

## General Manager's Message



The Orange County Fair & Exposition Center (OCFEC) is entering a new era. On August 28, 2003, the Board of Directors voted to adopt the fairgrounds' Master Plan and certify the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which analyzed the project's potential impacts on the environment. As you can imagine, the Fair organization is very excited as this signals the first steps for implementing facility improvements and adding innovative new features and programs.

As we enter this phase of our history, I understand that there may be some concern that the Fair will lose its "Country Fair" feeling. Rest assured that the Master

Plan was developed, analyzed and nurtured by the very people who are deeply committed to the Fair and preserving its integrity. It not only represents the vision of the Fair Board and staff, but also includes input from the community, neighbors, business partners, and the City of Costa Mesa. The involvement of this collective group will be the guiding force as our facilities and grounds are improved and upgraded, and new buildings are designed and constructed.

Moving forward, the Board will determine the next steps for the Master Plan, including the first project to carry out. This process will involve open discussion, analysis and input from staff, experts, stakeholders and the community to decide the Master Plan elements to be implemented in 2004.

While there are multiple shopping malls, amusement parks and theaters throughout the county, there is only one Orange County Fair & Exposition Center. Through the annual Fair and various events we hold year round, we offer a

### Board of Directors

Patricia Velasquez - President  
Ruben Smith  
Jim Barich  
Deborah Carona  
Leslie "Teddie" A. Ray  
Peggy Haidl  
Frank P. Barbaro  
Richard J. O'Neill  
Luis Pulido

### General Manager

Becky Bailey-Findley

### Deputy General Manager

Steve Beazley

### Fair Times Staff

Public Affairs Department

one-of-a-kind public gathering place, which we will ensure remains a community asset for years to come.

*Becky Bailey-Findley  
CEO/General Manager  
Orange County Fair & Exposition Center*



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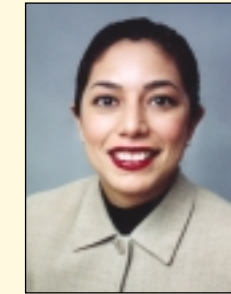
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# Fair Times

Costa Mesa, California - Fall 2003

ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EXPOSITION CENTER

## What's Inside



New Board President



Persian Festival  
October 4th & 5th



General Manager's  
Message

## Did You Know?

112th O.C. Fair  
salutes grapes  
in 2004.

## Cirque du Soleil's VAREKAI™ Makes Exclusive O.C. Engagement

A solitary young man parachutes into a magical forest at the summit of a volcano. He then sets off on an adventure that is both absurd and extraordinary in a kaleidoscopic world populated by fantastical creatures in the latest of Cirque du Soleil's extravaganzas, Varekai, which is making its exclusive Orange County appearance Jan. 16-Feb. 8 at the Orange County Fair & Exposition Center.

With a company of 50 magnificently costumed artists from 14 countries including contortionists, clowns, trapeze artists, acrobats, dancers, musicians and other performers, Varekai is a world where something else is possible, a place of pure and undiluted possibilities.

The word Varekai means "wherever" in the Romany language of the Gypsies. The show pays tribute to the nomadic soul of these universal wanderers, to the spirit and art of the circus tradition, and to the passion of those whose quest takes them to Varekai.

"Varekai is a furious, flamboyant celebration inspired by those artists who, every single day, no matter where the wind takes them, risk their life to challenge the laws of gravity, to jump and dance over the volcano," says writer and director Dominic Champagne. "To tell the old world that



Varekai opens Jan. 16 at the Orange County Fair & Exposition Center.

something else is possible." Performances will be at 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 4 and 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; and 1 and 5 p.m. on Sundays. There are no shows on Monday.

Centennial Farm Foundation will have its annual fundraising event at 4 p.m. on Jan. 24. Farm supporters will enjoy a matinee performance of Cirque du Soleil's Varekai and other activities.

Cirque du Soleil was born in 1984 in Quebec as part of the celebrations for the 450th

anniversary of Jacques Cartier's arrival in Canada, mixing the arts of the circus and street performers and featuring original music, light effects and costumes. Since its debut, Cirque du Soleil has dazzled more than 37 million people in 130 cities throughout the world with 14 different award-winning productions including Alegria, Dralion, Saltimbanco and Quidam.

Tickets may be ordered by calling (800) 678-5440 or online at [cirquedusoleil.com](http://cirquedusoleil.com).

32nd District Agricultural Association • 88 Fair Drive • Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • (714) 708-FAIR (3247) • [www.ocfair.com](http://www.ocfair.com)

## Upcoming Events

### WEEKLY EVENTS:

**ORANGE COUNTY MARKETPLACE** - Saturdays & Sundays, 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Main Lot. Admission: adults \$2, children under 12 free. Orange County Marketplace (949) 723-6616 [www.ocmarketplace.com](http://www.ocmarketplace.com)

**FARMERS MARKET** - Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Main Lot. Admission: free. Sponsored by the Orange County Farm Bureau (714) 573-0374

**CENTENNIAL FARM** - Monday - Friday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday & Sunday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission: free. Centennial Farm (714) 708-1619

### October

**2-4 SUGAR PLUM ARTS & CRAFT FESTIVAL** - Thursday & Friday, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Building #10. Admission: free. Sugar Plum Festivals (562) 598-0857 [www.sugarplumcrafts.com](http://www.sugarplumcrafts.com) NO STROLLERS PLEASE

**4-5 PERSIAN FESTIVAL/MEHREGAN 2003** - Saturday & Sunday, 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Building #8 & Festival Grounds. Admission: Adults \$20, children under 10 free. Network of Iranian-American Professionals (NIPOC) [www.nipoc.org](http://www.nipoc.org) e-mail: [info@nipoc.org](mailto:info@nipoc.org)

**4-5 SCOOTER SERIES #6** - Saturday & Sunday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Equestrian Center. Admission: free. Kathy Hobstetter (714) 708-1662

**10-12 COSTA MESA ANTIQUE SHOW** - Friday & Saturday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Buildings #10, #12 and Parade of Products. Admission: adults \$8; children under 18 free with adult. Calendar Shows (800) 943-7501

**10-12 GEM, JEWELRY & BEAD SHOW** - Friday, noon - 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Building #14. Admission: adults \$5; children under 12 free. Gem Faire, Inc. (760) 747-9215

**11-12 BODY, MIND, SPIRIT EXPO** - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Building #17. Admission: adults \$8; children under 12 \$4. Body Mind Spirit Expos (541) 482-3722 [www.bmse.net](http://www.bmse.net)

**11 SPEEDWAY - NATIONALS** - Saturday, gates open 5:30 p.m., first race 7:30 p.m. Grandstand Arena. Admission: adults \$17; children (6-12) \$8; children under 6 free. Parking & Programs free. Preferred Parking \$3. International Speedway, Inc. (949) 492-9933 [www.cmspeedway.com](http://www.cmspeedway.com)

**18-19 COMPUTER FAIR** - Saturday & Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Building #14. Admission: adults \$5, children under 10 free. NP Expos, Inc. (800) 800-5600 [www.lacomputerfair.com](http://www.lacomputerfair.com)

**19-22 CHRISTMAS COMPANY** - Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Monday & Tuesday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Buildings #10, #12 & Parade of Products. Admission: adults \$7. Junior League of Orange County (949) 261-0823

**25 SUPER AUCTIONS** - Saturday, preview 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.; event 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Building #14. Admission: free. Super Auctions (562) 592-1009

**25 CATTLE BARON'S BALL** - Saturday, 6 p.m. - midnight. Building #10, Parade of Products & Courtyard. Admission: \$150 - \$250. American Cancer Society (949) 261-9446 PRIVATE EVENT

**26 HALLOWEEN CAR SHOW** - Sunday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Main Mall and South Lawn. Free with admission to Market Place. Tel-Phil Enterprises (949) 723-6663 [www.ocmarketplace.com](http://www.ocmarketplace.com)

**10/31 HULLABALLOO** - Friday, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. Festival Grounds. Admission: free. Family Halloween Event. Newport Mesa Christian Center, The Crossing, and Rock Harbor Church (949) 548-2600

**10/31-11/2 HOME REMODELING & DECORATING SHOW** - Friday, noon - 8 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Buildings #10, #12 & Parade of Products. Admission: adults \$5.75; seniors (55+) \$3; children under 12 free. N.E.C. Group, Inc. (818) 557-2950

### November

**1 FREESTYLE MOTOCROSS JUMPERS AND SPEEDWAY** - Saturday, gates open 5:30 p.m., first race 7:30 p.m. Grandstand Arena. Admission: adults \$12; juniors (13-17) & seniors (60+) \$8; children (6-12) \$4; children under 6 free. Parking & Programs free. Preferred Parking \$3. International Speedway, Inc. (949) 492-9933 [www.cmspeedway.com](http://www.cmspeedway.com)

**1-2 SCOOTER SERIES SEASON FINALE** - Saturday & Sunday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Equestrian Center. Admission: free. Kathy Hobstetter (714) 708-1662

**7-9 WOODWORKING SHOW** - Friday, noon - 7 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Buildings #10, #12 & Parade of Products. Admission: adults \$9; children 12 & under free. The Woodworking Shows (310) 477-8521 [www.thewoodworkingshows.com](http://www.thewoodworkingshows.com)

**13-16 SUGAR PLUM ARTS & CRAFT FESTIVAL** - Thursday & Friday, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Building #10. Admission: free. Sugar Plum Festivals (562) 598-0857 [www.sugarplumcrafts.com](http://www.sugarplumcrafts.com) NO STROLLERS PLEASE

**14 BREAST CANCER 3-DAY OPENING CEREMONIES** - Friday. Country Meadows. Benefiting the Susan G.

Komen Foundation (800) 825-1000 [www.breastcancer3day.org](http://www.breastcancer3day.org)

**20-22 CREATIVE SEWING FAIR** - Thursday - Saturday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Building #10. Admission: \$7, children 6 & under free. ProShow, Inc. (724) 325-5689 NO STROLLERS OR WHEELED CARTS ALLOWED INSIDE THE BUILDING.

**22-23 COMPUTER FAIR** - Saturday & Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Building #14. Admission: adults \$5, children under 10 free with adult. NP Expos, Inc. (800) 800-5600 [www.lacomputerfair.com](http://www.lacomputerfair.com)

**28 DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING MARKETPLACE** - Friday, 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Main Lot. Admission: free. Tel Phil Enterprises (949) 723-6616

**29-30 CROSSROADS OF THE WEST GUN SHOW** - Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Buildings #10, #12, #14 & Parade of Products. Admission: adults \$9; seniors \$8; children under 12 free with adult. B&L Productions (801) 544-9125

### December

**3-19 CHRISTMAS TREE SALE** - Daily, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Lot "E". Yule Tree Supply (818) 347-8728

**6-7 MAINE ATTRACTION CAT SHOW** - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Building #14. Admission: adults \$7; seniors (65+) and children 6-12 \$5; children under 6 free. Maine Attraction Cat Fanciers (858) 455-9390

**7 B.X.I. ORANGE COUNTY HOLIDAY BARTER FAIR** - Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission: \$10 (members only). B.X.I. of Orange County, Inc. (714) 847-5477

**7 HOLIDAY CLASSIC CAR SHOW** - Sunday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Main Mall and South Lawn. Free with admission to Market Place. Tel-Phil Enterprises (949) 723-6663 [www.ocmarketplace.com](http://www.ocmarketplace.com)

**12-14 GEM, JEWELRY & BEAD SHOW** - Friday, noon - 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Building #12. Admission: adults \$5; children under 12 free. Gem Faire, Inc. (760) 747-9215

**20-21 COMPUTER FAIR** - Saturday & Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Building #14. Admission: adults \$5, children under 10 free with adult. NP Expos, Inc. (800) 800-5600 [www.lacomputerfair.com](http://www.lacomputerfair.com)

**22 HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE** - Monday, 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Main Lot. Admission: free. Tel Phil Enterprises (949) 723-6616

**23 S.O.S. ADOPT-A-FAMILY** - Tuesday, Building #10. Share Our Selves (949) 642-3451 [www.shareourselves.org](http://www.shareourselves.org)

## Velasquez Elected OCFEC Board President; Gov. Davis Appoints Two New Board Members

Patricia Velasquez was elected president of the Orange County Fair & Exposition Center's Board of Directors on Thursday, Aug. 28, 2003.

Additionally, two new members have joined the Board. Gov. Gray Davis appointed rancher/businessman Richard J. O'Neill of Rancho Mission Viejo and Luis Pulido of Fullerton.

Velasquez, 37, an Anaheim resident, is founder and president of LUPAT Corp., a real estate/mortgage brokerage. She is a member of the Hispanic Education Endowment Fund, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Orange County, the Rancho Santiago College Bond Oversight Committee, and the Anaheim Public Utilities Board.

Pulido, 43, the newest Board member, has been president of Ace Muffler Shop in Santa Ana since 1989 and is vice president of Sol International.

The other new Board member, O'Neill, 80, is a sixth generation Californian whose family's historic 230,000-acre Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores once extended from today's Mission



Patricia Velasquez

Viejo to Oceanside in San Diego County. The Marine Corps' Camp Pendleton once was part of the ranch.

Known for his support of historical and artistic projects, O'Neill is a major contributor to the South Coast Repertory Theater building fund and to the restoration of original homes in San Juan Capistrano. He is an active supporter of hereditary disease research and is a benefactor of the athletic scholarship program at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo,



Luis Pulido

his alma mater.

His business interests include real estate, land conservancy, horses, cattle and the historic El Adobe restaurant in San Juan Capistrano.

Both O'Neill and Pulido were appointed to four-year terms. O'Neill succeeded Randy Smith, who died earlier this year after having been a Board member for 12 years. Pulido replaces Emily Sanford, a Board member since 1994.



Richard J. O'Neill

## 111th Orange County Fair Breaks New Ground

The groundbreaking 2003 Orange County Fair brought new levels of entertainment and a wider variety of commercial opportunities along with exciting new rides to the 111th edition of the county's favorite fun experience.

It was a time of fresh beginnings throughout the fairgrounds as a smorgasbord of exhibits and amusements was offered under the tomato theme of "Red, Ripe and Rockin'."

For the first time since 1995, stars graced the stage of the newly refurbished and reopened Pacific Amphitheatre, heralding the return of the venue.

It also was the first time that the Fair ran for 21 days. It had been a 17-day event since 1992. Attendance this year was 881,596, compared to 898,197 in 2002.

Summing up the Fair's new look, General Manager Becky Bailey-Findley told Fair staff and partners, "We have dared to seek new opportunities, try innovative methods, present unique programs and open our minds to new ideas. While the Fair might stay the same as past Fairs, without innovation it eventually would become flat, lifeless and plain. That is not who we are."

The additional days seemed to make for a more relaxed Fair in 2003. Erin Koenig, coordinator of Kids Park, said that children this year had the time to spend on their projects at her venue without rushing.

The head of Home & Hobbies, Marva Grimm, agreed with that perception. "People took the time to look at the exhibits in our building without being crowded or rushed. Yes, it was more relaxed," she said.

Fair visitors found more vendors than ever before offering wares. The 2002 Fair had about 200 vendors, but this year there were 237, plus 80 "short-term" vendors from the Orange County Marketplace.

Thanks to increased security, Fair patrons were safer than ever this year. Orange County Fair Department of Public Safety Chief David Brokaw said that this year's budget had been increased by 49% to inspect Fair patrons' bags and to maintain a strong security presence.

The Orange County Sheriff's Department and the Costa Mesa Police Department also played a major role in Fair security.

Besides the Pacific Amphitheatre Summer Concert Series, fairgoers were able to attend an array of events in the Citizens Business Bank Arena, where all concerts and other attractions were free with Fair admission.

With the approval by the Fair Board of grapes as the 2004 Fair commodity, department heads and competitors already are planning their exhibits and entries for next year. The focus on grapes will include raisins, jams and jellies, wine, and table grapes.

## 2003 Fair by the Numbers

Patrons of the 2003 Orange County Fair were loyal fairgoers, 44% of them having attended the Fair every year for the past five years, according to the annual survey of Fair visitors conducted by EventCorp Services Inc.

The survey also disclosed that 66% of the attendees who participated in the five-day survey visited last year's Fair.

A summary of the survey shows that female patrons slightly outnumbered males by 51% to 49%, the average age of the fairgoer was 32, with 52% between the ages of 13 and 24, and 23% were under 25 years.

Compared with last year's fairgoers, the 2003 patrons were better educated and there were more of them from households earning over \$100,000 a year. Forty-one percent in this year's survey had a college degree, compared to 39% last year. Patrons from a household with more than a \$100,000 annual income represented 24% of those in the survey, compared to 21% last year.

During the five-day survey, 19% in the sample said they planned to see an average of two concerts at Pacific Amphitheatre. Concertgoers said they enjoyed the "variety of entertainment, sound quality and entertainment value." Eighty-one percent of those responding rated the Amphitheatre as "comparable to or better" than other outdoor venues they have been to.

## Annual Livestock Auction Preserves a Proud Heritage

Once upon a time, in California's era of vast ranchos covered by huge herds of cattle and barnyards full of hogs and dairy goats, caring for the livestock was a necessary part of life.

Now, as developers have turned the historic ranches into tract homes, the future of animal husbandry in Orange County is continued by supporters of the Orange County Fair Junior Livestock program at the Orange County Fair.

They buy animals raised by 4-H Club and Future Farmers of America members at the annual Junior Livestock Auction, hoping that their efforts will make it possible to continue the clubs' animal tradition.

Some bidders spend liberally. Ted and Robin Eccles of Los Angeles bought several animals for a total of \$6,217. The top purchaser was the Sonora FFA Agriculture Foundation, which paid \$8,438 for the animals it bought. Some other high bidders included: Peggy Richardson, \$3,016; All Steel, \$3,711; Rik and Marcia Matthews, \$5,264; Rotary Club of Orange, \$2,900; and the Gyulay Family, \$1,907.

A new program now makes it possible for livestock program supporters of limited means to use "Add-Ons" to help in saving animal husbandry in



Franky Carellos of the Fullerton FFA received \$2 per pound for his Market Swine

Orange County for future generations. An "Add-On" is a donation that is added to the auction sale price of an animal that the giver designates. Any amount of money can be donated as an Add-On.

The Triple H Fund of the Centennial Farm Foundation donated \$10,275 in "Add-Ons" at the 2003 auction, but there also were two Add-On donations of \$10 each and another two at \$20.

If you want to support the youths who raise the animals but don't want to buy an animal, an Add-On contribution is the way to go. Some supporters may feel that the winning bid was not high enough, and they will donate through the Add-On program to supplement the price.

Why go to all this trouble to keep the Junior Livestock Auction part of the Fair? "It's a good tradition to preserve," said Jim Bailey, the Fair's livestock superintendent. "And at auction, prices paid to 4-H and FFA usually are higher than market."

There are many benefits that youths acquire in the livestock program, such as learning responsibility, public speaking, time management and good business practices.

The 2003 auction showed significant growth over last year's event, recording increases in the amount of money paid for animals and the number of animals sold. Even with market broilers and turkeys excluded from the auction this year because of measures taken to prevent the spread of Exotic Newcastle Disease, total receipts reached \$196,451, compared with last year's \$151,546.

Average prices paid by buyers varied. The average price paid for sheep this year (prices include the animal category champion) was \$2.51 per pound and last year it was \$2.46.

Other prices per pound were:

- Market calves—\$3.58 in 2003, and \$3.50 in 2002.
- Beef—\$1.33 in 2003, and \$1.36 in 2002.
- Swine—\$2.10 in 2003, and \$2.11 in 2002.
- Market goats—\$4.65 in 2003, and \$6.41 in 2002.
- Market rabbit pen-One sold for \$650 in 2003, and two sold for \$1,100 in 2002.

Auctioneers found buyers for 292 animals this year, compared with 271 sold last year. There were 239 buyers and contributors to purchases this year.

## Fair Employees at Your Service

Teresa Mason of Event Services and Debbie Kersting of Home & Hobbies were honored for 20 years of service to the Orange County Fair at the Aug. 7 pre-Fair picnic.

Audrey Anderson, Business Services; Antonio Rocha, Centennial Farm; Rick Fatland, Entertainment; Linda Federe-Wright, Floral; Jennifer LeBlanc, Information; Juan Hinojosa, Maintenance Operations; and Gustavo Montes, Maintenance Operations, were recognized for fifteen years of service.

In addition, 22 employees got 10-year service pins and 81 received five-year pins.



Debbie Kersting and Teresa Mason were honored for 20 years of service.

## Persian Festival Spices Up Fall Events

Colorful benefit events highlight the Orange County Fair & Exposition Center's calendar for the final quarter of 2003, along with a number of popular shows making return appearances.

The most exotic will be Mehregan 2003, a Persian celebration of nature and a festival of seasons that commemorates the triumph of good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. It is an annual presentation of the Network of Iranian-American Professionals of Orange County (NIPOC), with the support of Iranian cultural and student organizations.

There will be live entertainment on two stages from 2 to 11 p.m. by popular Iranian performers, cultural exhibitions, Persian arts and crafts, music, a demonstration of ancient Persian sports, a kids center and a business exhibition center.

A Persian food court will serve traditional foods, and a tea room area will be decorated according to Persian tradition with classic rugs. Persian-style pastries



and tea will be available.

All proceeds from the Oct. 4-5 event will go to scholarships and future cultural celebrations. Admission is \$20 for adults; children under 10 are free. NIPOC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization composed of business and community members.

The Junior League of Orange County will have its annual Christmas Company boutique Oct. 19-22 in Buildings 10, 12

and the Parade of Products, for the benefit of the Orangewood children's home. Admission is \$7 for adults.

The annual Cattle Baron's Ball on Oct. 25 will benefit the American Cancer Society. The ball will be in Buildings 10 and 12, the Parade of Products and The Courtyard.

About 100 riders and their horses are expected for the final two Scooter Series events at the Equestrian Center.

The sixth in the yearlong series will be held on Oct. 4 and 5 and the season finale will be held Nov. 1 and 2. Competitors will show off skills in the hunter jumper contests. Competition is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Other events in October, November and December include Speedway, Oct. 11; Computer Fair, Oct. 18-19 and Nov. 22-23; the Costa Mesa Antique Show, Oct. 10-12; Maine Attraction Cat Show, Dec. 6-7; Crossroads of the West Gun Show, Nov. 29-30; and the annual Christmas Tree Sale, Dec. 3-19. For more event information, visit [www.ocfair.com](http://www.ocfair.com).

## Top-Notch Employees Create a Rockin' Fair

Two men and a woman who have each worked two years or less for the Orange County Fair were announced as the 2003 Fair's Employees of the Year at the annual post-Fair picnic on Aug. 6. The awards were presented by Fair General Manager Becky Bailey-Findley.

Renee Demers of the Carnival Sales Department, a lead who began work two years ago, was praised for her "tremendous" work ethic and for her high expectations for those who worked for her, and her grace and ability in dealing with stressful situations. When a young child went missing, she directed a portion of her crew to mobilize and help the search. On the night of the Ziggy Marley concert in the Citizens Business Bank Arena she took a crew to help the Department of Public Safety with crowd management.

The Parking Department's Jack Quinn has worked for the Fair for a year and a half and is in his first year as a lead. He was acclaimed for his acceptance of responsibility and his leadership in preparing his team for their day's work.

Rich Groscoat of the Department of

Public Safety took it upon himself to learn more about crowd management and attended special pre-Fair training on the matter.

Visual Arts, led by Dan Stephens, was chosen as top department of the 2003 Orange County Fair for its leadership, innovation and community outreach.

In announcing the award, General Manager Becky Bailey-Findley noted that Visual Arts "has consistently added to the quality and creativeness of their competitions and exhibits. They work throughout the year in developing strong community contacts, encouraging new individuals as well as groups to become involved in the Fair."

She added that "within their department they set high standards of quality, aesthetics, respect to the exhibitor and courtesy and respect to the customer."

Visual Arts extended its reach this year beyond the four walls of its building, assisting with the setup and display of the Orange Groove, helping with the new Art On A Stick competition, and supervising the Seize the Clay exhibit in Crafters Village.



Visual Arts was honored as Department of the Year.



(l-r) Rich Groscoat, Renee Demers and Jack Quinn were named Employees of the Year.

## Randy Smith Concessionaire Award

Chuckwagon Concessions, a fixture at the Orange County Fair for 28 years, was honored for providing outstanding product, service and facility upgrades by becoming the first recipient of the Randy Smith Concessionaire Award of Excellence.

Owned by Chuck and Irene Dugan, Chuckwagon was cited for the attention it gives to customer amenities, decorations, theming and the construction this year of a new barbecue stand with windows so the cooks can be seen.

There were three other finalists for the award:

• Andy's Concessions, owned by Andy Blakely. A 19-year participant at OCF, Andy is known for his barbecued chick-

en fajitas and fresh vegetables cooked on an open grill. This year he built a barbecue hut and added ribs and pork chops to his menu and expanded his seating area.

• Charlie Boghos and Bob Jackson of Chicken Charlie's. Five years ago they bought the broasted chicken stand that is now in the Livestock area. This year they have added new items, including deep-fried Twinkies and Oreos.

• Terri Crutchfield of Terri's Berries. Over the last eight years she has consistently upgraded her stand to maintain a new and fresh look while continuing to provide fresh fruit. The new items are chocolate treats and more fresh fruits.



(l-r) 2003 award recipients Chuck and Irene Dugan of Chuckwagon Concessions and Randy Smith's son Craig Reinhardt

The Randy Smith Concessionaire Award is named for the 12-year Fair Board member who passed away earlier this year. He was supportive of concessionaires' efforts to upgrade and compete against better known vendors.

## Centennial Farm Tour Season Begins

Enough students to fill approximately 100 elementary schools will tour Centennial Farm and take part in the Agademics program during the 2003-2004 season.

Evy Edelo, the Agademics program coordinator, said that about 6,500 fourth, fifth, and sixth graders are expected for the educational project that teaches youths about the origins of food and how agriculture is part of their everyday lives.

The biggest number of visitors—an estimated 55,000 first graders and kindergartners—will take the popular Centennial Farm tour which gives youngsters a chance to see growing crops and resident livestock. The tours began Sept. 23.

For information about booking a tour or becoming a volunteer tour guide, call the Farm office at (714) 708-1619.