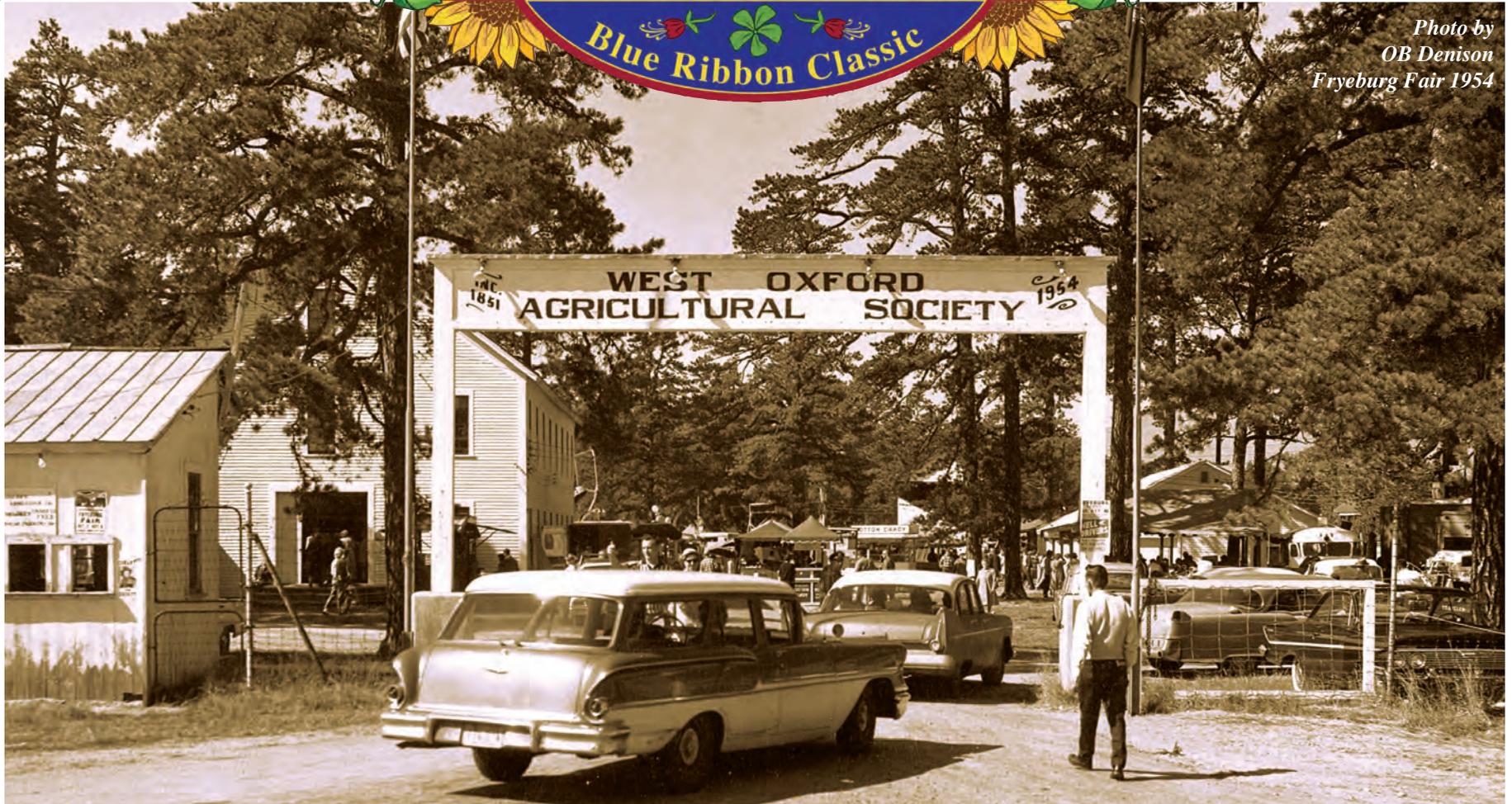


**We're
Back!**

MAINE'S
FRYEBURG FAIR
Blue Ribbon Classic

October 3-10, 2021
Sunday to Sunday



*Photo by
OB Denison
Fryeburg Fair 1954*



*Photo by
Scott Linscott*



*Photo by
Veronica
Kugelman*



*Photo by
Rachel Andrews Damon*

**8 Days of Agriculture & Livestock • Woodsmen's Field Day • Firemen's Muster
Exhibitions & Museums • Tractor & 4WD Pulls • Harness Racing
Night Shows & Fireworks • Grand Parade • Spectacular Food
Midway & Rides • Campsites Maine & NH-made Products**



www.fryeburgfair.org



Key

Agriculture Expo Center	D4	Horse & Pony Barns	D1, E1
ATM Machine	A4, E5	Pulling Horses (3)	D1, E1
Beano Building	F5	Show Horses (2)	E1, F1
Beef Barns (2)	C2, D2	Show Ponies (3)	F1
Bloodsmn Shop	C5	Race Horses (5)	G1, H1
Camping Offices	E1	Horse Scales	E1
Fairview	E5	Information Booths (2)	E5, F2
Livestock	D1	Judges Stand	F4
Trackside	H3	Line Red Schoolhouse	C5
Catholic Church Food	F3	Livestock Office	D3
Comp. Church Dairy Bar	D3	Livestock Show Arena	C2
Craft Beer	H3	Llama Alpaca Barn	E2
Craft Center	D4	Loretta's Kitchen	C5
Dairy Barns (7)	D2, D3	Main Office	E5
Denmark Lions Food	F3	Midway Office	E5
Draft Horse & Pony Show	F3	Mixing Parlor & Demo Area	D3
Emily's Restaurant	E2	Mother's Lounge	C4
Energy Row	C4	Mountain View Pavilion	D2
Entertainment	C4	Museum	E1
Draft Horse Park	E1	Museum	C5, D5
Hayseed Theater	G1	Mutuel Windows	F3, F4, G1
Water Wheel Park	E5	Natural Resources Center	C4
Xmas Tree Park	E2	New Church Restaurant	E4
Expo 1	E5	Old MacDonald's Park	C5
Expo Center	E5	Old MacDonald's Petting Zoo	C5
Expo 5	E2	Ox Barns	C1, C2, C3, D3
Fandangoli's Restaurant	E4	Ox Judging	C3
Fiber Center	E2	Ox Pulling (F1)	C3
Fireman's Muster	C3	Ox Scales	C1
Fire Tower	C3	Paddock	H2
First Aid	E5, F1	Poultry Barn	E2
Fryeburg Fire Department	E2	Pulling Ring	E2
4-H Exhibit Hall	E2	Rabbit Barn	E2
4-H Horse Show	F3	Racing Office	H1
4-H Livestock Barn	D2	Security	E5
Fryeburg Lions Food	E3	Sheep Barns	D2
Garden Center	C4	Sheep Dog Trials	D2
Galleys	C4	Sheep Show Ring	D2
Blue	A4	Specialty Foods Pavilion	D4
Green	H1	Sugar House	C5
Main	E5	Swine Barn	C3
Change	F1	Toilet, Oxn Booth	A4, E5, F1, H1, H5
Walk-in	H6	Tractor Pulling	C3, F3
Grandstands	F3	Truck Pulling	F3
Meat	F3	Wash Racks	C2, D1, D2, D3, F1
Coal	C3	Water Wheel Park & Stage	E5
Hay & Grain Barn	C1	Woodsmen's Field Day	F2
		Woodward Show Arena	D2
		Xmas Tree Exhibits	E2

COLOR KEY

- First Aid/Public Safety
- Restrooms
- Livestock
- Expos
- Entertainment
- ATM Machine
- Information



We're Back!

October 3-10, 2021

www.fryeburgfair.org

Program of Events
2021

SUNDAY Oct. 3 THRU SUNDAY Oct. 10
Harness Racing **TUES. Oct. 5 thru SUN. Oct. 10**

TICKETS \$12 SUN. thru SUN.

Children under 12 FREE

Weekly Pass \$80

PARKING ON GROUNDS

General - \$5.00 Premium - \$10.00

FOR INFORMATION - 207-935-3268

Senior Citizens Day - **TUESDAY**
65 years and over - **FREE**

Exhibition Halls & Farm Museum Open 9 am - 9 pm
Museum Craft Demonstrations 10 am - 5 pm
Fiber Demonstrations 9 am - 9 pm

**PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR
PROGRAM UPDATES**
www.fryeburgfair.org

1154 Main Street, Fryeburg, ME 04037

**24 Hour Emergency Number
During Fair 207-935-3268**

PROGRAM OF EVENTS 2021

**No Pets Allowed Inside
The Fairgrounds
SERVICE DOGS ONLY**

Subject to change if necessary
Strollers, wheelchairs & scooters are available to rent at the "Orange Gate" on a first come, first serve basis.
Free Admission to Grandstand (Except Racing Boxes)
Agricultural Exhibition Center Open Daily 9 am - 9 pm
Farm Museum Open Daily 9 am - 9 pm
Museum Craft Demonstrations Daily 10 am - 5 pm
Fiber Demonstrations 9 am - 9 pm / Last Sunday 9 am - 6 pm
Llama/Alpaca Demonstrations Daily @ 11 am and on-going

Key to Buildings
AEC Agricultural Exhibition Center MVP Mountain View Pavillion
CC Craft Center PR Pulling Ring
CTE Christmas Tree Exhibit RB Rabbit Barn
FC Fiber Center RG Racing Grandstand
LP Livestock Pavilion SGG Swine & Goat Grandstand
LSA Livestock Show Arena WSA Woodward Show Arena

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

8:00 am Official ADGA Dairy Goat Show - LSA
8:30 am Church Service - Hayseed Theater
9:00 am 4-H Riding Horse Show - Infield
Firemen's Muster - SGG
Sheepdog Trials - Infield
Ox Pulling - 2100 lbs - Distance (1st place award) - PR
10:00 am Flower Show - Expo 1
Poultry Show
11:00 am Catholic Mass - Hayseed Theater
Fleece and Fiber Show & Sale - FC
Sheep Shearing Demo - LP
Wreathmaking demo at Christmas Tree Exhibit
Society Pig Scramble - (must reside in towns of our Society) - PR (Ages 8-10) Entries close at 10:30 am
12:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
12:30 pm Horse Pulling 3000 lbs - Distance (1st place award) - PR
1:00 pm Parent/Child Baking Contest - AEC
Dairy Goat Show continues - LSA
Duck Herding Demo - MVP
Flower Show - Expo 1
Wreathmaking demo at Christmas Tree Exhibit
Decorate a Pumpkin Contest - AEC
3:00 pm Ox Pulling - 2500 lbs - Distance (1st place halters) - PR
3:30 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
4:00 pm Tractor Pull & Big Rig Pull - after Horse Show - Infield Area
Sheep Shearing Demo - MVP
Horse Pulling - 3200 lbs 12' Elim (1st place award) - PR

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

9:00 am Show of Market Lambs - LSA Showmanship
Woodsmen's Field Day - RG
9:30 am Horse Pulling 3100 lbs - Distance (1st place halters) - PR
10:00 am Flower Show - Expo 1
4-H Dairy Goat Show - WSA
Wreath Making Demo at Christmas Tree Exhibit
Flower Show - Expo 1
11:00 am Skillet Throw - SGG - Entries close at 10:30 am
Ox Pulling - 1700 lbs - Distance - PR
12:30 pm 4-H Beef Steer Show - LSA - Showmanship
Show of Scramble Calves - LSA
1:00 pm Whoopie Pie Contest - AEC
Sheep Shearing Demo - MVP
1:30 pm Anvil Throw for Men - SGG
2:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
Wreath Making Demo at Christmas Tree Exhibit
Ox Pulling - 2100 lbs - 6' Elim. (1st place award) - PR
3:00 pm Oxen Demonstrations & Scooting Contest - SGG
4:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
Duck Herding - MVP
4:30 pm Horse Pulling 3300 lbs - 15' Elim. (1st place award) - PR
6:30 pm 4-H Market Hog Show - LSA - Showmanship
7:00 pm Ox Pulling - 2500 lbs and under 6' elim (1st place award) - PR

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

Senior Citizens Day (65 and over - gate free)
Antique Tractor Show Day
8:30 am Show of Draft Horses, Ponies, Cart, 2 & 4 Hitch, 4 Abreast, NACCS Cart - RG
9:00 am Sheep Show - Open Show all day - MVP
Tractor Pull - SGG

Dairy Show Jersey and Guernsey - WSA
Beef Show - Belted Galloway - AOB - LSA
9:30 am Ox Pulling - Ladies Pull - 2900 & under - (One team per Driver 1st place award) - PR
10:00 am Flower Show - Expo 1
Wreath Making Demo at Christmas Tree Exhibit
Sheep Shearing Demo - LP
Ox Pulling - Ladies Pull - 2900 & over - (One team per Driver 1st place award) - PR
12:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
1:00 pm Blueberry Dessert Contest - AEC
Sheep Shearing Demo - MVP
1:30 pm Harness Racing - RG
Draft Horse & Pony Show - Halter Classes - PR
2:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
Wreath Making Demo at Christmas Tree Exhibit
4:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
Sheep Shearing Demo - MVP
4:30 pm Steer & Ox Costume and Parade - SGG
6:30 pm Horse Pulling - 3 Horse Hitch Percentage - Distance (1st place award) - PR
8:00 pm **Night Show - Runnin' Down a Dream**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

8:30 am Show of Draft Horses, Ponies, Cart Class, Male Driver Unicorn, 6 Hitch - Youth Cart - RG
Show of Working Oxen, Show Oxen & Steers - SGG
9:00 am Sheep Show - (all day) - MVP
Dairy Show Milking Shorthorn & Brown Swiss - WSA
Beef Show Chianinas, Hereford & Simmentals - LSA
Ox Pulling - 2900 lbs - Distance (1st place halters) - PR
10:00 am Flower Show - Expo 1
10:30 am Ox Pulling - 3600-4100 lbs. Percentage Distance (1st place award) - PR
11:00 am Wreathmaking demo at Christmas Tree Exhibit
12:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
1:00 pm Open Pig Scramble - PR (Ages 8-10) Entries close 12 PM (Drawing)
Show of Working Steers Handy Class for kids - SGG
2 Trussed Apple Pie Contest - AEC
Sheep Shearing Demo - MVP
1:30 pm Harness Racing - RG
2:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
Wreathmaking demo at Christmas Tree Exhibit
Horse Pulling - Sweepstakes - Distance - (Frank Gleason Memorial Trophy & set of halters) - PR
3:30 pm Horse Pulling - 3400 lbs - 15' Elim. (1st place award) - PR
4:00 pm Sheep Shearing Demo - MVP
4:30 pm Photo World's Largest Assembly Yoked Steer & Oxen - WSA
5:30 pm Horse Pulling - 3600 lbs - Distance (1st place award) - PR
6:30 pm Horse Pulling - Sweepstakes - 15' Elim. (Ralph Gushee Memorial set of halters) - PR
8:00 pm **Night Show - Rave X, The Outer Limits Tour**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

8:30 am Show of Working Oxen, Show Oxen & Steers - SGG
Show of Draft Horses, Ponies, Tandem, Pair, 4 Horse/Pony Hitch, 8 Horse Hitch - RG
9:00 am Sheep Show - MVP
Beef Show Beef Shorthorns, Angus, Aberdeen - LSA
Dairy Show - Holstein and Ayrshire - WSA
10:00 am Ox Pulling - 3300 lbs - Distance (1st place award) - PR
11:00 am Wreathmaking demo at Christmas Tree Exhibit
Sheep Shearing Demo - MVP
12:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
1:00 pm Maple Syrup Creations - AEC
1:30 pm Harness Racing - RG
Flower Show - Expo 1
2:00 pm Wreathmaking demo at Christmas Tree Exhibit
Sheep Shearing Demo - MVP
3:00 pm Horse Pulling - 3200 lbs - Distance (1st place award) - PR
Decorated Cupcake Contest - AEC
4:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
4:30 pm Overall Champion Dairy, Beef Females, Sheep Ewes, Beef Bulls, Sheep Rams - LSA
5:00 pm Horse Pulling - 3400 lbs - Distance - (Arthur & Andy Libby Memorial 1st Place set of blankets) - PR
7:00 pm Ox Pulling - Sweepstakes - Distance (1st place award) - PR
8:00 pm **Night Show - "Studio Two", a Beatles Tribute.**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

9:00 am Ox Pulling Youth Teamster Class 1100 lbs - (Teamster age 12 & under)
G Robinson Youth Outstanding Teamster Award (Yoke),
Fryeburg Fair Presidents Trophy and Runner-up Award - PR
10:00 am Flower Show - Expo 1
Call Scramble - RG
Pig Scramble (Students MSAD #72) - (third grade) - RG
Draft Horse & Pony Jr. & Sr. Youth Show - WSA
Ox Pulling Youth Teamster Class 1300 lbs - (Teamster age 16 & under)
G Robinson Youth Outstanding Teamster Award (Yoke),
Fryeburg Fair Presidents Trophy and Runner-up Award - PR
11:00 am 4-H Market Hog Auction - LSA
4-H Market Lamb Auction - LSA
4-H Beef Steer Auction - LSA
Sheep Shearing Demo - MVP
Wreathmaking demo at Christmas Tree Exhibit
12:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
Horse Pulling - 3100 lbs - 12' Elim. (1st place award) - PR
1:00 pm Swine Show - SGG
Calf Show and Sale - LSA
Fudge Contest - AEC
1:30 pm Harness Racing - RG
2:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
Wreathmaking demo at Christmas Tree Exhibit
Sheep Shearing Demo - MVP
3:00 pm Ox Pulling Sweepstake 6' Elim, Gordon Robinson Memorial Trophy & Halters PR
Haunted Gingerbread House Decorating Cookies - AEC
4:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
6:00 pm Horse Pulling - Ride the Boat - 3400 lbs. 20 (NO Touch) - (1st place halters) - PR
8:00 pm **Night Show - Motor Booty Affair**
Fireworks After Night Show

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

9:45 am Speaker - American Farm Bureau - RG
10:00 am Flower Show - Expo 1
Grand Parade - Trophy Presentations - RG
Wreathmaking demo at Christmas Tree Exhibit
12:00 pm 4-H Swine Show - SGG
Flower Show - Expo 1
4-H Sheep Show Class - MVP
12:30 pm Ox Pulling 2900 lbs - 6' Elim. (1st place award) - PR
1:00 pm 4-H Dairy Show - WSA
Sheep Shearing Demo - MVP
1:30 pm Harness Racing - RG
4-H Beef Heifer Show - LSA
2:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
Wreathmaking demo at Christmas Tree Exhibit
4-H Showmanship - Working Steer - SGG
2:30 pm Horse Pulling - 3300 lbs - Distance (1st place award) - PR
3:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
4:00 pm Sheep Shearing Demo - MVP
Ox Pulling 3300 - 6' Elim (1st place halters) - PR
7:00 pm Horse Pulling - Ride the Boat - Sweepstakes, 20 (NO Touch) - (1st place halters) - PR
8:00 pm **Night Show - Peter Allen & Hurricane Mountain Road**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

8:30 am Church Service - Hayseed Theater
4-H Working Steers Scooting Contest - SGG
9:00 am 4-H Sheep Breed Classes - MVP
4-H Beef Heifer Show - LSA
4-H Dairy Show - WSA
10:00 am Open Pig Scramble - PR (Ages 8-10) Entries Close at 9:30 am (Drawing)
Catholic Mass - Hayseed Theater
11:00 am Wreathmaking demo at Christmas Tree Exhibit
Ox Pulling - 4 Ox Pull - NEW! (Two pair of Oxen Driven by one Driver)
Percentage Distance (each team must weigh 2400 lbs) (1st place award) - PR
12:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
Scooting Contest - SGG
1:00 pm Sheep Shearing Demo - LP
Children Pie Eating Contest - AEC
1:30 pm Harness Racing - RG
2:00 pm Flower Show - Expo 1
Horse Pulling - 2 lbs of rock per lb. of horse Percentage Distance - (1st place award) - PR
3:00 pm Children Decorate a Farm Themed Cookie - AEC
5:00 pm Following Races is 4WD Pull - RG
(Grandstand seats reserved until racing ends) - Infield Area
See you in 2022 - Oct. 2 through Oct. 9

**No Pets Allowed Inside
The Fairgrounds
SERVICE ANIMALS ONLY**

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Historically, traffic has been heavier on Saturday's due to our great morning Parade, afternoon Midway and Harness Racing. To avoid traffic we suggest that you Come Early and Stay Late. Also, for your convenience and to help with traffic flow, Fryeburg Fair has posted alternate routes to and from the Fairgrounds.

Call 935-3268
for parking and general information.
For camping info
call 935-2912.



Pay One Price!

"PAY ONE PRICE" for all mechanical rides on Tuesday (10/5), Wednesday (10/6), Thursday (10/7), and last Sunday (10/10) from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm - \$25.00! Kiddie Land mechanical rides on Sunday (10/3) from 10 am to 6 pm - \$15.00 and Monday (10/4) from 10 am to 6 pm - \$15.00.

DAILY ENTERTAINMENT

Fryeburg Fair is pleased to present over 200 of Maine's most talented musicians and entertainers throughout the Fair week. Performances are ongoing in five different locations, the Waterwheel Park by the Front Gate, Christmas Tree Park next to the Pulling Ring, Hayseed Theater by the Orange Gate, and the Draft Horse Park by the Llama Barn. Entertainment brochures are available at each gate and the information booth.



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Fair days return to Fryeburg after year's hiatus

By **BART BACHMAN**
SPECIAL TO THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

FRYEBURG, Maine — The Fryeburg Fair is back — live and in person!

After going virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Maine's Blue Ribbon Classic returns to the Fryeburg Fairgrounds for its 171st year on Oct. 3-10.

Last year's virtual presentation was the first since the fair's founding in 1851. "Our first priority is to protect the health and safety of our community as well as the thousands of visitors who come to our rural town and fairgrounds each year," the board of trustees said in a statement in June 2020. "As we follow the state of Maine and Centers for Disease Control guidelines, we determined that social distancing and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) considerations would be near impossible to ensure."

With the flare-up of a new COVID-19 strain, there was some concern about whether the 2021 fair would happen, but Fryeburg and all Maine fairs are cautiously moving ahead with the full range of entertainment, exhibits and food — lots and lots of food.

"We are all ready and eager to get this year's fair underway," fair President Roy Andrews said recently. "Campers are making their reservations and are ahead of previous years, vendors are making their plans, folks are calling expressing how happy they are that we will be having our fair."

"There is lots of excitement about the fair coming back this year," said fair publicist Rachel Andrews Damon. "There is also caution. I think everyone will be cautious, and we want that. We expect everyone

see **FAIR** page 5

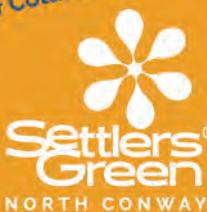


From left: Fryeburg Fair General Superintendent David Andrews, Secretary Barbara Gushee and President Roy Andrews stand near the entrance to the fairgrounds on Monday as setup began for the 171st presentation of the Fryeburg Fair. (RACHEL SHARPLES PHOTO)

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 Meghan Clark Reed Van Rossum
 Riley Parkhurst Duo Rob Viola String Equinox
 Trenton Graham Willow Carter

HEADLINE PERFORMANCE

SUNDAY, 3-6PM at the Tuckerman Pop-Up Beer Garden in the Courtyard

Shark Martin

OCTOBER 9 & 10 AT SETTLERS GREEN

This is a free event! See street musician play times
and locations at settlersgreen.com/events

Settlers Green • White Mountain Hwy • North Conway, NH



Agricultural shows are a mainstay of the Fryeburg Fair, with many 4-Hers taking part in competitions. (SCOTT LINSOTT PHOTO)

FAIR from page 4

to bring their masks and use them as needed in buildings. Some of the buildings will be one-way only. We'll have many hand-washing sanitizing stations. We follow state of Maine, CDC and Department of Agriculture regulations on COVID. We are asking fairgoers, as always, to be flexible, helpful and kind."

A warning appears on the fair's website.

"COVID-19 exposure is an inherent risk in any public locations where people are present. Guests should only attend after evaluating their own health risks. Adherence to the current guidelines will assist in our efforts to present a safe and successful fair. The Fryeburg Fair cannot guarantee you will not be exposed during your visit."

Even though the fairgrounds were empty last year at this time, people involved as the fair put together a "virtual" version of the fall classic.

Put simply, "a virtual fair is like watching the fair on a device with videos, photos, music and contests covering a wide array of fair subject matter," Andrews said last year when introducing the concept.

"While it won't make up for the economic impact of canceling the live version," he said, "the online version will keep the fair's name out there in the consciousness of devoted fairgoers who no doubt are going through withdrawal from not getting their blooming onions, funnel cakes, turkey dinners and Vinnie's Sunflower Farm pizza. While they can't smell or taste

see FAIR page 6

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7 & 5

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FAIR from page 5

the scintillating onions, they can at least stay part of the fair online.”

Despite the loss of income, the non-profit fair made its annual \$100,000 payment-in-lieu-of-taxes to the town.

“Thanks to careful financial management by fair leadership, we do have funds that helped us through the pandemic — but we can’t do it for long,” said Damon.

The fair annually draws about 300,000 people during its eight-day run. That number includes both paid and free admissions. Children under 12 get in free every day, and senior citizens over 65 are free on the Tuesday of the fair.

The all-time record for paid attendance is 199,266, set in 2004.

Daily paid attendance records over the years include: opening Sunday — 29,995 in 2001. Monday — 26,017 in 2014. Tuesday — 17,014 in 2006. Wednesday — 20,125 in 2001. Thursday — 20,438 in 2009. Friday — 31,451 in 2012. Saturday — 46,834 in 2000. closing Sunday — 28,011 in 2001.

The last fair prior to COVID was 2019 and drew 161,476 paid attendees.

The 2019 fair also marked the opening of the Mountain View Pavilion, which was built to replace two sheep and cattle barns that were destroyed by fire in the summer of 2018.



Mikey's Fries owner Mike Rafflo hangs up a sign for a “Pig Pile Sandwich” on one side of the food tent Monday morning in preparation for the Fryeburg Fair. (RACHEL SHARPLES PHOTO)

The cause of the fire was a “catastrophic electrical failure.” There were no animals in the buildings at the time, and nobody was injured in the blaze.

There wasn’t enough time to rebuild prior to the 2018 fair, so the sheep and cattle barns were temporarily replaced by a giant tent structure until a new building could be constructed for the 2019 fair.

No major capital improvements

were undertaken in 2020 when the fair was canceled because of COVID-19, but “we used the time wisely and performed a lot of ‘catch-up’ work,” Andrews said in his annual report. “This enabled us to keep many of our maintenance crews employed during this time.”

Damon said the main differences regular fairgoers might notice this year “will probably be signage and

handwashing and sanitizing stations that deal with COVID.”

Also, the general public will not be allowed in the infield of the Racing Grandstand.

Missing among the fair vendors this year will Sunflower Pizza, a fair staple for many years.

In a Facebook post Sept. 24, owner Vinny Lanavaro wrote: “The decision is a very personal one specific to our business, to the workers, the congested gathering and seating of our customers and not wanting to create a situation that would unintentionally reflect on the fair and all those who work hard to make it a wonderful experience and memory for everyone. It’s my individual decision and certainly does not apply to other vendors and their arrangements. We will definitely miss not participating in the 2021 fair as anyone would miss not being there. It really means a lot to myself and the crew to greet everyone and feel the presence of it all. The fair is diligently working incredible hours with everyone to ensure the safest fair.”

Said Damon: “We have a long-standing loyal relationship with Vinny. He is a huge, great part of the fair. He’s a wonderful spokesman for what the fair is all about. We support his personal decision to skip this year. And

see **FAIR** page 7

NORTH COUNTRY

FIREWORKS

Route 16 Tamworth, NH

(603) 323-8815

Check with your local fire department if permissible fireworks are allowed in your area.



Children can pet the animals at Old McDonald's Farm at the Fryeburg Fair. (SCOTT LINSKOTT PHOTO)

FAIR from page 6

here's hoping 2022 will be better for everyone."

But the Sunflower Pizza spot will not be empty. "We have another pizza vendor going in," Damon said. "And believe it or not, his name is Vinnie! All will be well for pizza-lovers at Fryeburg Fair."

The stars of the show at the Fryeburg Fair are the animals. There are approximately 3,000 of them, including prize-winning draft horses, ponies,

racine horses, oxen, dairy and beef cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and rabbits. Many of them will be on full display on the Saturday of the fair when the Grand Parade takes place at the Racing Grandstand starting at 10 a.m.

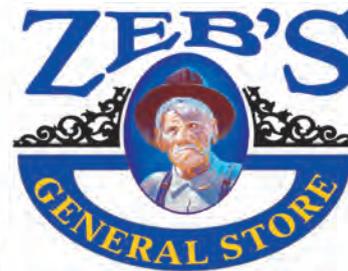
While the fair has the feel and frills of a carnival, it is, first and foremost, an agricultural fair.

"Every year, we host many regular farmers and exhibitors and vendors,"

see FAIR page 8

Fall Foliage in the Mt. Washington Valley, Fryeburg Fair and a visit to Zeb's.

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said Damon. "We like the fact that they come back year after year, and we have many who have been doing so for generations."

"There's nothing I like better than going to the horse-pulling ring and seeing the same owners and handlers and horses. I admire and am grateful for their stick-to-itiveness and their loyalty, their care for farming and agriculture and maintaining traditions. It makes me feel good about life."

She added: "Every year, we have new folks and welcome anyone who is committed to agriculture and farming. Sames goes for our food vendors, quilters, musicians, canners, gardeners, Woodsmen's Field Day participants, skillet tossers and everyone else. We've based our fair on sticking together. So what's new or changed? We're all a year older and grateful to still be here," she said.

Woodsmen's Field Day and the skillet toss are two of the most popular events at the fair, and both are held on Monday.

Woodsmen's Field Day starts at 9 a.m. at the Racing Grandstand and runs all day. Men and women from all over the U.S. compete in over 27 woods-related events, including bucksaw, standing block, the ax throw, tree felling, crosscut and spring-board. You may have to be a woodsman or woods-woman to recognize the names of all these events, but you don't have to be one to enjoy watching.

The skillet toss, open only to women, starts at noon at the Swine and Goat Grandstand. Custom steel skillets are used, and the object is simply (or not so simply) to toss a skillet as far and as straight as you can. There is also an anvil toss for men at 1:30 p.m., same place.

Musicians perform at five venues throughout the day. Night-show concerts are held at the Racing Grandstand Monday through Saturday at 8 p.m.

All night-show performers this year are from Maine, except for the Thursday night band, Studio Two, which is from New Hampshire. Studio Two is a Beatles tribute band, and those attending the concert are encouraged to twist and shout in 1960s attire. There will be a contest for the grooviest '60s look. Those wanting to participate in the contest must go to the front gate information booth between 5 and 6:30 p.m. on Thursday.

Among the other events at the fair: harness racing Tuesday through Sunday starting at 1:30 p.m.; pig scrambles (sorry, mom and dad — only for kids) on opening Sunday, Wednesday, Friday and the closing Sunday; flower shows in Expo 1 every day of the fair; pumpkin decorating contest on the opening Sunday of the fair, 3 p.m. in the Agricultural Exhibition Center. The list goes on and on. Non-stop activity from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. The program of events can be found in this special supplement and on the fair website, fryeburgfair.org.

As always, Smokey's Greater Shows will be filling the midway with rides and games.



Fairgoers take in the view from the Ferris wheel. (FILE PHOTO)

And if you're interested in earning money at the fair, "we are definitely looking for workers," Damon said. "Maintenance and barrel dumpers (the night cleaners) are needed. We're offering \$14 per hour to barrel dumpers, and a \$200 bonus if they do the whole eight days."

"I think there will be jobs open right through the fair, and we'd like to have them call the fair office at (207) 935-3268 or apply online. We've been having some success hiring good people. I mean there's nothing better than working at the fair for eight days!"

The Fryeburg Fair sits on 200 acres and includes 100 permanent buildings and over 3,000 campsites. It is the largest agricultural fair in Maine.

Admission is \$12 per person, with children under 12 free and senior citizens free on Tuesday.

The cost to park on the fairgrounds is \$5, or \$10 for premium parking.

Homeowners in the vicinity of the fair also allow paid parking on their properties. For many local residents, the money they make during fair week goes toward paying their town taxes.

Saturday is historically the busiest day at the fair. To avoid long traffic backups, fair officials suggest "coming early and staying late."

Attendance is dictated in large part by the weather. The fair generally does better on sunny days than rainy days.

This year, two other factors are coming into play: pent-up interest in the fair due to last year's going virtual along with lingering COVID concerns.

Asked what her expectations are for attendance this year, Damon said, "Our crystal ball got run over by an eight-horse hitch of Percherons. We have no clue as to what will happen in the future."

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Keeping the Ag Building running smoothly

By RACHEL ANDREWS DAMON
SPECIAL TO THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

Ann Michele Ames of Conway started working at Fryeburg Fair in 1980. In 1985, she became the superintendent of the Fair's Agricultural Exhibition Center. Also known as the "Ag Building," it is the fair's showcase of home talents and personal bests.

The competitive categories receive hundreds of entries during the pre-opening weeks of Fryeburg Fair. Jars of jams, canned fruits and vegetables, knitting, crocheting, quilting, needlepoint, sewing, costuming, pottery, rug braiding, photography, art, paintings, sculpture, baking, cooking, plants and flowers — the official list is very long.

The details, specifications and rules on entries for the Ag Building are listed in over 50 pages of the annually published Fryeburg Fair Book which is available online at fryeburgfair.org.

Ames says: "The Ag Building is about featuring home crafted items to inspire and engage further agricultural learning for fairgoers and especially for young people. It is creative and artistic and also involves very practical life skills. We have tons of entries. We also feature about 12 Grange exhibits along with a few independent farm displays.

"We get a lot of participation because we offer pretty good prizes. And of course because we're Fryeburg Fair!" she said. "One year we had over 600 individual photos. That's a lot. Hard to



LEFT: Ann-Michele Ames is superintendent of the Agricultural Exhibition Center at Fryeburg Fair. RIGHT: Joline Gushee and Erlon Jones, assistant superintendents of Fryeburg Fair's Agricultural Exhibition Center. (RACHEL ANDREWS DAMON PHOTOS)

find space for 600 photos to be laid out and thoughtfully displayed. Now we restrict them to only four per person.

"Our vegetable entries are also very popular. Every category in our building is open to adults and youth. We have people who have been entering for decades, and they enter many items in multiple categories."

Running the Ag Building would be an organizational nightmare for many.

Ames says: "If you don't keep up with it, it would be a disaster. You can't start a week before the fair. It

takes planning and coordination. And this year will be our first year using a computer program called ShoWorks. Entrants can fill out their entry forms online for the first time ever. This is going to be very helpful."

Ames has about 30 employees that help set up the building, and 10 of them work during fair week answering questions and overseeing the operation. It's all hands on deck for the breakdown and cleanup of the building on the Monday after the fair.

Ames is used to a hefty schedule.

Not one to let age diminish her energy level, she just turned 71 and works full-time for RWN Property Services and Nu Rock Creations in Conway as their office manager. She is the fire commissioner for the Redstone Fire Department and maintains the Redstone Park Garden. She is a justice of the peace and a notary. She also helps care for younger family members who reside with her.

Ames, née Henley, and family (parents Arvel and Jeanne and brothers,

see **AG BUILDING** page 10

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AG BUILDING from page 9

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Stephen and Robert) moved permanently to Conway from Framingham, Mass., in the late '80s.

"We were 'summer people' and were here most weekends and for all holidays as my grandparents (Ernest & Margaret Wood) lived here."

Ames attended Becker College in Worcester, Mass., and studied accounting. Her career included working as the manager of domestics at Caldor Department Stores. She has also been the office manager at Zayre's in Natick, Mass., and was the assistant manager at 7-Eleven in North Conway for 14 years.

She has been an evaluator of agricultural fairs for the state of Maine's Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, serving two three-year terms.

Ames' brother, Robert, has passed, and brother Stephen lives in North Carolina and just retired from a career building race cars.

For Fryeburg Fair 2021, the Agricultural Exhibition Center employees will dress in period costumes during the day. They are participating in a state of Maine bicentennial celebration contest sponsored by the Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs.

"People love to see the old ways of doing things. One exhibitor this year will be displaying reproduction dresses. It is nostalgic and warms the heart. Once we featured an old apron display and it was very popular," Ames said.

The Ag Building operations benefit greatly from the work of longtime dedicated Assistant Superintendent Joline Gushee, who has been with the fair for 40-plus years. Gushee works for the N.H. Judicial Branch 3rd Circuit Court in Conway and has been there for 36 years and has been the bail commissioner for over 30 years.

Gushee says, "I enjoy working with people and their exhibits. I especially like seeing the children and their accomplishments. We have a great staff and I am proud to be part of the fair family."

Beginning this year, Erlon Jones, formerly from the Fair's Farm Museum, will join Ames as an assistant superintendent.

Ames says: "Joline is wonderful. She handles all the paperwork and the computers. She knows the operation inside and out. I'm thrilled Erlon Jones is joining our department. Erlon has many skills and we love his dry humor. He plans to also do a display of gold sluicing, the art of panning for gold. And he likely has many great things in mind for fairgoers."

Norma King of Lovell, Maine, has been entering Ag Building competitions for over 40 years, and says: "When we moved to Maine, the first thing we did was buy lifetime passes to Fryeburg Fair. The last time I rough-counted, I had won about 300 ribbons."



Norma C. Sunshine King of Lovell, Maine, seen here with one of her winning apple pies, has won over 300 ribbons for exceptional entries. (JANE LOUNSBURY PHOTO)

I'm competing against wonderful competitors. I do a little photography, enter my harvested vegetables, dried flowers, window boxes, plants, and I do all five of the baking contests held during the week of the fair. It brings joy to my heart. If you don't win, you're so happy if one of your friends wins."

King's husband, Dick, worked for the fair's Public Safety Department for 35 years. He passed in 2015. They were married for 65 years.

King adds: "Ann-Michele (Ames) is the best person at the whole fair! She runs the entire Ag Building and is so excellent and so patient. I marvel at the beauty in that building. They couldn't have a better person running it. All of the competitors dearly respect her. She responds to all questions, and if she doesn't have the answer, she will go find it. It takes a whole team to run the Ag Building, and she knows how to run a team. I give her five stars and a very big blue ribbon!"

Rachel Andrews Damon is a trustee of the West Oxford Agricultural Society and head of publicity and advertising for the Fryeburg Fair.



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Woodsmen's Field Day features a full day of wood skills competitions. Above, seen in a previous year, two competitors take part in the crosscut saw competition. (JAMIE GEMMITI PHOTO)

Popular Woodsmen's Field Day on Monday

In a continuation of a popular Fryeburg Fair mainstay, the annual Woodsmen's Field Day Event will be held on Monday, Oct. 4.

Woodmen's Field Day is always the first Monday starting at 9 a.m.

Throughout the day, men and women compete in more than 34 woods skills events. Contestants come from all over the U.S. and Canada to compete in bucksaw, standing block, the ax throw, tree felling, crosscut and springboard — they have it all.

Fryeburg Fair Woodsmen's Field Day is the largest spectator woodsmen's event in North America.

Events run all day with winners announced and awards given out regularly throughout the day and at the clos-

ing of the day, typically around 5 p.m.

Several contests run concurrently with the rest of the program, not necessarily in the same order. Registration is \$35. There is no registration the day of the event except skidders and truckers who may register until 8 a.m. on Oct. 4.

The fair's very popular Women's Skillet Throw also starts at noon on Monday, followed by the Men's Anvil Toss. Annette Bennett Metcalf of Naples, Maine, is the superintendent of these events.

"The skillet toss brings women from all around the country. It's a fierce competition. Our anvil throw is new but growing. Come give it a try," she said.

For more information, contact the fair at (207) 935-3268.



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Members of the Denmark Fire Department competing in the "Water Ball" event at the 2019 Firemen's Muster at the Fryeburg Fair. (RACHEL ANDREWS DAMON PHOTO)

Firemen's Muster going strong for over 40 years

BY RACHEL ANDREWS DAMON
SPECIAL TO THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

The annual Firemen's Muster is always on the first Sunday of the Fryeburg Fair's eight-day schedule, with contests starting at 9 a.m.

The fair has hosted the muster since 1977, when local firemen and forest rangers approached Fryeburg Fair with the idea after attending similar events in nearby North Conway and Bridgton, Maine.

Everyone agreed that a muster to highlight the skills, commitment and camaraderie of firefighters would happen on the first Sunday of Fryeburg Fair 1977.

The newly formed Firemen's Muster organization invited town fire depart-

ments within the Fryeburg Fair Society (Fryeburg, Lovell, Stow, Waterford, Stoneham, Hiram, Sweden, Porter, Bridgton, Otisfield, Cornish, Baldwin, Standish, Harrison, Denmark, and Brownfield in Maine; Freedom, Eaton, Bartlett, Chatham, Conway and Jackson, in New Hampshire) to participate in competitive events like the Ladder Climb, Bucket Brigade, Water Barrel, Dry Hose, Rescue and Water Ball.

Each town would bring their pumper truck filled with water and they would run through timed exercises. The events were competitive in every sense of the word, overseen by knowledgeable and experienced

see MUSTER page 13

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MUSTER from page 12

judges and timers. Announcer Bob Walker, who was also the announcer for Oxford Plains Speedway and a firefighter, emceed the event.

The backbone of the Fryeburg Fair Firemen's Muster during its 40-plus-year history has been the Watson family of Fryeburg.

The patriarch of the family was Corliss Watson, who passed on Oct. 8, 2017, on the last day of that year's fair and just after the celebration of the Fireman's Muster's 40th anniversary.

Corliss grew up in Fryeburg, graduated from Fryeburg Academy in 1948 and joined the Army serving in Korea. He was an occasional chauffeur for Gen. Douglas MacArthur, driving him to West Point.

After the military, he returned to Fryeburg, owned and operated his business, Watson's Sunoco, as well as an apartment building and a rubbish business. He and his wife, Shirley, were married for 64 years and had three children, Sheila Watson Smith, Clyde Watson and Teresa Watson Prouty, all of whom became involved in the muster, as did daughter-in-law Twyla Morris Watson.

Clyde joined the Fryeburg Fire Department in 1970 and worked side-by-side with his father organizing and running the Firemen's Muster right from the start.

Clyde is a former public works director for the town of Fryeburg. He and Twyla have been married for 42 years and have two sons, Gabe and Gus.

Gabe, 39, is a captain at Fryeburg Fire Department and joined the Firemen's Muster organization in 2000 and said he loves having generations of his family participating in the muster.

The Watsons were interviewed in



The family behind Fryeburg Fair's Firemen's Muster: The late Corliss Watson (center) with his grandson, Gabe Watson, and son, Clyde Watson. (PHOTO BY RACHEL ANDREWS DAMON)

2017 on eve of the 40th anniversary of the musters.

At that time, Corliss talked about the great community effort it takes to make the muster a reality each year. He said, "We've had some great people work with us on the muster."

He said he was not sure he could remember all of them but then quickly listed a few: "Bob Butters, our head judge, was the chief of Norway Fire Department. He dedicated his life to firefighting. Now his son, Randy, is the head judge. We give out the Bob Butters Sportsmanship Trophy every year to recognize Bob's contributions.

"Bonnie Seames, Bob's daughter, has done scoring for 40 years. Dennis Yates, Scott Hunter, Calvin Hunter, they've all been judges. They run the times and the rules we go by at Fryeburg Fair. Scott Gregory runs the Fryeburg pumping truck and has done so for years. Rex

Wiley did it before that."

Corliss celebrated his 70th anniversary with the Fryeburg Fire Department in 2017 and was featured on WCSH-Channel 6 news.

"I've always been interested in firefighting," Gabe said in 2017. "I started going to the fire station with my father when I was about 5 years old. My son, Cole (7 at the time), is already going with me and he loves it."

Fryeburg Fair's Firemen's Muster remains traditional in its events and

organization today except that in 1990 it was opened to departments throughout New England and Canada.

Clyde said, "There's lots of camaraderie at the muster. We always have a moment of silence for those who have passed. Lori Panno of Brownfield has been singing the National Anthem for us for years. We have traditions and we stick with them. The departments that participate love the muster and the fair because they all have a good time."

Who's the best team at Fryeburg Fair's Firemen's Muster?

Gabe said, "Brownfield has attended the muster every year — perfect attendance. We recognized them at the 35th event with a special award. They also won the sportsmanship award last year."

"North Conway has had great participation, too," says Clyde. "We have a plaque for the team with the most event wins. Waterford is a very impressive department. They muster all summer long in different locations. For a while they competed on a professional level."

If you're wondering what happens should a fire break out while local firefighters are at the muster, Gabe reassures, "We have an engine staffed downtown so they can respond immediately. And the rest of us are ready to go right behind them if necessary."

Rachel Andrews Damon is head of publicity and advertising for the Fryeburg Fair.

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Night shows feature Maine, N.H. talent

This year's Night Show roster aligns with Maine's bicentennial, featuring only Maine and New Hampshire talent.

Monday's night show is a classic rock concert with Susie Pepper & Mixology.

Pepper is a dynamic and highly sought-after vocalist throughout the region, performing in many settings, from small jazz venues with her quartet to rock concerts.

Her talents led to her winning Fox23's "Maine Idol" competition in 2008, and becoming Miss Maine 2009, and earning as spot as a featured soloist in the Portland Symphony Orchestra.

Mixology features K. Kelly Muse, Dustin LeVasseur, Mark West and Rob Gerry on bass. The group put out its first album, "First Dance," in 2017.

Tuesday's concert is by Runnin' Down a Dream, a Maine-based band that boasts of being "THE Tom Petty Tribute Band."

According to their website, rdadream.com, the band says, "We've spent countless hours on our style and sound to bring the best Tom Petty experience yet. No other band (except the Heartbreakers themselves) can put on a show like us."

Runnin' Down a Dream features Mike Boucher, Harry Coddington, Roger

Howard, Marty Mclellan and Steve Brown.

On Wednesday, the night show shifts into high gear with Rave X, The Outer Limits Tour.

This freestyle motorsports show promises spectacular stunts and big air.

On Thursday, Studio Two — The Beatles Before America pays tribute to the early Beatles years, choosing songs from before the Sgt. Pepper era.

Thursday's Night Show will include a special "Dress for the '60s" event. To participate, 1960s-themed fairgoers must stop by at the Front Gate Information Booth between 5-6:30 p.m. for a photo and to complete an entry form.

Three winners will win prizes of four fair tickets per prize awarded at the beginning of the Night Show. Winners will be called up on stage and must be present to win!

On Friday, the '70s disco band Motor Booty Affair takes the stage.

Motor Booty Affair has been lighting up stages across America with

On Saturday, it's country music with Peter Allen & Hurricane Mountain.

All night shows begin at 8 p.m. at The Racing Grandstand.

Fireworks will immediately follow the Friday, Oct. 8, show.



ABOVE: Susie Pepper will perform with Mixology on Monday. The show will be a classic rock concert. BELOW: Runnin' Down a Dream, a Tom Petty tribute band, will take the stage for the night show on Tuesday. (COURTESY PHOTOS)



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Sheep dog trials at Fryeburg Fair

By RACHEL ANDREWS DAMON
SPECIAL TO THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

Fryeburg Fair's sheepdog trial experts and organizers are Gabriel "Gabe" Deschambeault Merrill, 87, of Brownfield, Maine, and her niece, Lynn Deschambeault, 59, of Denmark, Maine.

Lynn says: "Sheepdog trials are competitive events where dogs and their handlers herd sheep. We use obstacles and timing to judge their success. Actually, I think trials started when a couple of guys got together and one said, 'My dog's better than yours!'"

Gabe Merrill says, "I grew up on a farm and we had dogs that would round up the cows and bring them in."

"Morris MacGregor was a local Scotsman who sold farm products. He was an experienced handler and told us we ought to get into it. That's where we started. It's a real talent, and my brother is a natural."

Roger Deschambeault, 81, Gabe's brother and Lynn's father, lives in East Conway, N.H., and trains and runs dogs daily. He and his wife, Krys, have six dogs at their home, Nearfield Farms.

Roger started working with sheepdogs when he was 9 years old. He is a renowned dog trainer and has been in Scotland, England, Wales and all over the U.S. participating in trials.

Gabe says, "Sheepdog competitions started in the mid-1800s in New Zealand, the British Isles, Ireland and England. Wayne Bartlett of Denmark started them at Fryeburg Fair in the '80s. He was the sheep superintendent at the time. Back then, a few women did some demonstrations of sheep herding. This eventually led to what is now a full day of events. We have an average of 30-40 dogs who participate with their handlers. Some handlers have more than one dog."

Trials are open to any dog, but it's mostly border collies that participate. Success is as much about the handlers as about the dogs who love to work herding sheep.

Roger Deschambeault participated in Fryeburg Fair's trials as well as provided the sheep from 1986 to 2014 — about 50-60 horned dorsets.



A sheepdog is seen working during trials in a previous year's Fryeburg Fair. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Tim Molinero of Heartstone Farm in Milton, N.H., has provided the sheep since 2015, numbered still about 60 for the day. Each dog works with three to five randomly selected sheep.

Lynn Deschambeault is also a breeder of border collies. "These dogs are very smart and have a great instinct for herding. They absolutely love it," she said. "I'll bring out a young puppy and that instinct is already there. These dogs can read sheep. They understand each other."

Fryeburg Fair is one of only three Maine fairs hosting sheepdog trials — always the first Sunday starting at 9 a.m. at the infield near the grandstand.

Thanks to the Deschambeault family, the crowds at Fryeburg Fair are growing each year.

Lynn is the emcee of the event and Gabe is running the show.

Carroll Goodwin of Alfred, Maine, is the judge. His wife, Polly, is the scorekeeper.

Goodwin says, "The skill of the handlers and the dogs together is amazing to watch. You get to appreciate the depth of the human and dog connection."

For more information on sheepdog trials go to the North East Border Collie Association at nebca.com. For more information on the fair go to fryeburgfair.org.

Rachel Andrews Damon is a trustee of the West Oxford Agricultural Society and head of publicity and advertising for the Fryeburg Fair.

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