

# Umatilla County Fair

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Below you will find a courtesy copy of a news release by the Umatilla County Fair office. Please feel free to forward to others who would be interested in this information. If you have any questions, please direct them to the Umatilla County Fair Office at (541) 567-6121 or email to [fair@umatillacounty.net](mailto:fair@umatillacounty.net)

### *Umatilla County Fair Announces 2016 Grand Marshal, 2016 Fair Court, 2015 Volunteers of the Year, 2016 Fair Theme and Logo and Two of the Main Stage Entertainers for Fair 2016*

#### **PRESS RELEASE:**

The Umatilla County Fair Appreciation Dinner was held Saturday, January 30, 2016 and “**Traditions & Transitions**” was announced as the 2016 Umatilla County Fair theme. The fair theme logo was created by Sofi Smith of Master Printers NW, in Pendleton, OR.

The Fair Board thanked all of the 2015 fair sponsors, current and previous fair superintendents, previous volunteer award winners, past grand marshals, past board members, past fair court, ambassadors and chaperones and all who volunteered or contributed in any way. The outgoing 2015 Fair Court crowned the incoming 2016 fair court princesses. Members of the EOTEC Authority Board provided an update on the construction of the new fairgrounds for all in attendance. Fair Board Chairman Lucas Wagner announced 2 of the Fair Main Stage entertainers for Tuesday and Wednesday nights. The Umatilla County Fair is Aug. 9-13, 2016.

**2016 GRAND MARSHAL- Lea VanHouten of Pilot Rock.** Lea has been a 4-H leader for 16 years. UCF Board member Don Miller explained that Lea is the person who will always take on a task and then you just get out of her way and know that no corners will be cut. She is an extremely dedicated volunteer with the 4-H program with a strong emphasis on Animal Science Education and showmanship techniques. Lea participates in community services such as making Christmas baskets for the needy, a Bike Pit Dinner and youth events at Pilot Rock Community days, just to name a few. Look for Ms. VanHouten at parades and events throughout the County in 2016, representing the Umatilla County Fair at the highest level.

**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR (for 2015)-(Female)- June Mills of Echo.** June is the Superintendent of the “Creative Kids Corner” in Hoeft Hall during fair and has been in that position as far back as most of the current Fair Board members can recall. June and Dan Mills own Mills Mint Farm in Stanfield, OR and since retiring from the Stanfield School District, June volunteers with the Soroptimist club, OSU Extension offices and throughout the community. She enjoys watching her two grandchildren, quilting, canning, cooking and crocheting.

**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR(for 2015)-(Male) – Robert Luke of Hermiston.** Robert has been the “unofficial, official” photographer of the Umatilla County Fair for many, many years and his dedication “behind the lens” documenting memories for all of the youth activities surrounding the fair is the main reason he was named 2015’s UCF male Volunteer of the Year. Robert is always mentoring and training the community’s youth and enjoys teaching his grandkids to appreciate the art of photography.

**BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP AWARD – Noble Panels of Milton Freewater.** Pat and Don Nobles have provided years and service and support to the Umatilla County Fair including providing panels for multiple fair related events and building customized panels for fair concerts and other county livestock events etc.

## **2016 FAIR COURT**

The 2016 Umatilla County Fair Court and their families were introduced to the Fair Board in December at the annual Fair Board workshop held at the Stafford Hansell Government Center. The 2016 Fair Court was officially introduced to the public Saturday:

**Princess Raylee Lehnert of Pendleton.**

**Princess Kira Krumbah-Kuhar of Milton-Freewater.**

**Princess JaNessa Prewitt of Hermiston.**

**2016 Court Chaperones: Returning for 2016; Alice Newman of Hermiston and Machel Watts of Patterson, WA**

## **Fair Main Stage Entertainment**

- **Tuesday, Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>**- Current Country Stars, Thousand Horses with their 2015 #1 hit "Smoke" and currently climbing the charts with their song "This Ain't No Drunk Dial."
- **Wednesday, Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>**-Classic Country Group The Bellamy Brothers with many hits such as "Let Your Love Flow", "Old Hippie" and "Redneck Girl".

Thursday through Saturday night's acts are still pending and will be announced at a later date.

### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

This news release will be posted to [www.umatillacounty.net](http://www.umatillacounty.net) Click on "news releases".