

# FAIR ENOUGH



These little racing hogs go nicely with the theme of this year's fair, 'Who Let the Hogs Out?'

Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel file

## County Fair gets ready for yearly run

By **NANCY REDWINE**

Sentinel staff writer

The theme of this year's Santa Cruz County Fair, "Who Let the Hogs Out?" could refer to those of us who let our appetites run wild on the food midway.

A play on the Baja Boys hit, "Who Let the Dogs Out?" the question is also a reminder of the fair's porcine activity (hog calling, pig races and swine judging) that draws hundreds of people every year to the Watsonville Fairgrounds.

Pigs, and a whole lot more, will be let out every day from Tuesday through Sunday, Sept. 16.

While the fairgrounds opens during the day, the star performers come out each night.

### Music nightly

Tuesday night features local jazz vocalist Dizzy Burnett.

Wednesday: Tex-Mex crooner Freddy Fender.

Thursday: Texas folk poet Ray Wylie Hubbard.

Friday: Rocker Dave Mason (a founding member of the '60s band Traffic).

Saturday: San Francisco's "Gregarious" Greg Kihn.

Sunday: The legendary R&B quartet Billy Richards' Coasters ("Yakety Yak, Don't Talk

Back").

### New at the fair

There are a few new things going on in the sawdust this year.

An exhibit of extreme stunts by High Action BMX bikers and inline skaters will thrill the young twice daily.

This event, along with Saturday's Teen Extreme Day (with its music, dance and sports attractions focused on youth) is part of the organizers' efforts to make the fair more appealing to teens.

Also new this year is the recreation of an American Indian village, where a group of

### If you go

**WHAT:** Santa Cruz County Fair 'Who Let The Hogs Out?'

**WHEN:** Sept. 11-16. Tuesday through Friday: noon to 11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.. Buildings close one hour prior to grounds closing.

**WHERE:** Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, 2601 East Lake Ave., Watsonville.

**CARNIVAL HOURS:** Tuesday from 6 p.m. for kiddie rides and limited big rides. Wednesday to Sunday from 1 p.m. for kiddie rides; main midway opens at 3 p.m.

**COST:** At the gate: \$6 adults; \$4 seniors and kids (5 to 11 years old); free for kids 4 and under. Half-price fair tickets available at Longs Drugs stores in Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, Capitola, Watsonville, Gilroy; the Aptos Chamber of Commerce; and the Fair Office.

**INFO:** Call 724-5671 or log on to the Web at: [www.SantaCruzCountyFair.com](http://www.SantaCruzCountyFair.com).

Please see **FAIR** on **Page B2**



# Fair

Continued from Page B1

native people from Oregon will set up TiPi's and teach beading and traditional dance.

In an exhibit celebrating the ways that new computer technology has entered the medical world, a number of companies in Santa Cruz county will display their products.

The new Agricultural History Museum is not officially open yet, but there will be displays set up outside the building.

## Fair favorites

Returning to the fair this year are popular favorites such as Brad's World Reptiles, Cook's Racing Pigs, K-9 Comets Extreme Sports Frisbee Dogs, Yesterday's Farm and Antique Tractor Parade, and Michael Mezmer the Hypnotist.

If you find yourself trying to figure out how to open the display cases holding the award-winning brownies, pies, cakes and cookies, that's when it's time to get yourself down to the food midway — where you'll find fair favorites such as fried calamari, Polish hot dogs, cinnamon rolls, tacos, teriyaki sticks, kettle corn and more.

The fair lasts six days, so don't let it pass you by. Whatever your pleasure, the fair has it: specialty chickens, goat dress-ups, cow-milking contests, the work of local artists and crafts people, Ferris wheels or cutting horse competitions.

Pick your day, or pick more than one. For six bucks, you'll get a lot of fun.

## Special days

■ **Tuesday** is Senior Day. Senior admission is only \$2, and

the over-62 set are invited to a free ice cream social at 12:30.

For those who want lunch before dessert, there's the Farm Bureau Barbecue at noon.

Unlike the rest of the fair, on this day carnival rides don't open until 6, and then only on a limited basis.

Dizzy Burnett will swing the crowds at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

■ **Wednesday** is Kids Day.

Kids 11 and under get in free, and the carnival rides open at 3 p.m.

There are two High Action Bike and Skate stunt shows: at 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

The KWAV Kids All Star Search Finals are at 3:30 p.m.

Freddy Fender warms up to those "Wasted Days and Wasted Nights" at 7:30 p.m.

■ **Thursday**, sponsored by KPIG radio, is Go Hog Wild Day, with a hog-calling contest at 6 p.m. right before the pig races at 7:30.

Don't miss the lowdown dirty-pig blues with Ray Wylie Hubbard at 7:30 p.m.

■ **Friday** is Education Day and New Teachers' Welcome Day with the Dave Mason Band shaking it up at 7:30 p.m.

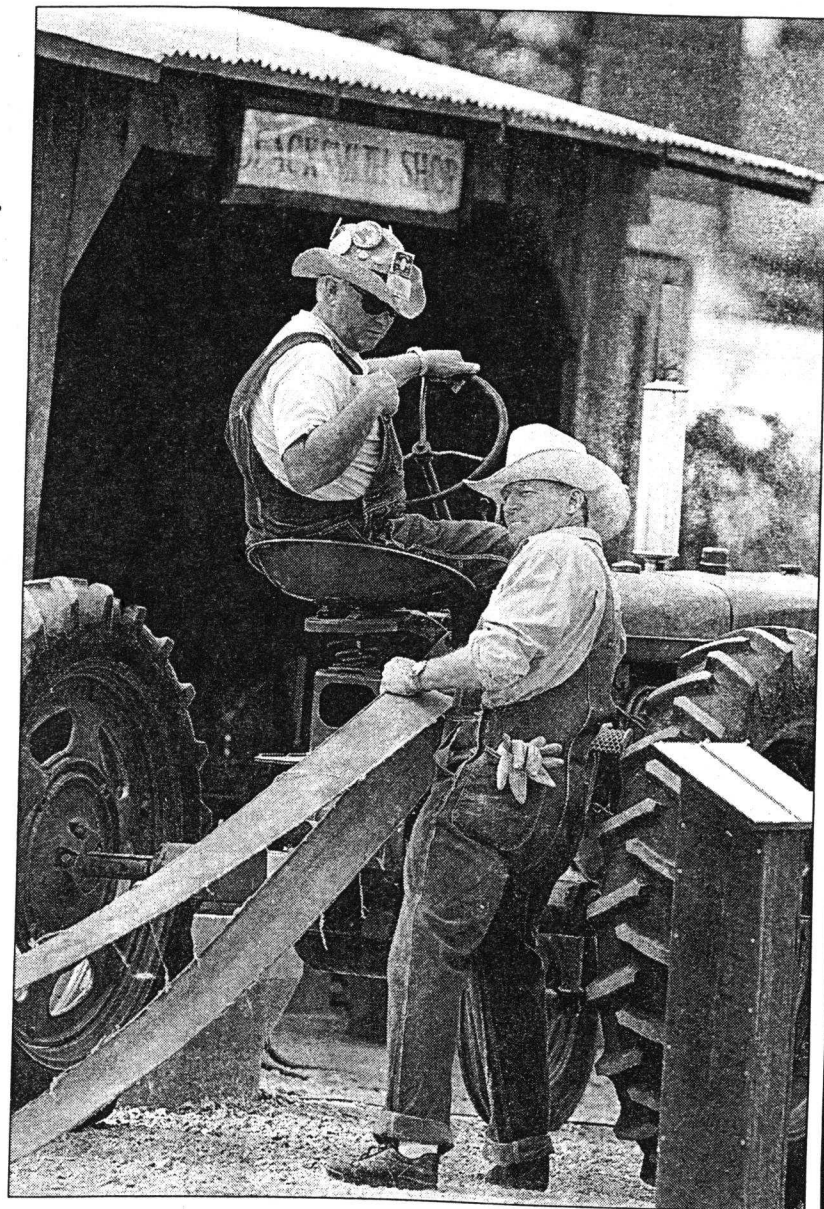
■ **Saturday** is Teen Extreme Day, with events all day to please the teen in everyone — such as the BRT Dance Center, High Action Bikes & Skates, a poetry reading, and local band RoShamBo.

Greg Kihn starts rocking at 7:30 p.m.

■ **Sunday** is Community Heroes Day, with a ceremony recognizing those heroes at noon.

Don't miss the Best Dressed Goat Contest at 1:30 p.m.

Billy Richards' Coasters start singing hits like "Little Egypt" and "Poison Ivy" at 6:30 p.m.



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel file

Demonstrations of historic farm equipment can be enjoyed at the fair.