cultural Arts Center
- Daily contests with prizes
- All Park Stage Entertainment
- Discovery Barn Agriculture Education
- Barnyard Adventure Agriculture Education area
- Barnyard Adventure Stage, featuring the ever-popular “Nick’s Kids Show” and “Barnyard Adventure Show”
- Woodcarving
- Daily fair guest contests
- Draft Horse Pulls
- Open Horse Shows
- Kids Pedal Tractor Pulls







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- Combine Rides for Kids (thanks to many sponsors and farmers)
- The Magical World of Magic Mike the Magician
- Plein Air Art Competition
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Barnyard Adventure

The Barnyard Adventure team is looking forward to visitors, showcasing an area of the fair where families and folks of all ages can make themselves at home; rest, regroup, relax, and enjoy the country hospitality offered throughout its two acres of agricultural wonders.

The Barnyard Adventure area remains proud to emphasize the diversity of agriculture with numerous learning stations including crops, dairy, beef, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, bees, butterflies, and more!

Features in Barnyard Adventure include:

- New – Brag Tags! Take the “Stars, Stripes and Fair Delights” tour throughout Barnyard Adventure and collect your free Brag Tags.
- It’s ag-mazing for all ages! Take a walk through Barnyard Adventure with interesting agriculture learning stations, including Dairy, Beef, Swine, Sheep, Goats, and Poultry.
- The Walworth County Fair showcases butterflies with plenty of TLC. An outdoor butterfly observation tent will be available in the Barnyard Adventure Garden with a daily butterfly release scheduled.
- The Barnyard Adventure Barn has been re-branded and will showcase educational learning about pollinators, including Beekeeping, featuring a working observation beehive, hosted by the Walworth County Beekeepers Association. Learn more about Monarch butterflies, too, with butterfly experts. Do not miss what’s new in the Barnyard Adventure Barn!
- The Learning Coop, featuring

a variety of farm and home presentations. Interesting topics for everyone!

- Barnyard Adventure Gardens, featuring the new Global Gardens.
- “Freshly Picked” is Barnyard’s new presentation, putting the spotlight on a different harvested garden vegetable each day of the Fair.
- Growing to Learn Raised Crop Beds, featuring a variety of crops, including corn, soybeans, cranberries, and hops.
- The new “Kids Can Compost” display, including a vegetable scrap garden and worm composting.
- Barnyard Adventure Stage Entertainment, starring Nick’s Kids Show and the new Barnyard Adventure Show
- Barnyard Adventure Kids Contests and Activities
- Grain Bin Learning Center
- Rainwater Recycling Patio
- Sensory Gardens

FAIR • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

none. The number of open class exhibits is overwhelming. The total number of exhibit entries for the fair is usually over 15,000,” Gaffey explained.

He said he believes the Walworth County Fair is one of “the most wonderful family events in the upper Midwest. The hundreds of volunteers including the volunteer board members, superintendents, committee members, businesses, and fair staff that pull this event together are some of the finest people in the world.”

More than 55 non-profits, including civic organizations, churches, and others benefit from the fair, according to Gaffey, and for many, it’s their largest fundraising event of the year.

Those non-profits range from local churches and other organizations that run food stands to the Walworth County Historical Society’s annual book sale in the park.

Gaffey said each year he looks forward to welcoming people back to the fair and maybe getting a chance to enjoy some of his personal favorite activities.

“The Horse Pulls on Labor Day morning, Home Economics exhibits, seeing families smiling and laughing, and of course, the food,” he said of some of his favorites.

For more information and advance admission tickets, visit walworthcountyfair.com.

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Fair royalty follows fairest into crown

Josie Vance is the 2024 Fairest of the Fair

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
STAFF WRITER

For Elkhorn native Josie Vance, a year's experience did a world of good.

Vance participated for the first time in the Walworth County Fairest of the Fair competition in 2022, finishing as fair royalty, the equivalent of the first runner-up

position.

Last year, admittedly feeling more confident, Vance topped the field of five competitors to become the 2024 Walworth County Fairest of the Fair.

Walworth County runs the Fairest competition a year ahead. They crown a winner that will compete in the Wisconsin Fairest of the Fair competition before serving as the county's fairest the following year.

As fair royalty, Vance was on the grounds throughout last year's fair anyhow, working alongside 2023 winner Lillie Kauffman.



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“This year helped me become more confident with my public speaking,” said Vance, a graduate of Elkhorn Area High School.

She said at the time she had plans to attend school to become a dental hygienist.

Growing up, Vance said she was active in FFA and 4-H, showing beef cattle, goats, art projects, and cooking entries at the fair.

“I also got to learn from Lillie,” she explained. “How to represent myself if I was to win fairest. I was still nervous for the competition, but being royalty helped me know becoming fairest was something I truly wanted.”

Vance said she was excited about the chances ahead of her in the coming year.

“I can’t wait to be that smiling face a first-year exhibitor sees in the show ring, excitedly shows me their art work that they have been working on for weeks, and to be able to share my experience being in 4-H and FFA,” Vance said.

“It’s truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity with memories that last a lifetime,” she added.



Leslie Reinke, a senior at Blackhawk Technical College, was named fair royalty for the 2024 fair.

The Fairest of the Fair serves as the official ambassador for the Walworth County Fair, representing and promoting the fair at events throughout Walworth County and beyond, while also participating in the Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs competition.

The Wisconsin Fairest of the Fair competition is held annually every January.

The Walworth County Fairest of the Fair for 2024 was crowned Aug. 30 at the start of the 174th fair. The county crowns the fairest a year ahead, so she can compete statewide first and then participate in the role at the fair the next year. **opposite:** 2023 Fairest of the Fair Lillie Cauffman (from left) stands with newly crowned 2024 Fairest Josie Vance and 2024 Fair Royalty (first runner-up) Leslie Reinke. **right:** Vance accepts the crown from Cauffman.

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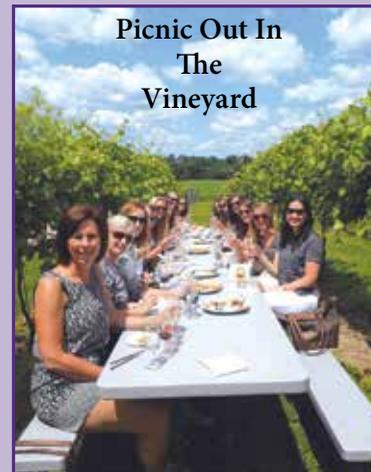
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A step back in time

The antique tractor display at the Walworth County Fair is a favorite stop for many fairgoers. In addition to a variety of classic tractors, the fair also has a selection of new models on display as well.

WALWORTH COUNTY FAIR PHOTO
Walworth County Fair



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Who's running the show?

The Walworth County Agricultural Society Inc. puts on the annual County Fair. The people behind the scenes include:

Board of Directors

David Adams, director/board president
Jacob Polyock, director/board vice-president
Susan Earle, director/board treasurer
Eileen Walsh Grzenia, director/board secretary

Loretta Meinel, director
David Mann, director
Gregory Sawtelle, director
Jon Tanis, director
Thomas Cook, director

Fairgrounds management staff

Larry Gaffey, general manager
Clare Doane, grounds and maintenance manager

Fairgrounds staff

Max Lindsay, Elkhorn Equine Events Center coordinator/grounds and maintenance department
Kristina Nacke, office staff
Melody Judge, assistant marketing manager/office staff
Dianne Kegley, office staff
Patti Hall, office staff
Rita Jasurda, office staff
Cindy Moyer, ticketing
Kerry Trampe, IT and photography

Fair superintendents

Cultural Arts - Megan Rassmussen-Silman
Antiques - fair office
Barnyard Adventure - Kathy Papcke
Campgrounds - Jennifer Hadley
Beef - Marleen Siegler
Dairy - Tony Fincutter
Discovery Barn - Shawn McCarthy
Draft Horse - Mike Deneen
Horticulture - Cheri Lasch
Goats - Jamie Bowey
Home Economics - Jodi Swatek
Machinery - Don Henningfeld
Privileges/Vendor Services - Ken Meinel
Saddle Horse - Jerry Fassbender
Security - Jim Hansen
Tom Reichert
Sheep - Kevin Slack
Swine - Jes Clapper

Junior Class Superintendents

Beef - Leon (Doc) Stern
Dairy - Tony Fincutter



Jr Exhibits Building - Caroline Cornelison
Dairy Goats - Jordann McPherson
Meat Goats - Chris Schlicher
Horse & Pony - Jeff Markham
Poultry - Jeff Schmalfeldt
Rabbits - Brenda Wade
Sheep - Tim Ehlen/Trisha Kniep
Swine - Jes Clapper



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It does the body good!

A group of kids take part in a milk chugging contest at last year's Walworth County Fair. It's one of numerous contests offered throughout the fair in the Barnyard Adventure area.

DAVE DRESHOW
Walworth County Fair

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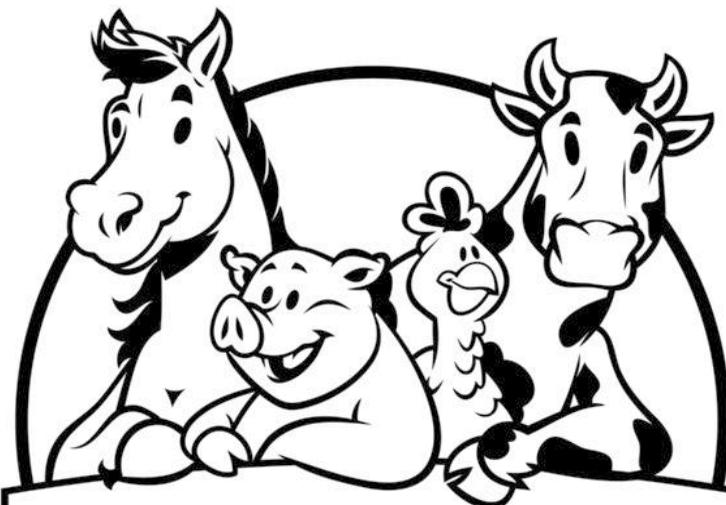
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In addition to some grandstand acts that require extra tickets for guests wishing to attend, the Walworth County Fair offers plenty of entertainment free of charge, including a steady schedule of music and more on the Park Stage. The area has plenty of seating, with a good portion of it in the shade.

WALWORTH COUNTY FAIR PHOTO Walworth County Fair

A brief history of the Walworth County Fair

The Constitution of the Walworth County Agricultural Society was adopted April 28, 1842, according to the Walworth County Fair website.

The first annual fair and cattle show that the society has any record was held in the Village of East Troy on Oct. 16, 1850. A total of 35 first premiums, 17 second premiums and 3 third premiums were given at that time.

The first County Fair held in Elkhorn was in 1851, and again in 1852, in the block southwest of the City Park. In 1853, the fair site was moved to Delavan but returned to Elkhorn in 1854. In 1855, the first purchase of land, from Colonel Edward Elderkin, was made consisting of six acres within the Village of Elkhorn limits.

The cost was \$100 an acre with 10% interest, a high price for the time. The city of Elkhorn donated \$300 to fence the land, erect pens and sheds, and dig wells. The

fair site has remained in Elkhorn since 1855 on this same location. On April 5, 1965, the Articles of Incorporation for the Walworth County Agricultural Society Inc., were signed by the Secretary of State.

In its early years, many visitors traveled to the fair by train. At one time, there were 19 special trains which arrived daily directly at the fairgrounds and departed again each evening after the harness races. Guests came from Libertyville, Rockford, Freeport, Walworth, Beloit, Madison, Janesville, Milwaukee, and Waukesha.

The Walworth County Fairgrounds, throughout history, has been well-regarded as a live entertainment venue. 1933 was the beginning of live entertainment night shows at the Walworth County Fair, such as the WLS entertainers.

Throughout the years, the grandstand main stage has welcomed the talents of such nationally-acclaimed artists, such as Minnie Pearl, Johnny Cash, Keith Urban,

Josh Turner, Little Big Town, Styx, Doobie Brothers, Cheap Trick, Foreigner, Skillet, Newsboys United, and The Beach Boys. Visit the link below for more information.

Today, the Walworth County Agricultural Society Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit, welcomes hundreds of thousands of guests year-round to its nearly 100-acre facility. From beautiful campgrounds, spacious buildings, and open green spaces to the large grandstand and recently improved and expanded equine facility, the fairgrounds attracts visitors and events from coast-to-coast, renowned for its Midwest charm, affordability, and hospitality.

Additionally, the Walworth County Fair and fairgrounds is a consistent award-winning fair industry leader in agriculture education, competitive exhibits, non-Fair facility usage, and sponsorship with the International Association of Fairs and Expositions.

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