

# The FAIR FOUNDATION

north idaho fair and rodeo

## North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation Shines at the Fair

This year, the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation (NIFRF) brought the community together with a series of exciting events at the North Idaho State Fair, from the ever-popular Brewfest to fan-favorite games like the cornhole tournament and bingo. Our foundation's booth was a true highlight, providing a space where we could connect with fairgoers every day. The fair offered us a fantastic opportunity to engage with the community and share our mission of supporting youth and agriculture in North Idaho.

One of the standouts this year was Bingo, a nostalgic game that brought people of all ages together in the spirit of fun and fundraising. It was such a hit that we decided to add an additional bingo night to keep up with demand, drawing even more excitement and friendly competition among players.

The Cornhole Tournament was another favorite, with participants eagerly tossing bags to claim bragging rights. This year's tournament drew an impressive crowd, and with so many requests, we expanded to host a second cornhole event to meet the community's enthusiasm. From experienced players to beginners, everyone came out to enjoy some friendly competition and support a great cause.

The Brewfest added to the festive atmosphere, allowing attendees to sample craft brews from local breweries while contributing to the foundation's mission. The event was a great way for people to unwind, socialize, and support the future of North Idaho agriculture and youth programs

Our booth was buzzing with energy every day as fairgoers stopped by to learn about our mission and upcoming projects. Connecting with the community face-to-face reminded us why we do what we do and how much our work means to the people of North Idaho. Thank you to everyone who visited, participated, and supported us at the fair. We're already looking forward to next year and can't wait to bring you even more ways to get involved!



## 2024 Clyde Boatwright Award



From left to right: Shawna Daniels, Mercedes McComb, Kim Weatherford, Gayle Stegmann, Michael Stegmann, Serena Caples, Rachel Peters, Dorine Souther.

We are delighted to recognize Michael and Gayle Stegmann, long-time friends and partners of the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation and the North Idaho State Fair, as recipients of the prestigious Clyde Boatwright Award. Gayle served on the Foundation from 2015-2021, chairing numerous committees, including the Cowboy Ball Committee for several years.

The Stegmanns have generously contributed countless hours of volunteer work and significant financial support. Their dedication and hard work have been instrumental in increasing awareness of the Foundation and its efforts.

We are forever grateful for their unwavering support and commitment. Thank you, Michael and Gayle, for being an invaluable part of our community!

# Presidential Address

## Kim Weatherford: Proud to Lead the North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation



I am incredibly honored to serve as the current President of the North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation. Living in North Idaho has been a true blessing, and being able to represent such a valued community organization is a privilege I deeply cherish.

I've been happily married to my amazing husband, JD, for over 13 years. Together, we've built a wonderful life with our three children and seven beautiful grandchildren. We currently reside in Coeur d'Alene, where we enjoy a quiet life with our two horses. Our family's love for rodeo runs deep, and one of our granddaughters is a proud participant in High School Rodeo, keeping the tradition alive.

The North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation is more than just an organization to me; it's a part of the heart and soul of this community. Many people value what we stand for, and as a board, we are excited to build on that legacy this year. We have some fantastic events in the works that we can't wait to share with you. Whether you're a longtime supporter or new to the Foundation, there's something for everyone to enjoy, so stay tuned!

It's going to be an exciting year, and I am thrilled to see where the foundation goes as we continue to celebrate the spirit of North Idaho. Thank you for your support, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

*Kim Weatherford*

President, North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation

## Celebrating the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation's Impact on Fairgrounds Improvements

The North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation has once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment to enhancing the Kootenai County Fairgrounds. This season, the Foundation contributed an impressive \$45,000 toward future capital projects, with funds directed specifically toward essential electrical infrastructure upgrades and new lighting in our recently completed Chill Zone.

The Chill Zone, now fully operational, debuted its unique amenities at this year's North Idaho State Fair. Designed to offer an exclusive viewing experience, it provides premium seating for all arena events in a private and ADA-accessible setting. With 24 tables available through sponsorship, it's become a sought-after spot for fairgoers, offering what many consider to be the best seats in the house.

This addition not only enhances the guest experience but also addresses our need for increased arena seating. Furthermore, the Chill Zone opens up a valuable new revenue stream, supporting our efforts to remain financially independent without relying on county tax dollars.

We are profoundly grateful for the continued support of the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation. Their dedication to our mission helps ensure that we can provide a top-notch experience for our community year after year.

*Alexcia Jordan, OFE*

General Manager & CEO, North Idaho State Fair



# Mark Your Calendars for the 14th Annual Cowboy Ball

Get ready, North Idaho! The 14th annual Cowboy Ball, presented by the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation, is just around the corner, and we couldn't be more excited to unveil what's in store for this incredible evening. While we're keeping your favorite traditions alive—dinner, drinks, dancing, and the always-anticipated live and silent auctions—this year we're turning up the charm with some exciting new updates designed to elevate an already exceptional event.

We've been listening to your feedback, and we're thrilled to announce some exciting updates to the Cowboy Ball! This cherished tradition is about to get a fresh twist, and we can't wait to see how it evolves with the support of an enthusiastic committee ready to rise to the challenge.

The biggest change? We're adding a touch of elegance to the evening! While the word "formal" might sound intimidating to some, rest assured, this is all about elevating the occasion to make it even more special—not about setting strict rules.

For those who want to go all out, ball gowns and tuxedos are more than welcome! But if that's not your style, don't worry. This is still your event, and everyone is welcome, no matter how they choose to dress. Our hope is simply that you'll embrace the spirit of the night by putting on your very best—whatever that means for you.

We believe this change will bring new energy and excitement to the Cowboy Ball. So mark your calendars, start planning your outfits, and get ready for an evening to remember. Let's make this year's event one for the books! We can't wait to see you there dressed in your very best!

We are thrilled to reveal some significant updates for the upcoming 14th anniversary of the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation's renowned event—Cowboy Ball 2025! It's set to be an unforgettable evening, and we are eagerly looking forward to marking this special occasion with you. Renewal letters have gone out. Make sure to get those back to us as soon as possible. We want to save your spot for this stupendous evening!



**Date: Friday, April 18, 2025**

Location: Jacklin Building, Kootenai County Fairgrounds

Prepare for an upscale night that will feature:

- A formal gala for a stylish celebration
- An elegant cocktail hour to commence the evening
- Exciting new surprises throughout the event

The same cherished traditions and spirit that make Cowboy Ball so exceptional

Whether you've been a steadfast supporter or are joining us for the first time, we deeply appreciate your involvement and the kindness of our sponsors. Make sure to note the date in your calendar and keep an eye out for more details about ticket availability and event highlights!



# Barb Renner Continues to Impact The Fairgrounds



Barbara Renner continues to impact the Kootenai County Fairgrounds with a \$500,000 contribution after her passing. Rodney Waller, close personal friend, weighs in on Barbara Renner's gracious donation to North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation. Rodney wants to reiterate her well-known passion for all things "Kootenai County Fair" (now the North Idaho State Fair) and the "Kootenai County Fairgrounds." This included continuous maintenance of existing infrastructure and investing in the fairgrounds to support current and future needs, obviously including buildings.

"What I do know is that Barb shared her vision and recommendations for the future with Alexcia Jordan on a real-time basis! Barb has great respect and admiration for the work Alexcia and the staff do all day, every day and I think she could sum up her intent better than I.

Barb understood how the fairgrounds are just as relevant to our local culture now as they were when first set aside. Even more so today as the activities conducted at the fairgrounds have grown to support a 365-day annual calendar supporting any number of events. It truly is a treasure to have this venue within our city and county. To keep up with future demands will require vision, steadfastness, capital improvements and long-term support from all. This includes large donations from passionate visionaries who want to contribute, even after death, in a mighty way...like Barbara and Harl Renner."

## An Update from Serena Caples, Development Director of the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation

I am thrilled to share that in May of this year, I officially joined the Foundation as the new Development Director. After having the privilege of serving on the board since late 2022, I'm incredibly honored to step into this new role, which allows me to further contribute to the foundation's mission and continue strengthening our impact in the community.

Over the past year, I've seen firsthand the passion and commitment that our community has for preserving and enhancing the traditions of the fair and rodeo. These are a vital part of our region's heritage, bringing people together, celebrating our shared values, and supporting local youth through scholarships and leadership programs. As Development Director, I'm excited to work alongside such a dedicated team to create more opportunities for growth, build valuable partnerships, and expand our community outreach.

We have a lot to look forward to in the coming month! We have many new events coming up and we're working hard to ensure they'll be unforgettable experiences for everyone involved. These are a variety of events to support the Foundation's mission, from fundraisers to family-oriented gatherings, all aimed at fostering community connection and creating lasting memories.

I look forward to meeting more of you at these events, hearing your stories, and working together to support the future of the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation. Thank you all for your continued support, and let's make this year one of our best yet!



*Serena Caples*

North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation Development Director

# NIFRF and Make-a-Wish Idaho Team Up To Support Local Make-A-Wish Recipient

Earlier this summer, Michelle John, Make-A-Wish Idaho's North Idaho Regional Manager, met with Serena Caples, Development Director of the North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation (NIFRF), and Alexcia Jordan, General Manager & CEO of the North Idaho State Fair, to explore ways to support Make-A-Wish Idaho. While they knew this initiative would be an excellent opportunity to strengthen community ties, the vision was still taking shape. Shortly after, Michelle presented an idea that sparked their excitement, and they realized it could be a truly impactful night for Kinsley. With that, planning quickly went into full swing

A jewel of that fair is the Gem State Stampede, a televised rodeo that features contestants from all around the world competing in events like steer wrestling and barrel racing for sold-out crowds. On the second-to-last night of the rodeo, an eight-year-old girl named Kinsley sat in the stands with her family, watching well-traveled cowpokes display feats of roping and riding. Little did she know that her life would change forever.

Michelle John, Make-A-Wish Idaho North Idaho Regional Manager, put out an all-points bulletin to the North Idaho horse community to find a wish horse, and after talking to many people and seeing a variety of horses, Michelle arranged a riding lesson for Kinsley to introduce her to a horse named Tucker to see if they were a good fit. The two were fast friends. "There was magic in the air that day," Michelle said.


"My wish is for a 4-H horse," Kinsley said in the video. "One for my own to control and learn what horses do." When Kinsley saw herself up there, she got a little embarrassed, but as the video continued and it told the story of Kinsley and her wish, she realized that her wish was being granted and that she was getting a horse, but not just any horse, she was getting Tucker. "She was so happy," Lacey said.

Kinsley and her family made their way to the center of the Findlay Arena where they were presented with Tucker. Kinsley was beaming, and the crowd was cheering

A memorable night for all!

## Fairly Surprised



 *I wish to have a horse*  
Kinsley, 8  
cancer



Make-A-Wish®  
IDAHO

# A Record-Breaking Celebration of "Fun Galore" in 2024!



The 2024 North Idaho State Fair, themed "Fun Galore in 2024," delivered an unforgettable experience, breaking records and delighting attendees with an action-packed schedule. Running from August 16–25, the fair achieved a record-breaking attendance of 170,882, marking an impressive 8% increase over 2023.

Our arena events saw exceptional enthusiasm, with 10 shows in the Findlay Arena, 7 of which sold out! Visitors enjoyed free daily entertainment featuring over 120 different shows, including crowd favorites like the Extreme Dog Show, RoboCars, and the Silver Starlets, along with performances by 25 local bands.

Paul Maurer Shows brought their best carnival yet, experiencing its strongest year since 2019 with a 19% increase in sales. Meanwhile, our vendors and concessionaires contributed to the vibrant fair atmosphere with 163 commercial vendors and 34 food stands, achieving an impressive 11.5% rise in sales.

The Youth Stock Show and Sale was another standout, with 292 animals sold for a total of \$973,429.95, benefitting young exhibitors from Kootenai and Shoshone counties. The Gem State Stampede thrilled over 13,000 fans, hosting 605 competitors, setting two arena records, and attracting participants from the U.S., Canada, and beyond.

With the incredible success of 2024, we are already gearing up for the 2025 North Idaho State Fair, themed "Keeping Traditions Alive in 2025." Running from August 15–24, next year's fair promises to honor cherished traditions while introducing exciting new features to delight fairgoers of all ages.



Mark your calendars now for another year of thrilling entertainment, delicious food, vibrant exhibits, and community spirit that makes the North Idaho State Fair an Idaho favorite! Stay tuned for more details —we can't wait to see you at the fairgrounds in 2025!

*Alexcia Jordan, CFE*

General Manager & CEO, North Idaho State Fair



# 2024 Gem State Stampede

The 38th Annual Gem State Stampede (GSS) was a huge success, our biggest rodeo ever. Thanks to the support of our community business sponsors, the Fair Board and staff, we added a rodeo performance and doubled (to \$10,000/event) the prize money over 2023.

This year's rodeo was star packed with NFR and World Champions abound. In the bareback riding alone, we had 13 National Finals Rodeo contestants enter which is far and above anything we had ever seen. The rest of the rough stock, the timed events and the women's breakaway and barrel racing were loaded with NFR talent and World Champions. We had 605 total entries and broke two long standing arena records. Australian Cowboy, Darcy Kersh was 3.6 seconds in the Steer Wrestling and South Dakota Cowgirl, Summer Kosel was 17.16 in the barrel racing.

All 5 rodeo performances were sold out before the fair even started. A few highlights included Wednesday's rodeo performance where we honored our local Heritage and Century Farms, the Beck's, Mclean's, Meyer's and Ryder Families. We also honored our past Queen Hayven Chase who recently received her American FFA Degree at the National FFA Convention. Tough Enough to Wear Pink night continued and this year we switched things up and raised money for a local family battling cancer. With a "pass the boot" fundraiser during the rodeo, we raised over \$4,000 for Kendra Cook and family. New for 2024, the performance winner in each event, each night, was awarded a specially designed Buck Knife. All performances were livestreamed on Cowboy Channel+ and broadcast starting on the Monday after the rodeo all week.



Contestant hospitality was at an all-time high with huge support all week from the Silver Buckle Club making sure our contestants and sponsors were well taken care of. This resulted in our rodeo winning the 2nd Runner Up Large Rodeo of the Year in the Columbia River Circuit. This is a huge accomplishment after moving up from the small (where we won Rodeo of the year), to the medium, and finally this year to the large rodeo category (\$10,000 and over). Thank you to the Fair Board and Staff, our community and all our local sponsors for the confidence in the GSS to add a performance and double the prize money.

*Dave Paul*

Chairman, Gem State Stampede Rodeo Committee



# New Fall Events Bring Fun and Support to the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation

This fall, the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation introduced two exciting new events, bringing the community together for fun, competition, and a great cause.

The Cornhole Tournament was a smashing success, with 29 teams battling it out to claim top honors in two divisions. The tournament crowned winners in 1st through 3rd places for each division, while raising an impressive \$1,600 to support the foundation's mission. Participants and spectators alike enjoyed the lively competition and left with a deeper appreciation for the foundation's work.

Next, the foundation hosted its first-ever Bingo Night, which quickly became a family favorite. The event brought smiles to players of all ages, complete with an ugly Christmas sweater contest to add some holiday cheer. Proceeds from the evening were split between the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation and the Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Idaho, resulting in a total of \$2,000 raised to benefit both organizations.

These inaugural events not only raised critical funds but also built awareness and excitement around the foundation's mission. With such positive feedback, we're excited to see these new traditions grow in the years to come!

Stay tuned for more events, and thank you to everyone who joined us in making these fall events a success!



## We Love Our Sponsors

Thank you to our  
Brewfest Sponsors



Thank you to our  
Cornhole Sponsors



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a title & escrow co.

Thank you to our  
Bingo Sponsors



# Kootenai County Fairgrounds: A Community Treasure Boosting the Local Economy

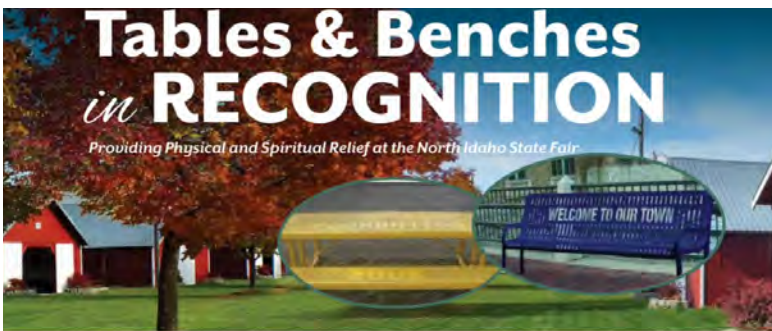
The North Idaho State Fair Board is excited to share some wonderful news about the positive impact the Kootenai County Fairgrounds has had on our local economy. In 2022, our beloved Fairgrounds, home to the North Idaho State Fair and many other events, drew in over 288,600 visits, bringing significant economic and social benefits to our community—all without relying on taxpayer dollars.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Fairgrounds team, we generated an impressive \$30 million in total economic output, supported 260 jobs, and contributed \$9.7 million in labor income. These figures highlight the Fairgrounds' vital role as a self-sustaining hub that not only bolsters our local economy but also brings people together.

The economic impact report, prepared by Crossroads Consulting, also points out that Fairgrounds operations brought in about \$2 million in local and state tax revenues in 2022. These funds help support essential community services and infrastructure improvements, enhancing the quality of life for all of us in Kootenai County and Idaho.

Throughout the year, the Kootenai County Fairgrounds hosts a diverse array of events, from expos and livestock shows to festivals. Each event is a celebration of our community, designed to enrich and preserve our local heritage while fostering economic growth.

## Looking to get more involved? Learn more on donating and volunteering



Recognition benches and tables are a fantastic way to honor loved ones or memories on the fairgrounds! This program adds seating to the fairgrounds, supports the nonprofit mission of the Foundation, and is a great way to pay tribute to someone special. Benches and tables are made of PVC-coated steel and are 8' long.



GET YOUR  
RECOGNITION  
BENCH TODAY

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

JOIN US IN CREATING MEMORABLE EVENTS!

VOLUNTEER WITH THE NORTH IDAHO FAIR & RODEO FOUNDATION

THE NORTH IDAHO FAIR & RODEO FOUNDATION IS LOOKING FOR ENTHUSIASTIC VOLUNTEERS TO HELP MAKE OUR EVENTS UNFORGETTABLE!

Contact Serena at 208.819.8511  
Email: [foundation@northidahostatefair.com](mailto:foundation@northidahostatefair.com)

# Celebrating Our 2024 Scholarship Program

We are thrilled to share the inspiring results of our 2024 Scholarship Program! This year, 18 exceptional students were awarded scholarships totaling \$21,000, helping to ease their financial burdens and support their pursuit of higher education. Each of these students demonstrated not only academic achievement but also a strong commitment to making a positive impact in their communities.

These scholarships have empowered recipients to attend their choice of schools, gain access to critical learning resources, and focus more on their studies rather than their financial challenges. The feedback from our scholars has been heartening; many shared how this financial support has fueled their drive to excel and make meaningful contributions in fields such as technology, healthcare, education, and the arts.

In light of this year's success, we're excited to announce that scholarship applications for next year will be opening soon. We encourage all eligible students to apply and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Stay tuned for more details on our application process and criteria!

We're proud to support these young leaders and look forward to expanding the program to reach even more students next year. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this program a success—together, we're investing in a brighter future.



Congratulations to: Kai Vore, Kyla Holte, Alanna Hinkle, Samantha Spraker, Abigail Neff, Alexa Sheppard, Claire Kelley, Mia Moeller, Amelie Johnson. Not Pictured- Jacqueline Booth, Payton Sterling, Ashley Ripatti, Owen Forsman, Ty Davis, Jenessa Norcini, Hayven Chase, Abbey Meyer, Ainsley Goughnor,



# Thank You to Our Board of Directors

As we continue building upon the legacy of the North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all former members of the Board of Directors. Each of you has played a crucial role in shaping our foundation into the beloved community cornerstone it is today. Your commitment, vision, and passion have left a lasting impact, enabling us to grow and enrich the lives of so many in our region.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our board members who have recently concluded their dedicated service. Your commitment, guidance, and contributions have made a lasting impact on our organization.

We are especially grateful to:

**Merlin Berger-Former President**

**Ann Siebert**

**Mary Luann Larson**

**Diana Lilleflore**

**Thank you for all the time, energy, and passion you've devoted to our mission. Your legacy of service will continue to inspire us as we move forward.**

To our current incredible Board of Directors, we extend our sincere appreciation for your unwavering dedication and leadership in advancing the mission of the North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation. Your commitment to our foundation's values and vision continues to elevate our programs, events, and outreach efforts, strengthening the bonds within our community.

Each of you brings unique strengths, insights, and passion that drive the success of our organization. Whether it's fostering partnerships, planning impactful events, or supporting local causes, your efforts make a difference every day. Together, you inspire and lead us toward a vibrant future, ensuring that our foundation remains a beacon of community spirit and pride.



**President: Kim Weatherford, Vice President: Rachel Peters, Treasurer: Shawna Daniels, Board Members: Bat Masterson, Hayley Pflasterer, Mercedes McComb, Dorine Southern and Jessica McLean Executive Secretary: Alexcia Jordan and Development Director: Serena Caples.**

# Upcoming Events



DECEMBER 13, 2024 MISS GEM STATE STAMPEDE CORONATION

DECEMBER 14-15, 2024 NORTH IDAHO'S COWBOY CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 14, 2024 NATIONAL FINALS RODEO VIEWING PARTY

APRIL 18, 2025 COWBOY BALL

MAY 12, 2025 MEET A FARMER DINNER

MAY 12-15, 2025 FARM TO TABLE 5TH GRADE FIELD TRIP

**NORTH IDAHO'S  
COWBOY  
Christmas**  
DEC. 14-15, 2024

WESTERN SHOPPING  
AT ITS FINEST

*Shopping hours:*  
SATURDAY 10AM-7PM  
SUNDAY 10AM-4PM  
FREE ADMISSION

*Wine  
Rodeo*  
& CRAFT BEER TASTING

DECEMBER 14TH  
2PM - 8PM

\$25 PER PERSON  
INCLUDES 5 TASTING  
TICKETS AND  
COMMEMORATIVE  
GLASS

20  
24 NFR VIEWING PARTY

DECEMBER 14TH  
DOORS OPEN AT 5PM  
LIMITED SEATING

*Reserve your table today!!*



4056 N. Government Way  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815  
(208) 765-4969  
Foundation@NorthIdahoStateFair.com