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County fair opens Friday



Corbin Bleu is Friday night's headliner as the 140th edition of the Clark County Fair opens a ten day run.

The 140th edition of the Clark County Fair opens at 8 a.m. Friday, Aug. 1, with the traditional free pancake breakfast sponsored by Fred Meyer stores. Coupons for the breakfast are required and can be obtained at any Fred Meyer store.

Admission to the fair is also free between 8 to 11 a.m. Friday.

Otherwise, admission is \$9 for adults; \$7 for seniors, \$5 for children. Children under 7 are admitted free. Parking is \$5 per vehicle. Fair hours are 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 a.m. Sunday through Thursday. The fair ends Sunday, Aug. 10.

C-TRAN shuttles are being offered from most C-TRAN transit centers and park-and-ride locations. Bus fair is \$2 per person round trip, or \$4 for groups up to six people.

Corbin Bleu, 19, is the headline entertainer Friday. Admission to the lawn area in front of the grandstand for the Bleu concert is \$20. Grandstand seating is free.

Commissioners approve amphitheater lease reductions for Quincunx

Clark County commissioners today unanimously approved a revised lease with Quincunx for The Amphitheater at Clark County. The lease reduces some of the rent and other expenses that Quincunx originally agreed to pay Clark County when the amphitheater was built. In return, Quincunx has agreed to invest an additional \$2 million to retrofit the amphitheater for smaller concerts.

"The county and Quincunx both have a stake in the amphitheater's being successful," says county administrator **Bill Barron**. "The county owns the facility, and Quincunx schedules concerts and operates it. By changing the lease, the county has agreed to help Quincunx implement a new business strategy and keep operating during these tough economic times."

The national concert market has shifted dramatically since the amphitheater was built. Big international acts are not drawing audiences as they used to, due to high ticket prices, the downturn in the economy, and competition from other forms of entertainment.

"We are repositioning the amphitheater to take better advantage of the music industry as it is occurring now," said Quincunx CEO **Dan Braun**. "I truly believe this is very, very important. I don't think my business can survive the impact of the current economy if we don't do this."

Braun says that seven amphitheaters have already closed across the country. "We are seeing a new genre of building in the last seven or eight years with indoor seating that can be configured to seat from 2,500 to 7,000 people," he says.

Quincunx is proposing to install a removable or retractable wall that can enclose the amphitheater, creating indoor seating for up to 7,000 people. "There is an intimacy, an excitement that occurs when a building is the correct size for the show," Braun explains. "This will allow us to book smaller concerts at other times of the year, and we will still have a great, very attractive facility that can seat up to 18,000 people for summer concerts."

Braun says retrofitting the amphitheater will provide Quincunx with more opportunities to book acts. "All business is a gamble," he says. "but I passionately believe this is what we have to do to survive."

Quincunx is very serious about being a good partner to the Clark County community, he added. "I believe retrofitting the amphitheater will improve the entertainment choices of county residents, who won't have to drive

several hours to go to concerts or other events.”

Helping Quincunx will also preserve jobs, according to Barron.

E.D. Hovee & Company, LLC, prepared for the county the report, *Economic Impact Evaluation for The Amphitheater at Clark County*. **Ed Hovee** concluded that the amphitheater currently accounts for an impact to the Clark County economy of an estimated \$9.1 million annually, including payroll of \$1.2 million for just over 100 employees on- and off-site.

Columbia Credit Union elects new officers

Columbia Credit Union members Monday elected three new board members and a representative to the credit union’s supervisory committee, according to acting board chairman **Chuck McDonald**.

Elected to the board were **Lisa Schauer, Michael R. England** and **Jeffrey Z. Smith**. **Donald W. Harris** was elected to the supervisory committee.

Over 3,300 credit union members out of over 56,000 eligible to vote, participated in the election.

Pacific Community Park opens with dedication Saturday

Pacific Community Park, the first community park to be completed as part of the Greater Clark Parks District program that was approved by voters in 2005 and financed through park impact fees and real estate excise taxes, will be dedicated Saturday, Aug. 2, during a day-long series of events starting with dedication of Dakota Memorial Dog Park at 9:30 a.m. and ending with a concert by **Holding On** that begins at 7:30 p.m.

Activities include a dog fashion show, Doggie Olympics, BMX bicycling, and skateboarding contests.

Dedication of the park, between NE 164th and NE 172nd Avenues near the Harmony Elementary School and the Pacific Middle School, is at noon. A free community picnic follows.

News brief

Applications for admittance to the 15th annual Northwest Oboe Seminar are being accepted through Thursday, July 31, according to **Victoria Racz**, seminar director. The day-long seminar is being held in the All Saints’ Episcopal Church, Portland. For further information on the \$75 seminar, call Racz at **696-4084**.

Calendar

Clark County commissioners meet in an informal session in conference room B in the Public Service Center at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 30. <> Concert rock violinist **Aaron Meyer** entertains in a free concert in Esther Short Park sponsored by the Terry Lee Law Office at noon Wednesday, July 30. Food vendors are in attendance.

Tuesday on the air

49th District Position 1 Candidates—4:15 p.m. CVTV

Clark County Commissioner District 1 Candidates—4:42 p.m. CVTV

Seattle Mariners at Texas Rangers (live)—5 p.m. FSN, KFX

Columbia River Crossing Task Force (6/24)—10:15 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Pat McDonald getting high marks for design. <> **Sharon Nasset** asking legitimate question. <> **Gary Hollingshead** doing good on second try. <> **June Smith** discovering art that won’t fit on matchbook covers. <> **Megan Patrick-Vaughn** way ahead of the pack again. <> **Tuesday**, scattered showers, 51-72. **Wednesday**, mostly sunny, 52-74. **Thursday**, partly cloudy, 55-77.