

Friday country concert to highlight 2014 county fair

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

Plans are already beginning to take shape for the 2014 Phillips County Fair, set for July 23-27. There is big news regarding entertainment options this year.

The biggest addition to the 2014 fair schedule is the live concert Friday, July 25 as country newcomer Jake Gill is scheduled to take the stage at the Phillips County Fairgrounds. Gill released his first album “Guts, Guns & Jesus”—including his single “John Deere Rockstar”—in 2012 and is headlining his first nationwide tour this year.

Some of his recent accolades include being a third-round finalist on the NBC television show “The Voice” and opening for Jason Aldean, Jake Owen, Chris Cagle, Easton Corbin, Wade Bowen, Casey Donahew and more.

Bull riding will also be a featured attraction on this year’s agenda, planned for Saturday night, July 26. A survey conducted by the CSU Extension Office after last year’s fair indicated that a concert and bull riding were the two events attendees most wanted to see added to future fairs.

Phillips County Fair board treasurer Pam Haynes expressed the board’s hope that the new entertainment options will draw more people to the fair.

“I am really excited to see how this turns out. We’re trying to use a little variety to catch more people,” Haynes said.

With bull riding headlining Saturday’s events, there will be no races at the Phillips County Raceway. Haynes explained that the decision was made to provide community members with something new, as races take place nearly every weekend during the summer.

Joe Bellm with Phillips County Raceway announced, however, that a “Monday Night Madness Meltdown” will kick off fair week on Monday, July 21.

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NASCAR star Kenny Schrader will be coming off a four-day run to stop in Holyoke July 21. He will be on his way to Rossburg, Ohio to race in the nationally-televised Eldora Speedway dirt track race on July 23.

The fair theme for 2014 is "America's Best," and grand marshals for the fair parade are Dale and Nelda O'Neal.

Other activities planned for fair week include the ATV rodeo Wednesday night and bingo and a pitch tournament Thursday. Preceding the concert Friday will be the community BBQ put on by R&B Catering. Kids meals will be offered at a reduced price.

Saturday is the junior livestock sale, which will remain at 2:30 p.m. this year, followed by the annual buyers' BBQ in the Biesemeier Room at the Phillips County Event Center.

Livestock shows, inflatables and the dunk tank will make their return to Phillips County Friday and Saturday. Sunday, July 27 will wind down the fair week with a church service in the morning and an antique tractor pull during the day.

The Leland Miller Memorial Gymkhana is also planned for Sunday, July 20 with team roping to follow.

A full schedule will be released in the near future.

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