‘Barnyard Bash’

2024 Uinta County Fair



July 2024

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Bridger Valley PIONEER

2024 UINTA COUNTY FAIR

New fair manager balances tradition with innovation

BY KAYNE PYATT
Uinta County Herald

EVANSTON — Tamara Boglino-Mercer took over managing the Uinta County Fair in October 2023, and she has some exciting new events planned for the 2024 event, which will open on Saturday, July 27, and will run through the following Saturday, Aug. 3.

"What I love best about this job is I get to serve the community and the county both," Boglino-Mercer said. "The fair is a huge activities and entertainment industry and is a full-time job. As soon as I was hired in October, I started procuring entertainment for this summer."

Boglino-Mercer's responsibilities include organizing and management of all details involved in preparing for the annual fair, including selecting shows, artists, vendors and special events. She has one part-time employee, office assistant Natalie Cornia. She also supervises four seasonal employees who work shortly before and during the fair, along with many volunteers.

In cooperation with the nine members of the Livestock Sale Committee, she finds judges and superintendents for the livestock show and reports to a seven-member Fair Board of Directors and to the three county commissioners.

Boglino-Mercer is a single mother of six children ranging in age from 16 to 27. Besides working full-time, she said she hopes to complete her bachelor's degree in business administration in December 2024 through Western Wyoming Community College. Her professional background consists of employment as a business office manager for small and large corporate construction companies in southern California, where she was born and raised.

From 2020 to 2023, she owned and managed her own commercial cleaning service, Noble Home Services, but closed it down when she was hired for the fair management position.

"I have never been involved with agriculture," Boglino-Mercer said, "and my children were never in 4-H, so some may see that as a handicap to me for this job; but I look at it this way … I don't have a personal attachment or investment in any specific area of the fair activities. I am invested in the whole. The fair belongs to the community and county as a whole. We are losing community attachment in the country today, and I want to protect and develop that attachment. It is much needed."

Boglino-Mercer has a three-year plan she uses in management. The first year, she said, is all about rebuilding and rebranding and improvements. The second year is the preview year, where she can look back and see what has been accomplished and look ahead to the third year, which she calls the premiere year — where they can celebrate achievements and

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Uinta County Fair manager Tamara Boglino-Mercer and her office assistant Natalie Cornia are busy preparing for the upcoming county fair. (HERALD PHOTO/Kayne Pyatt)

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This year's county fair is loaded with entertainment

BY KAYNE PYATT
Uinta County Herald



Gracie Baird shows her rabbits at last year's Uinta County Fair. (HERALD FILE PHOTOS)



Fairgoers check out art at Exhibit Hall during last year's fair.

EVANSTON — On Saturday, July 27, the Uinta County Fair starts off early, at 7:30 a.m., with the fashion revue interview and judging in the tent; and, at the same time in the Exhibit Hall, the 4-H interview judging takes place.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, open class and FFA exhibits will be accepted in the Exhibit Hall, followed by the judging of those exhibits (closed to the public).

The Exhibit and Roderick halls will be open for the public from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. starting on Monday, July 29, and every day of the fair until Saturday, Aug. 3, when the open hours will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Entertainment throughout the week includes:

Performing on Saturday, July 27, will be Nashville country music band LANCO, with opening act ZamTrip, a rock band from Rock Springs, beginning at 7 p.m. in Arena 1. Gates open at 6 p.m.

The carnival will open July 30, from 5-11:00 p.m., and will be open from noon to 11 p.m. each day until Aug. 3.

On Monday, July 29, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sir MimesALot will be strolling through the grounds and posing as a statue at different locations. That night from 7-9 p.m. a dance will be held in the blacktop tent with the live band Quote/Unquote.

Starting on Tuesday, July 30, and continuing each day through Aug. 3, Pippi the Clown will entertain folks across the fairgrounds from 2-6 p.m.

Every morning from Monday, July 29, through Friday, Aug. 2, ventriloquist Joe Gandelman will perform in the main tent from 11 to 11:30 a.m. The only exception will be that on Monday his performance will last until noon.

On Monday, Gandelman will also perform from 3-3:40 p.m.; on Tuesday, July 30, from 2-2:30 p.m., and again from 5:30-6 p.m. On Wednes-

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begin to rotate through the three-year plan again.

"You never want to stagnate," Boglino-Mercer said. "You need to keep moving forward. It is important to find that balance between innovation and tradition. It is a challenge."

Looking at this year's schedule of events it looks like Boglino-Mercer has done a great job of finding that balance. There is a large variety of events and activities that include the expected traditional fair offerings, but also include new and unusual offerings.



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day, he will perform a second time, from 1-1:30 p.m.; and on Thursday from 1:30-2 p.m. On Friday, he will also perform from 2:30 to 3 p.m.

Impressionist singer Mike Walker will perform in the main tent on Monday, July 29, from 1-1:45 p.m., and again from 5-5:45 p.m.; on Tuesday, July 30, from noon to 12:45 p.m. and again from 3-3:34 p.m.; on Wednesday, July 31, from 2-2:45 p.m. and again from 5-5:45 p.m.; on Thursday, Aug. 1, from 2:30-3:15 p.m. and again from 5:30–6:15 p.m.; and on Friday, Aug. 2, from noon to 12:45 p.m. and again from 3:30-4:15 p.m.

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Kids play miniature golf at last year's county fair.



Youngsters play in sand boxes during last year's Uinta County Fair. This year's festivities are set to kick off on Saturday, July 27, in Evanston. (HERALD FILE PHOTOS)

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Contortionist Archer Sara Twister will dazzle crowds in the main tent beginning on Tuesday, July 30, from 10-10:30 a.m. and 4:30-5 p.m.; Wednesday, July 31, from 10-10:30 a.m., from noon to 12:30 p.m., and from 3:30-4 p.m.; Thursday, Aug. 1, from 10-10:30 a.m. and from 12:30-1 p.m.; and on Friday, Aug. 2, from 10-10:30 a.m. and from 1:30-2 p.m.

Contests will again be a fun treat at the fair. On Thursday, Aug. 1, a homemade ice cream contest will be held in the main tent at 4 p.m.; a catch and show contest will be at 5 p.m. in the show ring; and at 6 p.m., a catch-it-calf contest will be in Arena 2. A truck and tractor pull will take place at 7 p.m. in Arena 1.

As Fair Manager Tamara Boglino-Mercer promised, the Uinta County Fair has something for everyone to enjoy. Free activities for youth include: face painting, starting on Monday, July 29, and running through Saturday, Aug. 3, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and paintless paintball, starting

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Maddix Curtis clings to the edge of the mechanical bull's saddle at the Uinta County Fair on Aug. 3, 2023. This year's fair kicks off this weekend at the fairgrounds in Evanston. (HERALD PHOTO FILE)



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ArenaCross, as it has in the past, will be the final event at the Uinta County Fair this year. It's scheduled for 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 3, in Arena 1 at the fairgrounds. (COURTESY PHOTO)

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on Monday, July 29, and running every day through Friday, Aug. 2, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Other free activities for youth include: Just For Fun Barrels Jackpot on Monday, July 29, at 6 p.m.; Team Branding and Sorting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 30, in Arena 1; on Wednesday, July 31, the junior rodeo will be held in Arenas 1 and 2 at 6 p.m.; and on Friday, Aug. 2, kids' day games will be at 10 a.m. on the grass area next to Roderick Hall; and a youth dance will be held on the blacktop from 9-11 p.m.

For the more traditional fair activities involving animals and agriculture, the fun starts on Monday, July 29, at 7:30 a.m. with the 4-H and FFA (Future Farmers of America) horse show in Arenas 1 and 2. At 10:30 a.m., the 4-H open dog show will take place in the show ring.

On Tuesday, July 30, livestock weigh-ins are scheduled as follows: Swine, 7:30-9:30 a.m.; goats, 7:30-8:30 a.m.; beef, 8:30-10 a.m.; sheep, 9:30-11 a.m.; and rabbits/poultry, 11 a.m. The open horse show will be held in

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Arenas 1 and 2 at 7:30 a.m.

At 11 a.m. on July 30, the 4-H open cat show will take place at the bleachers near the Exhibit Hall; at 4 p.m., the 4-H and open swine show will be in the show ring; and from 4-6 p.m., cow/calf pairs will be allowed on the grounds.

Wednesday, July 31, offerings include the 4-H/FFA market goat show at 8 a.m. in the show ring; at 11 a.m., the 4-H/FFA open poultry show will be at the poultry barn; at noon the little kids' goat/sheep show will take place; and at 6 p.m. in Arenas 1 and 2 will be the junior rodeo.

At 8 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 1, the rabbit show will be in the rabbit barn; and at 9 a.m., the 4-H/FFA market beef show will be in the show ring.

Starting at 8 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 2, the 4-H/FFA open rabbit show will be in the rabbit barn; at 9 a.m., in the show ring, the round robin showmanship will take place; and the junior livestock sale — always a highlight of the week's events — is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 2, in the show ring.

On the final day of the Fair, Saturday, Aug. 3, the mini-horse show will be at 7:30 a.m. in Arena 1; the Exhibit and Roderick halls will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; a blue-ribbon breakfast will be held from 9-11 a.m. on the blacktop; at 4 p.m., all exhibits will be released for pickup; and this year's finale will be the ArenaCross in Arena 1 at 7 p.m.



Mesa Martin catches her calf in 2.89 seconds during the junior rodeo breakaway roping event during the 2018 Uinta County Fair in Evanston. (HERALD FILE PHOTO)



Brady Roberts rides a steer during the 2018 Uinta County Fair's junior rodeo.



This year's truck pull will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 6, in Arena 1 of the Evanston fairgrounds. (HERALD FILE PHOTO)



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