

NEWS RELEASE

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'OINKY THE MAGNIFICENT' TO OPEN WASHINGTON STATE FAIR IN 2016 Fair in Puyallup to Open on Labor Day Weekend

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September 2016 will mark the beginning of many events in the Pacific Northwest, including the start of the school year, youth sports – and opening weekend for the Washington State Fair.

The Washington State Fair will kick off the Friday of the 2016 Labor Day weekend and this year we have a very special grand marshal, Oinky the Magnificent. “Oinky is back by popular demand, families love him and his ability to play tic-tac-toe” said Kent Hojem, the Fair’s chief executive officer.

Last year Oinky the Magnificent debuted at the agricultural tent and was an immediate hit with the audience. “who would have ever thought a pig could play tic-tac-toe?” said Joe Turner, Oinky’s handler. “One day out on the farm we set up a big plastic game on the ground for the family to play and Oinky walked over and stepped out his choices, right then and there.” Knowing Oinky was special the Turner family immediately contacted The Fair and told them the news and the rest is history.

Oinky the Magnificent is one of a kind and he embodies the true spirit of the Washington State Fair. We are very happy that he will help us open this year’s event.” said Kent Hojem, the Fair’s chief executive officer.

The Washington State Fair is one of the biggest fairs in the world, and the largest in the Pacific Northwest. It started in 1900 in Puyallup, and welcomes over one million guests to the single largest attended event in the state. Star-studded entertainment, the PRCA Rodeo, rides, exhibits, food, flowers and animals are mainstays of the 21-day event that kicks off the Friday of Labor Day weekend. For more info about the Sept. 2-25, 2016 Washington State Fair (closed Tuesdays), visit www.thefair.com.

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Quick Facts:

The Fair is the only agricultural fair in the state not supported by taxes. Entirely self-funded, the Fair generates significant economic activity.
In addition to the organization’s 100 year-round employees, approximately 7,500 people found temporary jobs at the Fair in September 2014.