

Fair's talent show affiliates with national 'Country Showdown,' comic magician also booked

Written by Wauneta Breeze
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By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Two events at the Chase County Fair will take on a little different look in August, as fair board members put the finishing touches on the Aug. 11-18 schedule.

The Thursday afternoon, Aug. 25, talent show has taken on a national scope as it affiliates with the 32nd annual Texaco Country Showdown talent search.

And, those who enjoyed the free hypnotist shows last year will enjoy a little different entertainment as comic magician Jerry Frasier entertains Thursday, Friday and Saturday of fair week.

John Brandt of KOGA/KMCX Radio in Ogallala, which is sponsoring the talent search, said they have been trying to schedule this event during the Chase County Fair for two years.

With local contestants having the chance to advance on to regionals and then the national finals where a \$100,000 grand prize is up for grabs, Brandt said the fair's event "will be a big step up."

Winners at the Chase County Fair event in the open air pavilion advance first to the state contest to be held at the Nebraska State Fair on Saturday, Aug. 24.

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There is no age limit for the local talent search, and prizes will be awarded. State winners will vie for a \$1,000 cash prize and advance to a regional competition.

Vocal, and/or instrumental performers can compete in individual acts or groups of up to seven members. There will be a \$20 entry fee per act.

Entry forms are now available by contacting KOGA/KMCX at 1-800-658-4445.

Over the years, stars such as Garth Brooks, Sara Evans and Brad Paisley have competed in the Country Showdown. At the 1983 National Final, Martina McBride and Neal McCoy competed against one another, only to lose to The Jim Arnold Band. In 1985, Sweethearts Of The Rodeo won the National Final before becoming one of country music's hottest duos.

More details on the talent search will be released as the fair nears.

Comic Magician Jerry Frasier, a former East Coast educator, will be at the fair for a total of five shows Aug. 15, 16 and 17. One show will be held Thursday, with two each on Friday and Saturday, all in the open air pavilion.

His shows are billed as anything-can-happen clean comedy which are fun, well-planned, highly visual and tightly routined.

Frasier has been entertaining for 20 years, and takes audience participation to a new level with illusions and other magical events.

Three other activities previously held at the fair will not be on the 2013 schedule, according to fair board members.

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The Corvette Show is being moved off the fair schedule to Saturday, Oct. 12, and will be combined with a Classic GM Show, said fair board member Dillon Harchelroad, who is working on the 2013 fair week schedule. Site for the Corvette/GM Classic Show will be Harchelroad Motor's new body shop facility on East Highway 6 in Imperial.

In addition, the cattle dog trials held the past five years early in fair week and the bob-tail truck show held Saturday of fair week do not appear on the 2013 schedule.

This year's colored fair brochure with all of the events, times and sponsors will be mailed in July.