2018 Mercer County Fair: attendance up AGAIN

Even with a couple of evenings of rain, attendance at the 2018 Mercer County Fair went from 65,000 (2017) to 76,000. New attractions along with traditional ones filled the fairgrounds, adding to the large number of exhibits from the Senior and Junior Fair participants.

“The turnout was amazing, despite losing out on attendance on both Wednesday and Thursday evenings due to rain,” stated Mercer County Fair Manager Cara Muhlenkamp.

Ticket sales increased 4-percent for the opening night country concert featuring Neal McCoy, Joe Diffie and Walker Hayes. The new addition of a Christian concert on Saturday, featured the Newsboys. Those ticket sales beat out previous highest percentages for the country shows.

“We had rave reviews for both concerts, but the Christian performance was definitely a crowd pleaser,” Muhlenkamp said. “We can’t get over the buzz from having the Newsboys.” Discussions are underway for next year’s concert headliners.

This year’s theme, “Red, White and Blue, This Fair’s For You,” was well represented at the 2018 Mercer County Fair. A new addition was the “Remember Our Fallen” exhibit was displayed as you entered the grandstand. The memorial is dedicated to all the soldiers who have been lost since the declaration of the War on Terror in 2001. Many could be seen wiping their eyes as tears streamed down their faces.

“It was a very emotional sight,” Muhlenkamp said. “Everyone has some connection to those who have served our country in one way or another.”

Keeping with the theme, the Veterans’ Ceremony featured a moving entrance by the Honor Guards from each club and auxiliary plus a C17 flyover. Guest speaker was Gold Star Mother Nola Fritz. Her son, First Lt. Jacob Fritz, son of Gold Star Mother Nola Fritz, is one of the many featured in the exhibit.

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Deadlines approaching fast

As Summer ends, Fall is upon us and Winter is on our heels, it’s time to get your payments in for 2019 fair camping and reserve parking.

Those having a camp site for next year’s fair must pay $180 by December 15. Reserved parking spaces are $50 and the deadline is October 15.

If fees are not received on time, you will forfeit your space and it will go to the next person on the waiting list. Payments can be made at the fairground office, by mail or dropping it in the office door slot.

The annual Reverse Raffle will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2019, and tickets go on sale October 1, 2018. The Cooper Farms’ Junior Fair Building doors will open at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., and drawings/auctions to follow at 7 p.m. Grand prize winner will receive $5,000.

This event has bloomed into an evening of entertainment from not only the auctioneer, but those in attendance. Last year’s event sold out, so the Mercer County Fair Board urges everyone to get their tickets as soon as possible, as only 250 tickets are sold.

“There’s always something going on that night,” Mercer County Fair Manager Cara Muhlenkamp said. “It’s a fast paced evening filled with games, bidding wars and lots of laughter, all for a good cause.”

Tickets are $100 each and include a buffet meal for two and one ticket for the reverse raffle. Other drawings, live/silent auctions and 50/50 will be held throughout the evening.

Each year, the fair board chooses an improvement to earmark the profits. The 2019 event’s proceeds will go toward ground improvements including campground spaces, gravel driveways, parking and lighting.

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2019 Mercer County Fair

“People are still talking about the excitement from the flyover during the Veterans’ Ceremony,” Muhlenkamp added.

The annual auction of the Bear Hollow Wood Carver’s chainsaw carvings raised enough to donate $10,475 back to area organizations.

Planning for the 2019 Mercer County Fair started before the 2018 fair was in the books. Additional parking on the west side of the grounds will be added and more golf carts will be available to transport people to areas of interest.

In order to save money, the fair board encourages everyone to be a fair sponsor. Depending on the amount you donate towards the fairgrounds, entitles you to ticket bundles. Stop by the fairground office or give them a call at 419-586-3239 for all of the information on how to save.

Halloween Family-Fest & Campout

Halloween Family-Fest & Campout is upon us with camping sites are going really fast! Don’t wait till the last minute, as Friday, October 19, is right around the corner! When you see this, call 419-586-3239 to see if there are any sites left!
Have you paid your 2019 Fair Camping & Reserve Parking Fees?

DEADLINE FOR RESERVE PARKING FEES IS OCTOBER 15

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DEADLINE FOR CAMPING FEES IS DECEMBER 15

If Not Paid By December 15, YOU WILL FORFEIT Your Space & The Next Person On The Waiting List Will Acquire It!

You Can Pay At The Fair Office, Mail It Or Drop It In The Office Door Slot!

CALL 419-586-3239 FOR HALL RENTALS

HAUNTED GRANDSTAND

The Ghouls Are On The Move From The Barn To The Grandstand!

1 BIG Fright Nite • Saturday, October 20
7:30-10:30PM • Mercer County Fairgrounds

$5 EACH PERSON TO ENTER
2018 MERCER COUNTY FAIR MEMORIES...

Photos By
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