

# Fair to mix fun, remembrance

## 2002 edition opens today, but recalls tragic events of last year

By **HEATHER BOERNER**  
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The cattle have been unloaded, the super-sized veggies are ready for judging, and the contestants in the 25th anniversary apple pie making contest are putting the finishing touches on their recipes.

**WATSONVILLE** The Santa Cruz County Fair opens today, but fair manager Judith Panick won't be able to think of this year's fair without thinking of last year's, which was to have begun Sept. 11.

So like every other institution on that day, the fair will offer more than the usual Americana attractions. It will offer a place for people to honor the victims of the terrorist attacks.

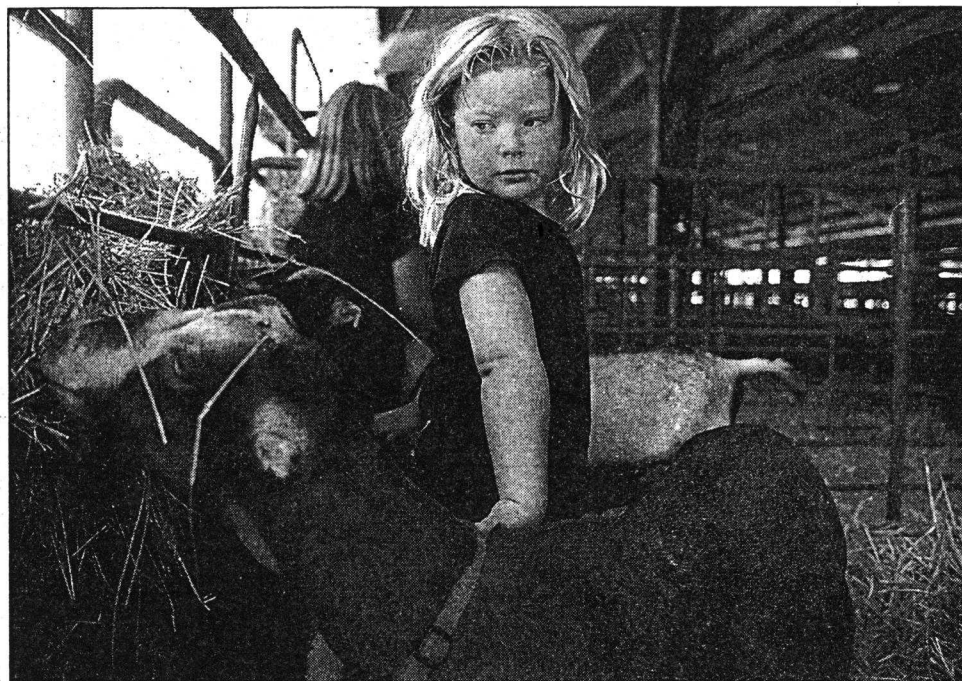
"Last year, President Bush called for a national day of mourning. I can't remember the last time we've had one; maybe with Kennedy was shot," she said. "People work all year to enter the fair and the Santa Cruz County Fair will still be a fair on Wednesday."

But the fair also will be a memorial between 7:15 and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. The whirling music of the carnival rides will fall silent. More than 2,000 American flags will be distributed to the crowd. Suzi Arco of Capitola will sing the National Anthem a cappella. A color guard presentation will be made.

Then, to continue with the American theme of Star-Spangled Fair this year's event, the oldies band Sha Na Na will perform.

"Overall, people are going to be able to reflect and shed a tear; I know I will," she said. "And then we will go back to the fair and celebrate our community. I think what we're doing is going to be appropriate and fun."

This year's fair will have all the usual events — and even some unusual ones, such as a new



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

Katie Corley, 4, keeps an eye on one of the goats owned by Beverly Calcote, her great-aunt, in the livestock area Monday at the Santa Cruz County Fair.

Internet cafe and an extreme sports exhibition.

There's more interest in the fair this year than last year, if the number of entrants is any indication. Fair spokesman Steve Stagnaro said officials have seen a marked increase in the number of entries in all 26 divisions.

A 41 percent increase in entries was noted in the senior home arts category — 1,282 entrants compared with 907 in 2001. Hobbies and floriculture

saw a 25 and 32 percent increase, respectively. Fifty-four percent more people entered the poetry category this year — 71 entrants compared with 46 in 2001.

The fair will be held today through Sunday at the fairgrounds, located on Highway 152 east of Watsonville.

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### What's happening at the Santa Cruz County Fair:

#### Today

Opening day  
Seniors Day: Seniors, \$2.50 admission.  
Noon to 3 p.m.: Opening day barbecue.  
12:30-3:30 p.m.: Seniors free ice cream social.  
6:30 p.m.: Luckydog concert.

#### Wednesday

Kids Day/ American Spirit Day  
Kids 12 years and younger admitted free.  
All day: Children's activities and games.  
3 p.m. Kiddyland opens.  
7 p.m. Sept. 11 tribute.  
7:30 p.m. Sha Na Na concert.

#### Thursday

Education Day/ Water Awareness Day  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.: Student activities.  
7:30 p.m. Dave Alvin concert.

#### Friday

Education Day.  
All day: Hands-on exhibits for students.  
7:30 p.m.: the Dave Mason Band concert.

#### Saturday

Teen Extreme Day.  
All day: Internet cafe run by teens.  
7:30 a.m.: The Unauthorized Rolling Stones concert.

#### Sunday

Family Day  
1:30 p.m.: Best-dressed goat contest.  
7 p.m.: Barbara Lewis & Al Wilson concert.

#### Daily

Sea lion exhibition; extreme sports bike and skate exhibition; Artschool on wheels; Brad's reptiles; Cook's racing pigs; frisbee dogs; adventure balloons; yesterday's farm and antique tractor parade; puppets and players theater; Michael Mesmer, hypnotist; wine tasting; Mariachi de California.