

It won't be long now. The snow will be gone, it will get warmer, and everyone will start thinking about this year's fair; July 25-28! It's time to check something else off your list and make sure you have your campsite ready to go.

First off, make sure you get a new camping application to me at the Fair Office. We have to do this every year, so please update it and mail it with \$150.00 before the end of February. I have made other arrangements for insurance so you don't need to pay extra, just the \$150.00 check made out to Plumas Sierra County Fair.

Here's how it works; I keep everyone in the same spot they were in last year, unless they request a change. I will do my best to accommodate that request, and I can almost always make it happen. However, it does require a little bit of patience. I have to wait until all the paperwork comes in so I know who is coming and who is not. Starting in April, if I haven't heard from someone, I will do my best to reach out and remind people to sign up. In May, if I haven't heard from someone, I'll assume they aren't coming back and will start assigning open spots to new campers or to accommodate any requests. If you call me in June and tell me you forgot to send in your paperwork and you want your old site back, there is an excellent chance you will not get your old campsite back.

Also, there is no ownership of campsites. You can't pass it on to other people because I may have someone on a waiting list for a particular area. You are welcome to request certain spots that somebody used to occupy, and if I can put you there, I will. No guarantees though.

For those of you who are new, each site has water and 30 amp power hook-ups. If it is hot, and everyone runs their air conditioning non-stop, expect power outages. If you aren't in your trailer, please turn your A/C down or off. There are no sewer hook-ups. If enough campers need the service, Plumas Sanitation will come down and offer a pumping service for a fee. That arrangement is up to each camper or a group of campers. Periodically, the Health Department will come through to see if anyone is letting their sewer slowly drain on the ground. Let's not do that, OK?

Some reminders; if you are in the lower campground, each campsite can have one(1) vehicle parked by their campsite. The upper campground parks in the paved area to the south or in the main parking lot. Each exhibitor gets a wristband to enter the fair and family members can buy them for only \$5 each. You have to show that wristband at any gate you enter. The people monitoring those gates are mostly volunteers, so please don't try to bring in extra people and put the volunteers on the spot. At the lower campground, everyone in a vehicle must show their wristband to the gate people.

An adult has to be staying at each campsite. We can't have unsupervised minors staying at the fair by themselves. Also, although it is rare, we have had situations where some of our exhibitors are out roaming the fairgrounds well into the night and early morning. This will not be tolerated. In the days before the fair, exhibitors should be in their campsites by 10 or 11pm. On fair nights, they should be in the campsites when the fair closes. It's no secret that there has been some vandalism and theft over the years at the fair. It is most likely local nitwit kids roaming around, but I would hate for any of our exhibitor kids to get accused of something just because they are wandering around the fairgrounds at 2am (and they do). Just make sure it's not your kids. It would be a shame if someone had to miss showmanship or the auction because they made some bad decisions.

A quick word about dogs and motorized vehicles. Both are not allowed on the fairgrounds. As for vehicles, that means golf carts, atv's or side by sides. I get that they are convenient, but experience tells us there is a safety issue and no matter how responsible an operator says they are, it always turns into a

variety of issues. If that's not a good enough reason, the bottom line is our insurance does not allow non-fair motorized vehicles on the fairgrounds, except full size vehicles (which are insured). When it comes to dogs, I ask for discretion. Leave your dog in your trailer except when you let it out to do its business. Please do not walk your dog on the fairgrounds. The reality of that concern is that there is an actual ordinance forbidding non-show dogs from the fairgrounds. If someone were to "report" a dog on the fairgrounds, I would have to ask that the dog be removed. If we keep our pets close, that shouldn't happen.

I like camping at the fair. Camping here is one of the greatest memories a child can carry through life. As long as we use some common sense, we can all enjoy this positive aspect of the fair experience.