

Greetings from the President!

“Big Dreams in a Small Town” is the theme of the 89th Annual Caruthers District Fair and is pretty descriptive of our little fair. After all we have been, for some time, the largest and longest running free gate fair in the state of California! We’re not afraid to dream big and make an honest effort to try and get better each year.

Last year’s focus was mainly on completing the replacement of the old commercial building with our new, big red barn. It was quite an undertaking and had more than a few community members asking if the barn would be completed in time for the fair’s opening day. It was completed a full day before the grand opening so I’m not sure what everyone was so worried about! The support for getting the new barn built was incredible. We secured a line of credit through Farm Credit West but were able to build the entire structure using reserve funds and from substantial contributions from the community. The next time you’re inside the red barn take a look at the sponsorship plaques to see who helped make that big dream in our small town a reality. And if you would like to see your family or business name on a plaque, then let me or any fair board member know and we’ll give you the details.

The fair board has a healthy list of improvements that we are constantly working on, adding to, and checking off. If you come to the fair each year, and if you’re reading this column, chances are you are a regular fair goer and you see the improvements. This year we updated the restrooms inside the commercial building and the results are impressive. We have done some concrete replacement and improvements making an entrance into the commercial building ADA compliant. There is road base and sealant behind the food booths – not super noticeable but important for food safety and cleanliness. The motorcycle race facility looks fantastic. Maybe the biggest improvement you will notice is the interior paneling of our big red barn. We wanted to make the inside of the building as appealing as the exterior, and I am confident you will be impressed with the results.

The most expensive improvement we made this year, and one which will reap sizeable benefits in years to come, is the addition of solar panels onto the roof of our red barn. We have enough panels to meet all of our electrical requirements, and the system is designed to pay for itself in about seven years. Our goal is to take the money we once spent annually on the electric bill and apply it toward fair improvement projects.

Tony Campos is this year’s Grand Marshal and is highly deserving of the title and honor. Please take a minute to read his bio and make sure to say hi to him and his family when you see them at the fair. Tony has been incredibly supportive of the community of Caruthers, the Caruthers Fair, and all youth activities. Tony will be officially recognized as the Grand Marshal at the opening ceremony and Queen Coronation on Wednesday, September 26th.

We only have four girls vying for the title of Caruthers Fair Queen this year, but you might not know it by their efforts. These four young ladies have been diligently working since early June selling tickets and show no signs of letting up! This is great because the queen competition is our single, largest fundraising event and the thing that keeps the Caruthers Fair free gate. If you haven’t heard, the grand prize this year is a 2018 Chevrolet Camaro! This will be the first time we have raffled off a Camaro which is pretty exciting!

We are looking forward to another big, successful Caruthers District Fair. We have succeeded where other fairs have struggled because we have big dreams and work hard to make them a reality. Some of our dreams take longer than others to come true but there really is a constant effort to improve on our great fair traditions. If you are a volunteer working one of the food booths or helping out in Home Arts or Floriculture, we welcome your participation. If you would like to help out in one form or another, please reach out to us. We're always looking for volunteers and potential board members who share some of our big dreams in a small town.

Summer is starting to wind down and harvest will soon be upon us. The 89th Annual Caruthers District Fair will be here before we know it. You'll recognize the signs: a few carnival rides will appear, the fair queen candidates will make their final sales push, your friends and neighbors will clean up and make improvements on their food booths, FFA and 4H members will be asking you to buy their livestock projects, and the elementary school's parents and students will get their horticulture displays together. As board members, we look forward to seeing you all at the fair. Come out and eat some great fair food. Ride the carnival rides. Watch some motorcycle races. Check out the livestock shows and auction. Look at the displays of tractors, trucks, home arts, plants, flowers, vegetables, and shop projects. See your friends and neighbors you might only see once each year. Watch the parade. Eat some pie – every day. Watch some entertainment on both stages as well as the opening ceremonies. Bring your kids to a clean and safe fair and prepare to enjoy yourself. See you at the fair!

Gary Wenter
Fair Board President