Evergreen State Fair kicks off Thursday, runs through Labor Day

On Thursday, we'll kick off the 103rd edition of Snohomish County's annual Evergreen State Fair, held in Monroe. What makes Opening Day even better is that admission is free until 1 p.m.

The Evergreen State Fair is a grand time to meet up with friends and family. There’s great food, exciting rides and the opportunity to learn more about this county’s agricultural heritage.

This year, the fair will play host to more than 22,000 exhibits on display and showcased during its 12-day schedule. This year also marks the official opening of the county’s new 33,600-square-foot Evergreen Events Center with numerous 4-H, FFA and WSU Extension exhibits.

In addition to the wide variety of favorite exhibits, the fair will feature live entertainment, including Cheap Trick, OneRepublic and The Band Perry.

The Evergreen Speedway also features events on multiple nights, including a motorsports sampler, races, a demo derby and fireworks.

Emphasizing this year’s “Hungry for Fun” theme, a new admission feature is the “Friday Food Bank Frenzy: Free Till 3 With 3” on Aug. 26 and Sept. 2, where admission is free until 3 p.m. with three cans of food to be donated to local food banks.

If you can't make it on Opening Day, the fair offers other discounted admission days, and discounted tickets are available online here.

I'll be taking my family to the fair, as I do every year. It's too good to miss. If you haven't been before, you're in for a real treat.

Sincerely,
Reardon appoints Andrews to lead information services

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon has named Gage Andrews as the county’s new director of its Department of Information Services.

“Gage Andrews’ more than 20 years of experience in IT-related fields makes him a great fit for Snohomish County and the advancements we continue to make here,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon.

Gage, age 59, has been the acting director of Tucson’s Information Technology Department since September and has been deputy director of the same department since 2006.

There he has been responsible for developing and implementing citywide IT projects. Among his many accomplishments, he restructured the department due to budget shortfalls, introduced a new customer-service web portal to improve transparency and accountability, and he is overseeing the implementation of a computer-integrated 911/RMS system for police and fire.

“Such experience will be important as Snohomish County focuses on incorporating technological advancements, providing easier ways for residents to access and use county services within all departments and elected offices,” Reardon said.

Besides working for the city of Tucson in various IT positions since 2005, Andrews also has experience in the private sector, working for Gordon Brothers Group and Ernst Home Centers.

“It is clear that Gage has the ability to lead an IT department the size of Snohomish County,” said Deputy Executive Gary Haakenson. “His successful work in Tucson is similar to the IT demands of Snohomish County’s various department and elected offices.”

“I am very excited about the opportunity to work for Snohomish County DIS. In this current economy, Washington’s counties have needed to reassess their priorities with a focus on maximizing available resources,” Andrews said. “The challenges presented by this create an opportunity to focus on core functions and to improve the service we provide to the
County's Council on Aging seeks new members

Snohomish County residents interested in the needs and issues facing older persons and younger persons with disabilities are asked to apply for membership on the Snohomish County Council on Aging.

The Snohomish County Long Term Care & Aging Office manages federal, state and local funds targeted to our elderly citizens. The Long Term Care & Aging Office relies heavily on its 30-member citizen's advisory board.

Council on Aging members serve as ambassadors to the community, strategists for funding and program issues, activists around legislative matters, and monitors of the quality and responsiveness of programs and services.

New members will begin three-year terms on Jan. 1. The Council on Aging board meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, except December, from 10 a.m. to noon. Smaller committee groups meet according to need.

The Council on Aging strives for a membership that is geographically balanced throughout the county. Snohomish County residents who represent the needs of ethnic and racial minority communities, older persons wishing to improve the quality of life for senior citizens, persons who represent organizations that serve older and younger disabled persons, locally elected officials and members of the general public are encouraged to apply. A majority of the members of the Council on Aging are age 60 or older.

Interested persons must complete an application by Friday, Sept. 16. Applicants will be recommended by the Council on Aging and submitted to the County Executive for approval. All nominees are subject to appointment by the County Council.

Applications may be found here.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.

If you would like to send me your comments and feedback, or if you would like to unsubscribe, simply reply to this message.

You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.