

Del Norte County Fair Set to Be the Best in Six Years — Despite Rumors and Roadblocks

By Linda Sutter August 6, 2026



Contrary to the chatter circulating on social media, the Del Norte County Fair is not only happening — it's shaping up to be one of the best fairs the county has seen in the last six years. The road to opening day hasn't been easy, but Fair Manager Kim Floyd has pushed through every obstacle with grit, determination, and a whole lot of heart.

Overcoming National Staffing Challenges

One of the biggest concerns this year centered around whether Harry Mason, owner of the Midway Carnival rides, would have enough employees to operate a full carnival. Carnivals across the country rely heavily on H-2B seasonal workers, who must be vetted and approved through the Department of Homeland Security. When DHS experienced a backlog earlier this year due to a temporary shutdown, many carnivals in California were forced to cancel entirely.

The Del Norte County Fair could have been one of them — but it wasn't.

On top of the federal delays, Cal/OSHA rolled out new, more stringent policies that slowed progress even further. But none of that stopped Kim Floyd. She dusted off her jeans, rolled up her sleeves, and kept moving forward. Her commitment ensured that Del Norte County will enjoy a full carnival with 18 rides — a huge win for families and thrill-seekers alike.

Addressing Safety Concerns Head-On

Before diving into the fun, the fair is implementing a few important rules to keep everyone safe and ensure a smooth experience.

- **Water Bottle Policy:** In 2021, juveniles were caught sneaking vodka into the fair using water bottles. Because of that incident, only small children and elderly guests will be allowed to bring in water bottles. Water will be available for purchase inside the fairgrounds.
- **Metal Detectors:** Three walk-through metal detectors will be in place — two at the north gate and one at the front office gate. Pocket knives and similar items are not allowed. Guests will be asked to return them to their vehicles or
 - surrender them to security.
- **Free Speech Policy:** Free speech is a right everyone values, but with large crowds expected, a formal policy was developed with guidance from the California Department of Food and Agriculture and Fair Association Legal in Sacramento. Anyone wishing to hold a free speech rally must provide a one-hour notice, use alternative parking, and remain on the sidewalk without blocking access for fairgoers.

A Packed Schedule of Events

Now for the fun part — the fair lineup is stacked.

Thursday, August 6

- Grand Opening Ceremony – 10:00 a.m.
- Pit Bike Races – 6:00 p.m.
- - Peewee: ages 4–8 and 9–12
 - Adult brackets: 110cc to 125cc, open up to 140cc
 - Early sign-ups available now

Friday, August 7

- **FMX Ramp-Age** – 6:00 p.m. Kids from the audience will be selected to participate with training-wheel-friendly demonstrations.

- Jackson Michelson Live in Concert – 8:00 p.m. Country fans won’t want to miss this show.

Saturday, August 8

- Bulls & Barrel Racing – 4:00 p.m.
- After-Rodeo Party featuring the Billy Williams Band – 7:00 p.m.
- Military Day Events:
 - K9 demonstrations by the Sheriff’s Department
- Reptile Hunter in the main building – starting at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, August 9

- Tough Trucks & Monster Trucks – 2:00 p.m.
- Early entry fee for participants: \$40.00

A Fair Built on Perseverance

This year has brought Kim Floyd more than her share of challenges — shifting policies, staffing uncertainties, and regulatory hurdles. But she never wavered. She conquered each bump in the road with determination and a commitment to the community she serves.

Saying “thank you” hardly feels like enough.

But still — thank you, Kim, for delivering a fair that promises excitement, family fun, and community pride. And thank you to the Del Norte County Fair team for putting on a show this county can be proud of.

Get ready, Del Norte — this fair is going to be great.

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