

Greetings from the President!

It's the middle of July and we're finally feeling the hot days we know so well in the valley. We had a great fireworks show on July 3rd, an event that has been hosted by the fair and supported by the community since our nation's bicentennial in 1976! Watching the fireworks show on the football field, parking lots, or your own back yard is truly a beautiful slice of Americana. We're fortunate to celebrate our nation's birthday in our small town in such a family friendly environment.

This year's fair is a bit special because it will officially be our 90th Annual Caruthers District Fair. That's pretty incredible if you know some of the history behind this all volunteer, free-gate fair. Our theme this year is fittingly "Celebrating 90 Years of Hometown Traditions". While we are not afraid of trying out new ideas, we recognize the traditions that have made our little fair a valley favorite; no alcohol, always free-gate, and it finishes up on a Saturday night so we're not open on Sunday. (Not counting Sunday's cleanup!)

We are excited to have eight young ladies vying to earn the title of Caruthers Fair Queen. Johannah White and Kate Ronlake have been working closely with these girls and they are out in force selling tickets, so if they stop by, please support them and the fair and earn yourself the opportunity to win some incredible prizes! We have a sexy black Chevy Camaro as the grand prize that will be drawn on Saturday night. As in the past, there will be nightly ticket drawings with lots of very cool prizes and a semi-grand prize drawn each night. Wednesday's grand prize is a dinner of six at Harris Ranch, Thursday's prize is a big screen TV from Caruthers Mercantile, and Friday's prize is a \$1000 gift certificate to Caruthers Auto Supply. Thank you those great businesses for their continuous support. They are all wonderful supporters of the fair and friends to us all.

We are especially proud to announce that this year's Grand Marshals will be Charlie and Shirley Barbara. Charlie served as a member of the Caruthers Fair Board for over 50 years and I'm not sure it's possible that anyone loves the fair or gave more to the fair than Charlie. His loving wife, Shirley was a board member of nineteen years, served as the director of the queen candidates, and supported Charlie and the fair in every way possible. Please read their bios and be sure to say hi to this very deserving couple.

We have been successful in accomplishing some real noticeable improvements to the fair due to the support of the community and the hard work of the Caruthers Fair Board and community members. This year our improvements are a bit less noticeable but important. We have purchased some new AC units for the commercial building, are making some ADA improvements and upgrades, are adding some energy efficient lighting, and doing some much needed plumbing improvements. We're also saving money for our next big project, the replacement of our current restrooms. These will be much nicer restrooms to replace the functional, but somewhat ugly and utilitarian restrooms next to the horticulture building. This will be an expensive project but its time. Stay tuned for further improvements!

We'll continue with the improvement of facilities and the fairgrounds in general. I am proud to be part of an outstanding team of community members who truly value the fair. To a large extent, the fair is our identity as a community. It's no secret that Caruthers is special. There is a sense of community that we hold and value and that those visiting the fair or attending our annual fireworks show can easily see and feel.

Mark your calendars to attend the Caruthers Fair September 25-28 and help us celebrate our 90th anniversary. You know it will be safe and clean, the gate will be free, the carnival fun, the livestock show the best around, the motorcycle races fast and exciting, the home arts and horticulture fun and interesting, and the food fresh and homemade! Don't forget to get some pie!

See you at the fair,

Gary Wenter

Fair Board President