

Gardener's Guide ~ A10 & A11 ~

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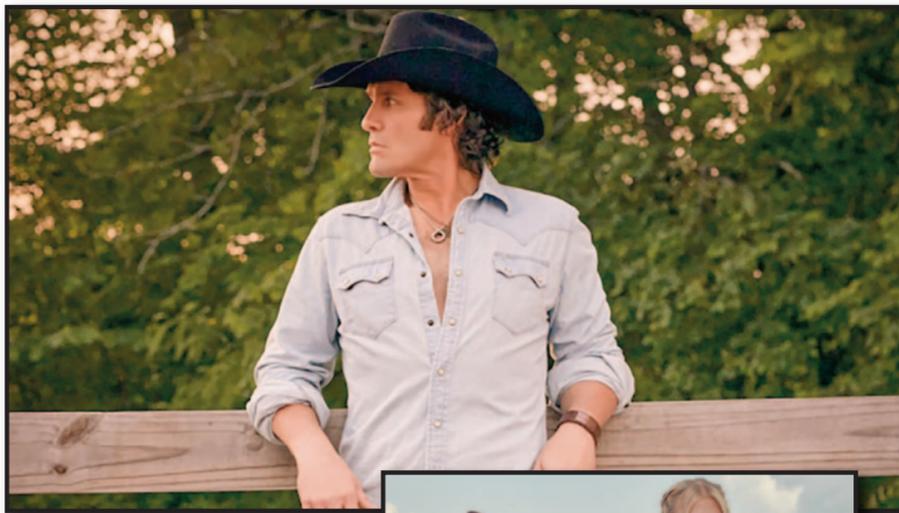


From Stock Cars, Blueberry Bars to Joe Nichols the Country Star, The Mighty Howard County Fair revs up five days of summer fun

RACHEL RILEY
TPD Editor

CRESCO — All across Howard County, you can feel it building—the kind of buzz that smells like fresh popped kettle corn, sweetly fried funnel cakes, bbq meat scents in the air with sounds of laughter drifting down the midway. The Mighty Howard County Fair is almost here, and this year it has the beloved classic activities and events mixed in with new refreshing and fun entertainment, from the roar of the grandstand to the giggles in a brand-new kid zone. Get ready because the fair will be here from June 24-28th.

For the younger crowd, Say hello to Grandpa Tom's Barne, a fun new attraction designed just for the kiddos. It mixes hands-on learning and good old-fashioned play in an agriculture-based setting. Little fairgoers can meet Maggie the Cow, explore an ag-focused interactive kiosk, dive into a corn play area, and more. Add in the always-popular Nick's Kids Show—where the kids become the stars with sing-alongs and



Joe Nichols along with Special Guest Haily Witters will be the Saturday Night Headliners

silly dances—a family-friendly gathering area, a petting zoo, an outdoor play area, and you've got a recipe for nonstop smiles. Even better? Grounds events are free fun for all!

Or are you a thrill seeker who would rather enjoy the rides put on by Evans United Shows? Wrist Band Days this year are planned to be on the following days: Moonlight Mania - Friday night from 6pm - 10pm (In case of inclement weather on Friday, Moonlight Mania will be held on Saturday evening), bands may be used for any rides during Moonlight Mania. On Sunday from 1pm - 5pm there is Family Day on the Midway, the second day that bands may be used for any rides. Of course, if you just want to get a few thrills here and there, you can always purchase individual tickets at any time that the rides are open.

Another event new to the fair this year will be 'Bacon Buddies', a chance for those with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities who are between the ages of 10-18 to experience showing a pig. Participants will be paired with two youth mentors and a pig and be judged on how the mentors, participant and pig work together as a cohesive unit. All participants will receive a prize! This even will take place on the Friday of the fair at 9am. To register for this new exciting event contact

Mr. Wiley from the Success Team at Howard-Winneschick CSD and Jr. High Student Council Advisor.

Tom Barnes, Executive Secretary for The Mighty Howard County Fair spoke about the much anticipated Ag events happening as well, "We have great participation in our swine and dairy heifer program from the youth." Highlighting a favorite event for many fairgoers.

Now, let's talk big nights under the big lights:

Wednesday, 6/24

The grandstand comes alive with Stock Car Races starting at 6:45 pm—grab your seat early and feel the engines rumble. Over at the

will feature The Fair Band out of Elma/Alta Vista as they rock and roll all night long.

Grandstand pricing for Thursday: \$25 (14+), \$10 (ages 9-13), 8 and under free, \$30 Pit Pass

Friday, 6/26

It's the always-fun Demolition Derby in the grandstand starting at 7 pm—expect cheers, crunches, and a whole lot of friendly competition. Then, from 9 pm to close, The Punching Pandas make their Fair debut at the Expo Pavilion. They're one of Des Moines' best party bands and they're ready to turn Friday night into a full-on dance floor.



Contestants from the 2025 Mighty Howard County Fair Auto Cross races crash mid race.

Grandstand pricing for Friday: \$15 (14+), \$10 (ages 9-13), 8 and under free

Saturday, 6/27

Party in the Pit is bringing star power to the grandstand. Three-time Grammy nominee Joe Nichols takes the stage to sing number-one hits like "Tequila Makes Her Clothes Fall Off," "Gimmie That Girl," "Sunny and 75," and "Yeah." His smooth baritone, traditional country sound, and storytelling songs are sure to be a crowd-

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Voices Around the Table: Residents Focus on Key Transportation Priorities for the Region



Howard County Business & Tourism, in coordination with Representative Mike Bergan and Howard County Farm Bureau, hosted a community roundtable that brought together local stakeholders, law enforcement and officials from the Iowa Department of Transportation. The meeting focused on key transportation priorities for the region, including roadway maintenance, snow-removal operations, safety improvements, long-term funding needs, and local questions regarding an expansion of Highway 63 from New Hampton to the Minnesota border. The discussion underscored the shared commitment to ensuring safe, reliable infrastructure that supports economic growth and quality of life for residents and travelers throughout Northeast Iowa while working within the ongoing budgetary constraints.

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ADMINISTRATION PROFILE: TAMMY LARSON
CRESTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Meet the Heart of Crestwood M.S.

RACHEL RILEY
TPD Editor



Tammy Larson, Crestwood Middle School Secretary

Walk into Crestwood Elementary/Middle School on any given morning and you'll likely be greeted by a calm, steady voice that keeps the front office—and much of the building—moving. "As a middle school secretary, my job involves handling a wide range of emotions, wearing many hats, and being prepared each day for whatever comes my way," said secretary Tammy Larson.

Larson's path to the front desk is anchored by family. she has two children—Connor, an eighth-grader, and Tilly, a seventh-grader—and she's engaged to Tayler Watson. At home, the family bonds over simple joys. "We like playing board games and card games," she said, adding, "Our favorite thing to do as a family is get Ice Cream together."

At school, Larson's desk tells stories too. "Kally and I have a printer behind our desk and we named the printer Lindy after Linda Middlebrook.", jokes Larson. That small moment of office humor hints at the team spirit that runs through Crestwood's front office—where quick thinking and even quicker turnarounds are the norm.

If the secretary is the first person you meet at Crestwood, that's by design. "A big part of the job is being the first point of contact. The secretary sets the tone for the school—greeting visitors, calming nervous students, and helping frustrated parents. It requires patience, quick thinking, and the ability to juggle multiple tasks at once without missing a beat." Larson does all of that while handling attendance, records, schedules, and the stream of needs that arrive by phone and at the counter.

She's candid about the pace. When asked how she balances constant interruptions with getting things done, Larson answered truthfully, "Being honest - There I don't have a system - I just prioritize what needs to be done ASAP and what doesn't." It's a realistic approach in a role where flexibility isn't optional—it's the job.

The connections she builds, especially with students, are what keep her going. One moment, in particular, has

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Goings on !

- MONDAYS:**
-AA MEETING, VFW HALL CRESCO 5PM
-BINGO AT FAMILY FUN & FITNESS, LIME SPRINGS 6:30PM
- TUESDAYS:**
-EUCHRE AT PUB NO. 7 TOURNAMENT STARTS AT 6:30
-500 AT KESSEL LODGE, 1PM
- WEDNESDAYS:**
-EUCHRE AT KESSEL LODGE, 1PM
-TRIVIA NIGHT AT PUB NO. 7, 6PM
- 4/01: Faith & Four Letter Words - Cresco Theatre 6pm.
4/02: The Easter Bunny visits Kessel Kids! 4-6pm.
4/03: Good Friday!
4/04: Accura Easter Egg Hunt 1:30pm
4/05: HAPPY EASTER!
4/07: Drive-thru Pantry, Cresco Fairgrounds 4:30pm
4/10: Larry Reis presents at the Cresco Library, 10am.
4/11: Princess & Superhero Brunch 10am-1pm - Expo Center Cresco
4/13: Iowa Wrestling Hall Of Fame Banquet - Heritage Event Center - Cresco
4/15: Tax Day!
4/19: V.F.W. Pancake Breakfast 8am-12:30pm - Cresco
4/20: Cancer Survivor Meeting @ 5:30pm - American Legion Cresco
4/22: Earth Day!
4/24: Arbor Day!
4/29: A&W Cruise Night @ 5pm - Cresco

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