



June 8-12, 2022  
Back & Bigger Than Ever

35th District Agricultural Association

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Merced County Fair Announces Its Return After a Two-Year Hiatus, Bringing Back Five Days of Fair Tradition and Fun This June**

*See the Line-Up for Free Concerts and Action-Pack Grandstand Shows*

**MERCED, CALIFORNIA, April 12, 2022...**After a two-year hiatus, the Merced County Fair is thrilled to announce its official return this summer with an in-person fair filled with carnival rides, live music, action-packed Grandstand shows, community performers, still and livestock exhibits, fair food and more! The 2022 Merced County Fair will take place June 8-12 and will feature an incredible line-up for the FREE Outdoor Theatre Concert Series presented by Coors Light, as well as the Grandstand shows presented by Coors Light, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Save Mart and FoodMaxx. Tickets for the Merced County Fair will go on sale later this month.

"We are beyond thrilled for the return of the Merced County Fair after two years of modified operations," said Teresa Burrola, CEO of the Merced County Fair. "We have greatly missed our community, and we know they have missed our fair! It will be a wonderful reunion to kick-off the summer for our community, complete with all the fair favorites: food, carnival rides, exhibits, concerts, community performances, our beloved tractor parade and so much more! We hope to see all of you at the fairgrounds June 8-12!"

From a returning country star to groovy jams, there's plenty of music that everyone is sure to enjoy! All Outdoor Theatre concerts begin at 8:30 p.m., and are free with paid fair admission. See below for the line-up.

#### **FREE Outdoor Theatre Concert Series presented by Coors Light – 8:30 p.m. Nightly**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>SHOW:</b>	<b>ARTIST WEBSITE:</b>
Wednesday, June 8	Coffey Anderson	<a href="http://www.coffeyanderson.com">www.coffeyanderson.com</a>
Thursday, June 9	Queen Nation - A Tribute to the Music of Queen	<a href="http://www.queennation.com">www.queennation.com</a>
Friday, June 10	Sheila E.	<a href="https://sheilae.com/">https://sheilae.com/</a>
Saturday, June 11	Kalimba - The Spirit of Earth, Wind & Fire Experience	<a href="http://www.kalimbathespiritofearthwindandfire.com">www.kalimbathespiritofearthwindandfire.com</a>
Sunday, June 12	Banda Machos	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/BandaMachos">www.facebook.com/BandaMachos</a>



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You can always count on action-packed excitement in the Grandstands each fair and this year they're more thrilling than ever! Fair Management is expecting big crowds for the return of our Grandstand shows, proudly sponsored by Coors Light, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Save Mart and FoodMaxx. All shows begin at 7 p.m. and admission is \$5, except for opening day, which is FREE with your paid fair admission. Children 5 years or younger are free (both fair admission and Grandstand) with a paid adult ticket.

**Grandstand Entertainment – 7:00 p.m. Nightly**

DATE:	SHOW:	EVENT PROMOTER:
Wednesday, June 8	Merced Speedway Auto Racing (FREE)	Merced Speedway <a href="http://www.mercedspeedway.net/schedule">www.mercedspeedway.net/schedule</a>
Thursday, June 9	Destruction Derby	Merced Speedway <a href="http://www.mercedspeedway.net/schedule">www.mercedspeedway.net/schedule</a>
Friday, June 10	Valley Tractor Pullers' Tractor Pull	Valley Tractor Pullers <a href="http://vtpapullers.org/">http://vtpapullers.org/</a>
Saturday, June 11	Humpz & Hornz "Bad to the Bone" 2022 Bull Riding Tour	Humpz & Hornz <a href="http://www.hnhnews.com">www.hnhnews.com</a>
Sunday, June 12	Gran Jaripeo (Bull Riding, Dancing Horses, Banda Music & more!)	Humpz & Hornz <a href="http://www.hnhnews.com">www.hnhnews.com</a>

There's also plenty of other free entertainment for the family to enjoy once inside the gates of the Merced County Fair such as the Coors Light Stage and Dignity Health – Mercy Medical Center Stage (formerly Bear Creek Plaza). New this year in the Sunshine Family Lane Area is the Pee Wee Stampede, where kids will put on a show and participate in mock rodeo events while the crowd cheers them on! Fairgoers will also be able to enjoy the return of the daily Tractor Parade, Discovering Science Exhibit, Petting Zoo and more! More details on entertainment and attractions will available on the fair's website soon.

**RESOURCE LINK:**

Fair Logo, Concert Photos, Grandstand Photos | <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/cDw2UOXBd9>

**MORE INFORMATION ON OUTDOOR THEATRE ARTISTS:**

**Coffey Anderson**

The Texas native grew up singing in church, but it wasn't until a high school talent show that he realized he could connect with an audience. When Coffey relocated to Los Angeles to pursue music full-time, the singer's small-town upbringing, country values and unmatched work ethic stayed with him. Once in L.A., he carved out



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his own lane of country music. He would perform on the street where he sold CDs and took names for his email list. That's where he'd meet his wife, hip-hop dancer, Criscilla, and soon realize that he had to think like an entrepreneur if he wanted to make it in the industry. Coffey took his music career into his own hands producing his own albums, booking his own shows, and editing his music videos out of his garage. In 2006, Coffey started his YouTube channel and launched Coffey Global. Now, 16 years later he has more than 243,000 YouTube subscribers with 85 million lifetime views. His Spotify monthly listeners average 640,000, while his TikTok likes total 3.6 million. As he built his brand as an entrepreneur and singer Coffey, 43, continued to use his gift as an entertainer. His infectious personality and unmatched positivity, as seen on the hit Netflix original reality series *Country Ever After*, draws people in while his neotraditional country music sets him apart.

#### **Queen Nation – A Tribute to the Music of Queen**

Crowned *World's Greatest Queen Tribute Band* by AXS TV and *Best Live Band* by multiple award shows, Queen Nation is the West Coast's longest-running, most authentically costumed re-creation of a vintage Queen concert. The show consists of four musicians who all sing and perform in character and costumes while playing live, note-for-note renditions of classic Queen songs. Audiences will be amazed at the accuracy of Queen Nation as they perform renditions of classic songs such as "We Will Rock You," "Bohemian Rhapsody," "We Are the Champions," "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" and many more.

#### **Sheila E.**

Best known to music fans as Sheila E., Sheila became a top session and touring musician before the age of 20, performing and/or recording with George Duke, Herbie Hancock, Billy Cobham, Con Funk Shun, Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, Lionel Richie, Gloria Estefan, Patti LaBelle, and Steve Nicks among others. Sheila E.'s producing, arranging and performance talents have been showcased throughout the music and film industry with appearances on, The Academy Awards, The Latin Grammy Awards, BET Awards, The American Music Awards, The Kennedy Center Honors, The Summer Olympics, WOW Awards, ALMA's, and The Image Awards just to name a few. In 2014, Sheila released her literary biography titled, *The Beat of My Own Drum*, and her solo album, *ICON*. Following Prince's death in 2016, she released the single "Girl Meets Boy" in memory of the late, great, Prince. In 2018, Sheila E. released her album, *ICONIC: Message for America*, which displays her efforts in awareness to social issues and humanitarianism. Sheila E. continues to produce and perform music throughout the world. Her most recent single, "Bailar" featuring Luis Enrique, Tony Succar and Mychael Gabriel, is the first ever Salsa song released by the icon.

#### **Kalimba – The Spirit of Earth, Wind & Fire Experience**

The internationally touring show Kalimba - The Spirit of Earth, Wind & Fire provides an Earth, Wind & Fire experience so satisfying it transports audiences back to the excitement of the first time they heard these unforgettable songs. Reproducing the infectious grooves created by Earth, Wind & Fire's late founder Maurice White, Kalimba pays homage to Maurice with its exciting stage and lighting production. The show authentically replicates the signature high notes of Philip Bailey, the thick vocals harmonies of Maurice and Ralph Johnson, along with the grooving bass lines of Verdine White.



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### **Banda Machos**

Forming in 1990 from Jalisco, Mexico, Banda Machos never could have imagined how popular, and controversial, they would become in the music scene. Known for being brash, infectious and eventually inescapable, Banda Machos updated and modernized the traditional Sinaloan banda style. The band electrified and augmented the genre's big, brassy sound with amplified instruments, flashy keyboard flourishes and their longtime battle cry "Arre Macho!" Banda Machos' 1992 breakthrough album, *Sangre de Indio*, included the radio hit "El Gato y el Raton" and helped launch the Quebradita sound. In 1993, Banda Machos was crowned "La Reina de la Bandas" at the Viva México festival in Chicago. The group achieved even wider exposure in 2008, when they released their first YouTube video in conjunction with the album, *Proximo Tonto*, filming clips that have been viewed millions of times from viewers all over. Following the release of "La Huella de Mis Besos" in 2018, Banda Machos was acknowledged by the International Human Rights Commission for its commitment to fighting music piracy.

### **About The Merced County Fair:**

The Merced County Fair, first founded in 1891, represents the 35th District Agricultural Association. The fair's mission statement outlines that it "*promises to meet the needs of our community by providing a fun, safe venue to celebrate our area's agricultural heritage, discover new technology and be entertained.*" This year marks the 131<sup>st</sup> year of operation for the Merced County Fair, after two years of modified operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Roughly 70,000 people from throughout Merced County and beyond to attend the five-day Merced County Fair each June. Members of the Board of Directors include: President, Kim Rogina; First Vice President, Vicky Banaga; Second Vice President, Luis Lara; Mark Erreca; Lori Rossi Gallo; Emily Haden; Mark N. Pazin; and Carol Sartori-Silva. Teresa Burrola heads up the daily operations in her role as CEO. The 2022 Merced County Fair will return to an in-person event June 8-12 with all the beloved fair traditions – livestock, concerts, grandstand entertainment, carnival rides, competitive exhibits and more. For more information about the Merced County Fair, please visit [www.MercedCountyFair.com](http://www.MercedCountyFair.com). Connect with the Fair on Facebook (@mercedfair), Twitter (@Merced\_CA\_Fair) and Instagram (@mercedcountyfair).