



County Corner

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Northwest Montana Fair “Summer Days & Country Ways!”

The Northwest Montana Fair and Rodeo in Kalispell will be celebrating their 104th Anniversary with the biggest party in Flathead County, August 15th - 20th. We will greet over 60,000 people at the five day fair, with people coming from all over the United States, including tourists from different countries.

The Northwest Montana Fair started as an Ag related fair and has worked hard to remain so. With new growth and farms being subdivided some things have changed but we are proud to still offer horticulture, livestock classes and one of the best livestock sales in the state. There are competitions that anyone can enter. Exhibits are FFA, 4-H or open



Pictured left to right: Jay Scott, Manager; Sue Anderson, Office Manager, Tim Harmon, Maintenance Supervisor; Dale Culbert, Maintenance Assistant.

Flathead County Fair Manager GERALD “JAY” SCOTT



Gerald “Jay” Scott, Flathead County Fair Manager, has been working (enjoying) at the Fairgrounds for 10 years. He is the most exceptional boss in the Flathead to work with (and everyone’s special friend at Fair time). He was a 4-H leader for 17 years and has been an event promoter for 19 years.

Jay owns and operates a family farm, is a past owner of two rodeo companies, and a construction company. He was the promoter of the Heritage Days Rodeo in Columbia Falls for 11 years. His lovely wife, Chris, is the Northwest Montana Pro Rodeo Pageant secretary. He has three beautiful daughters, Julie, Traci and Joni, a 2 year old grandson, Konor, and a 6 month old granddaughter, Mackinley, who he loves to spend his “free” time spoiling.

classes, (from the Rodeo Pageant Queens and Princesses to Livestock, Art, Culinary, etc.) and are open to the public in five surrounding counties.

We are very proud of the support the community and businesses give at the Market Livestock Sale on Saturday morning during fair week. The FFA or 4-H exhibitors work for months to get ready for this sale.

There are two nights of top entertainers opening the Northwest Montana Fair. This year, we will welcome Neil McCoy and Mark Chestnut to perform. The Fair continues with three nights of PRCA Rodeo action, an Indian relay, a parade on Main Street and ends with Northwest Montana Penning and the Demolition Derby on Sunday.

Inland Empire Carnival/Royal West Amusements will be on the grounds for the entire week of the Fair. This company has been adding to the Northwest Montana Fair enjoyment for 36 years and has one of the best records in the industry. All of the rides are shut down and checked three times per day for safety and are kept neat and clean at all times. The Fair works very close with the Sheriff’s Posse and with the Flathead County Search and Rescue for fair time safety.

The staff at the fairgrounds consists of four full-time employees who maintain the facility serving the community for a variety of events, which range from weddings, gun shows, car shows, art/craft, antique shows, graduations, family reunions, livestock, motorized events and some inside storage in the winter months. Four seasonal employees are added in May with the preparation for the fair. When the fair is in full operation the staff will increase to 140 people for a six-day event. The employees work twenty-four hours a day to keep the fairgrounds neat, clean and beautiful to bring the community the biggest event of the year. They take a great deal of pride in their work, have good work ethics and are friendly and helpful to all who come to enjoy the fair.

The Flathead County Fair Commission consists of five non-paid members that work year around to help improve and promote the fairgrounds. The Fair Commission is most concerned about the safety for the guests that support the fair. This is a place for family fun, laughter, memories and education.

From the Northwest Montana Fair staff and management, we invite everyone to come and enjoy the fair with friends and family.

“The needs of the future take precedent over the demands of the present.”

— County Commissioners: Bob Watne, Gary Hall & Joe Brenneman