

# Festivities begin on solemn note

Fairs-2000



Fair visitors received a commemorative 9/11 pin at the entrance gate.

9-12-07



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Victims of the 9/11 terrorist acts are remembered at the opening ceremony of the Santa Cruz County Fair on Tuesday.

## Fairgoers of all stripes flock to see livestock, eat, take in the sights

By **TERRI MORGAN**  
SENTINEL CORRESPONDENT

WATSONVILLE — The colors red, white and blue were displayed in abundance Tuesday at the Santa Cruz County Fair.

While patriotism is a common theme at fairs, the American flag and its colors took on even more prominence this year, with the event opening on the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorists attacks.

To commemorate the solemn anniversary, fair officials organized a brief ceremony before opening the gates to the fairgrounds. Excited

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Josie Woodcock, Sara Naghavi and John Woodcock have the best dressed goats in the barn Tuesday at the Santa Cruz County Fair.

### Today's fair highlights

Noon: Fair opens.

Noon: Apple Pie Baking Contest.

Noon-5 p.m.: Physical Fitness Boot Camp.

12:30 p.m.: All Alaskan Racing Pigs.

1 p.m.: Snuffy's Magical Clown Review, Playhouse Stage.

1-3 p.m.: Watsonville Bonsai Club by Don White Floriculture.

2:30 p.m.: Rocket's K-9 Comets Frisbee Dogs.

3 p.m.: 4-H Cat Show, Harvest Building.

4-8 p.m.: Live Brewing Demonstrations.

6 p.m.: Giant Cookie Contest.

# Fair

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chatter from the roughly 150 people waiting in line for the noon opening ceased as the crowd observed a moment of silence to honor those who lost their lives either that day or while serving overseas in the armed forces.

"That was as many people as I've seen at the gate in years," said Steve Stagnaro, fair publicist. "It's going to be a perfect day at the fair."

## If You Go

**WHEN:** The fair runs noon to 11 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday.

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

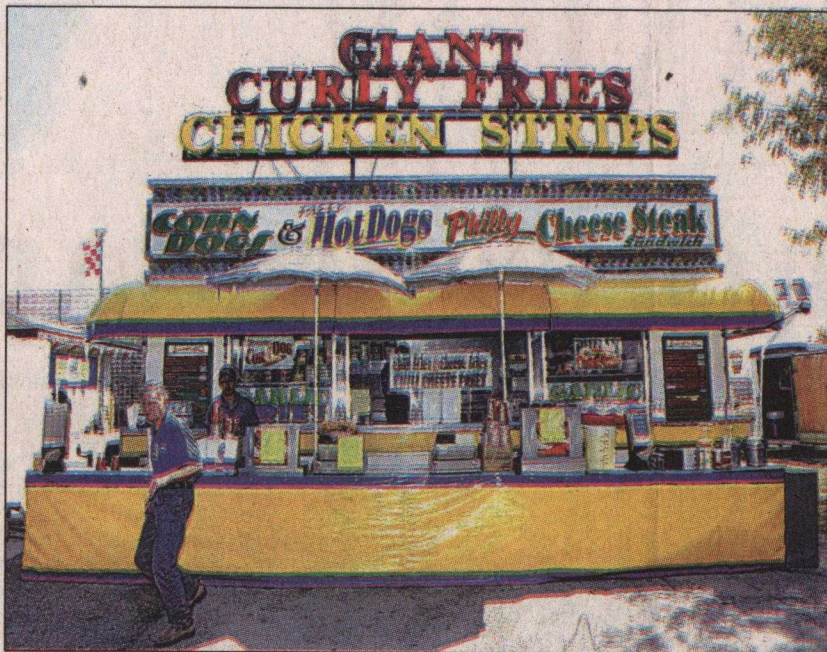
**COST:** Admission is \$9 for children over 12 and adults, \$6 for children 5-11 and seniors.

**DETAILS:** [www.santacruzcountyfair.com](http://www.santacruzcountyfair.com).

This year's fair theme is "Barn in the USA," and the fair's barns, especially the agricultural and horticultural exhibits, were elaborately decorated with red, white and blue banners, bunting, flags and flowers.

The first 1,000 fairgoers received commemorative San-

ta Cruz County Fair 2007 pins depicting an American Flag next to a white flag with the phrase "We Remember 9/11/2001" above two golden arches. The early opening day arrivals pinned them to their clothes, then wandered off to have fun, look at the exhibits and be entertained by the clowns, musicians and other acts.



Dan Coyro/Sentinel photos

Fast food screams for attention from giant menu signs throughout the fair.

For some, attending opening day is a tradition.

"My husband loves the fair so much he always tries to come on opening day," said Erika Reimer of Hayward, who was waiting in line while her husband Peter parked their car. "It's just more festive."

Others flocked to opening day to enjoy the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau's annual barbecue lunch.

"We've been coming [on opening day] for the barbecue that the farm bureau puts on," said Charlotte Hackmack, and she and her husband Karl waited for the fairgrounds to open.

Also enjoying the fair were Army Staff Sgts. Andrew Bobo and Robert Jones, who presented the colors. The two, who work in the Army Recruiting office in Capitola, said they love attending the fair, where they ran into a number of people who were pleased to meet them, and thanked them for their service.

"It's a beautiful feeling," Bobo said.

"It's always nice to go around and talk to people," agreed Jones. "Every time we meet a little kid who wants an autograph, it's an amazing feeling."

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Lacey Morris brushes sawdust off her pig.