NEEWollah
Practically PERFECT in every WAY
Independence, Kansas • 2017
The Neewollah festival began in 1919 in an effort to provide positive activities for kids of all ages in place of typical Halloween pranks. Initially, the event centered on parades held morning, afternoon, and night on October 31. The parades were made up primarily of decorated cars and carriages. Queens and princesses from area festivals rode in the parades, along with our own Queen Neelah, who was selected based on votes bought at a penny apiece. The Great Depression and World War II interrupted the Neewollah celebration from 1931 to 1947. It came back briefly in 1948 and 1949, before disappearing again from 1950 to 1957 due to lack of financial support. Local businessmen Jim Halsey, Jerry Webb, Bob Wohltman, and Don Dancer revived and elaborated on the Neewollah theme, bringing it back as a three-day festival in 1958 with the first play, "Picnic," being presented. In the ensuing years, a queen's pageant, several presentations of a Broadway play, a carnival and street acts were added to the Kiddie Parade and Grand Parade. Today Neewollah is the oldest and largest annual festival in Kansas.
"Winds in the east, mist coming in, like somethin' is brewin' and bout to begin. Can't put me finger on what lies in store...... But I feel what's to happen, has happened before!" These are the opening lines of the 2017 Neewollah musical, Mary Poppins, and the perfect prelude to the introduction of our annual Neewollah celebration. As your 2017 Neewollah Generalissimo, I am excited to unveil the theme for this year's festival - "Practically Perfect In Every Way - Neewollah 2017!" As the banners go up, the leaves begin to change, the bandstand is in place and the carnival rides and food stands arrive. Welcome to Neewollah! This festival has a little bit for everyone. From the opening night of Disney's Mary Poppins, to the Saturday morning Fun Run, 5k and 10K and Chili Cook-off, to the Queens Pageant, carnival rides, food stands, bandstand, DooDah parade, Kiddie parade, Grand Parade and following up with the Bandstand Saturday night - there is so much to make this festival "Practically Perfect In Every Way!" I enjoy this time with your friends and family. In the words of Mary Poppins, "In every job that must be done, there's an element of fun!" Thankfully, our many volunteers agree. Year after year, members from the community put in countless hours to create a celebration that is enjoyed by thousands. I want to thank in advance all those volunteers, sponsors and my family for making this year: Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious! I am honored to be your 2017 Generalissimo and thank you for helping keep Neewollah "Practically Perfect In Every Way!"

Lisa Hugo

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Opening Day Ticket Sales
October 7, 2017 • 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

October 9 to October 24 Schedule
Monday thru Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

October 25-28 Schedule
October 25-27, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
October 28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Phone orders and information: 1-877-NEE-WOLLAH (1-877-633-9655)
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Ticket Queens
Front Row: Colleen Confer, Glenna Lawrence, Sandy Nelson, Cindy Latimer (Co-Chair), Leslie Coder (Co-Chair), Cheryl Sparks (Co-Chair), Margie Swisher, Carole Farthing, Carmen Kirchoff
Second Row: Carolyn Follmer, Karen Stoner, Liz Reynolds, Debbie Schroeder, Linda Payne, Rickenia Botts, Sabrina Overfield, Kristie Groff, Susan Kleinbeck
Third Row: Linda Grice, Gina Botts, Sarah Coder, Mary Kadel, Stacy Near, Jennifer Brumley
Fourth Row: Jimmy Waters, Judy Berwager, Jonathan Thompson
Fifth Row: Lee Struble, Jamie Wright, Sarah Wilson, Jen Rutledge, Jodi Hayse


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FRI., OCTOBER 20
7:30 P.M.

SAT., OCTOBER 21
7:30 P.M.

SUN., OCTOBER 22
2 P.M.

Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH’s

MARY POPPINS

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

Based on the stories of P.L. Travers • Original Music & Lyrics by Richard M. Sherman & Robert B. Sherman
New Songs/Additional Music/Lyrics by George Stiles & Anthony Drewe • Book by Julian Fellowes • Co-Created by Cameron Mackintosh

Directors BART BLACKERT
Assistant Director TERRI BARBERA
Choral Director MARK GARD
Orchestra Director DON FARTHING
Choreographer RENE HINES
Sound Engineer CHRIS MOORE
Set Designer HARTY BLACKERT
Costumes MARY THOMPSON-ORourke

Producers JANET DEMO & JAY JONES
Production Assistant DEE DEE O’MALLEY
Stage Managers LORRAINE EMMOT & TERESA FAIRBANK
Lighting Designer ROGER BENNIN
Light Board EUGENE LINDSEY
Tricks HAROLD GOODNER

MEMORIAL HALL • INDEPENDENCE, KANSAS
DIRECTOR'S SYNOPSIS

Mary Poppins is a musical with music and lyrics by the Sherman Brothers, with additional music and lyrics by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, and a script by Julian Fellowes. The stage adaption is not a replica of the 1964 film that you are familiar with, starring Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke which was based on PL. Travers' beloved books. Forty years past the film's debut, Cameron Mackintosh composed an enchanting stage musical that combined elements of Disney's film with material from Travers' children's books that opened as a hit on Broadway November 16, 2006, receiving seven Tony Award Nominations. You'll find that although the stage adaption varies from the film, it truly honors some of its greatest achievements and most beloved moments. Some additions are the lovable bumbling Robertson Ay, houseboy to the Banks and the ruthless Miss Andrews and former nanny to George Banks. Our story begins at #17 Cherry Tree Ln. where Bert, a jack-of-all-trades, invites us into the world of London, England in 1910 and specifically, into the dysfunctional home of the Banks family. Jane and Michael, the young Banks children, have run off yet another nanny, who believe that these children are hopelessly spoiled and misbehaved. They have a father who works constantly and a mother who is always distracted. As if by miracle, Mary Poppins flies in on the wind, bringing with her a combination of whimsy, magic, and disciplined common sense to the children's lives. Together, they go on exciting and other worldly adventures. They not only learn the importance of a tidy nursery, but of taking the medicine they need - with a spoonful of sugar, of course. Eventually, Mary teaches the grown-ups, and most especially Mr. Banks, that what is truly important in this life is not the things you hold onto, but the ones that you hold dear!

What a dream come true for me to direct one of my favorite musicals of all time! Childhood is not easy. Mary Poppins made mine better. Really! Whether it was the menial task of having to clean my room or the Herculean feat of shoveling six feet of Ohio snow dumped on our place by one of those infamous Northeasters-you've only heard about, I can still hear my Mom's lovely soprano voice ring out: "Just a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down..." or "Ohhh, Ohhh... Let's Go Fly a Kite..." Somehow, by some musical magic, it just made tough tasks easier for me. It still does! Now, I get to teach my children and grandchildren these delightful stage musical additions..."If you reach for the stars, all you get are the stars... but if you reach for the heavens, you get the stars thrown in!" So now, let's sit back and transport ourselves to another time and another place where, "Anything can happen if you let it!"

Joyfully Yours,
Barbara Blacker

MARY POPPINS CAST

Mary Poppins.......................... Meagan Moore
Bert.................................... John Gray
Mr. Banks............................... Dean Hayse
Winifred Banks......................... Samantha Sequiechie
Jane Banks................................ Heide Blackert
Michael Banks.......................... Corban Crowe
Mrs. Brill................................ Lisa West
Fannie.................................... Jessica Turner
Robertson Ay............................ Mark Gard
Annie.................................... Jessica Childress
Miss Andrew............................ Terri Barbera
Policeman.............................. Karl Wittenburg

Bird Woman.............................. Jean Ann Routh
Admiral Boom.......................... Mark Lyon
Bank Chairman.......................... Larry Annable
Park Keeper............................. Steve Wilson
Mrs. Corry.............................. Vanessa Dennis
Neleus.................................. Justin Turner
Katie Nanna............................. Shelby Demo
Von Hussler............................. Anthony VonBlieher
Miss Lark................................ Demina Journot
Northbrook............................. Nick Riesner
Miss Smythe............................ Tami Payden
Willoughby............................. Barkley Journot

Bank Ensemble
Roberto Barrera Jr., Ben Seel, Luke Emmot, Evan Carnes, Trenton Shamblin, Steve Wilson,
Tami Payden, Nikki Stewart, Shelby Demo, Leslie Coder, Sarah Coder, Jessica Childress, Lainey Clark

Kite Flyers
Evangeline Blackert, Lillie Taylor, Gabe Shenk, Roberto Barrera Jr., Kari Barrera,
Larry Annable, Hannah Dacayo

Statues
Brynn Bertie, Elyzabeth Eisele, Bryson Hines, and Luke Emmot
MARY POPPINS CAST

Ensemble

Dancers
(Principal Dancers Denoted with *)

Special Appearance in Step In Time by Rene Hines and Bryson Hines

Ensemble
Front Row: Mariah Wade, Jackson Horning, Cher Holliday Parker, Landon Pursley, Gabe Schenk, Wyatt Small
Middle Row: Courtney Duke, Katie Wickline, Trenton Shamblin, Hannah Decayo, Kari Barrera, Evan Carnes
Back Row: Nikki Stewart, Yalandra Moore, Cassie Graham, Daryl Hunter, Roberto Barrera, Ben Seel
Not Pictured: Isabel Ayala, Allison LaBatt, LaDella Lyon

Principal Dancers
Front Row: Mae Tuschman, Browyn O'Malley, Lillie Taylor, Paula Schenk, Brynn Bertie
Back Row: Sarah Coder, Shelby Demo, Elyabeth Eisele, Leslie Coder
Not Pictured: Lindsay Shaw

Dancers
Front Row: Evangeline Blackert, Summer Koscelny, An Nguyen, Megan Emmot
Not Pictured: Drew O'Brien, Justin Turner
SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Scene One - ROOFTOP, STREET, PARLOR
   Prologue - Bert
   Cherry Tree Lane (Part I) - Winifred, Mrs. Brill, Jane, Michael, Robertson Ay, George
   The Perfect Nanny - Jane, Michael
   Cherry Tree Lane (Part 2) - Winifred, Mrs. Brill, Jane, Michael, Robertson Ay, George

Scene Two - PARLOR Spit Spot

Scene Three - NURSERY
   Magic Music 1
   Magic Music 2
   Practically Perfect - Mary Poppins, Jane, Michael

Scene Four - PARK
   All Me Own Work - Bert
   Jolly Holiday - Bert, Jane, Michael, Neleus, Mary Poppins, Ensemble
   But How
   A Bit of Imagination

Scene Five - PARLOR
   Let's Hope She Will Stay - George, Winifred, Jane, Michael

Scene Six - STREET, KITCHEN
   Winds Do Change - Bert
   A Spoonful of Sugar - Mary Poppins, Jane, Michael, Robertson Ay, Winifred
   Spoonful (Playoff) - Winifred

Scene Seven - BANK
   Precision and Order - Clerks, Chairman, Von Hussler
   Northbrook A Man Has Dreams - George

Scene Eight - CATHEDRAL STEPS
   Feed the Birds - Bird Woman, Mary Poppins, Ensemble

Scene Nine - PARK
   Talking Shop
   Choosing the Letters
   Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious - Mary Poppins, Bert, Jane, Michael, Mrs. Corry, Annie, Fannie, Customers

Scene Ten - STREET, PARLOR

Scene Eleven - NURSERY
   Playing The Game - Mary Poppins

Scene Twelve - ROOF
   Chim Chim Cher-ee - Bert, Mary Poppins Au Revoir

ACT TWO

Scene One - STREET, PARLOR
   Cherry Tree Lane (Reprise) - Mrs. Brill, Robertson Ay, Jane, Michael, Winifred, George
   Brimstone and Treacle (Part I) - Miss Andrew
   Run Away

Scene Two - PARK
   Let's Go Fly a Kite - Bert, Park Keeper, Michael, Jane, Kite Flyers, Mary Poppins

Scene Three - PARK
   Good For Nothing/Being Mrs. Banks - George, Winifred

Scene Four - PARK

Scene Five - PARLOR
   Brimstone and Treacle (Part 2) - Mary Poppins, Miss Andrew

Scene Six - PARLOR
   Practically Perfect (Reprise) - Jane, Michael, Mary Poppins

Scene Seven - NURSERY

Scene Eight - ROOF, NURSERY, PARLOR
   Step in Time - Bert, Michael, Jane, Chimney Sweeps, Mary Poppins
   Down the Chimney - Bert, Sweeps

Scene Nine - PARLOR
   A Man Has Dreams (Reprise)
   A Spoonful of Sugar (Reprise) - George, Bert
   King of the Sea

Scene Ten - NURSERY
   Anything Can Happen (Part I) - Mary Poppins, Jane, Michael, Winifred, Bird Woman, Board of Directors

Scene Eleven - CATHEDRAL STEPS, BANK
   Give Us The Word - George

Scene Twelve - PARK, HEAVENS
   Anything Can Happen (Part 2) - Mary Poppins, Bert, Jane, Michael, Ensemble

Scene Thirteen - PARK
   A Spoonful of Sugar (Reprise) - Mary Poppins

Scene Fourteen - NURSERY
Meagan Moore is excited to be a part of this year’s Neewollah Production of *Mary Poppins.* Originally from Wichita, Meagan is an alumna of Independence Community College. Meagan is a rural Cherryvale resident who has participated in many productions at the college as well as on the Neewollah stage over the years, such as Marion in *Music Man,* and Ida in *Honk!* and Ariel in *The Little Mermaid.* She is thankful for support from her loved ones, including husband, Alex, and daughter, Evie.

John Gray has been sharing his talents in the Neewollah musicals for years. He appeared as Judah in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,* Jimmy in *Thoroughly Modern Millie,* a ballplayer in *Damn Yankees,* and Chef Louis in last year’s *The Little Mermaid.* John has also appeared in productions of *Schoolhouse Rock, Secret Garden,* and *Pippin.* John teaches music at Eisenhower Elementary School. He and his wife Marcia reside in Independence with their children, Brynlee, Easton, Hudson, and Aidy.

Dean Hayse is celebrating the 20th anniversary of his 1st Neewollah production *The Wizard of Oz.* He returns to the stage this year for the first time since his 2013 appearance as Inspector Kemp/ Victor Frankenstein in *Young Frankenstein.* Patrons may also remember him from his previous performances as Willy Wonka in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory,* Harold Hill in *The Music Man,* Pharaoh in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,* The Beast in *Beauty and the Beast,* and Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz.* Dean wants to say thank you to his wife, Jodi, for being so gracious and supporting.

Samantha Sequichie is very excited about “Being Mrs. Banks.” Samantha is a kindergarten teacher at Caney Valley Elementary and enjoys riding her bike, singing through life, and spending time with her husband, family, and friends. Samantha has previously been involved with the Neewollah production of *The Little Mermaid* and Bartlesville’s Theatre production of *You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown.*

Heide Blackert (Dearing) 7th grader at TCCS began performing musical theater at age five as. Other roles include: Piglet in *Winnie the Pooh,* Perla in *Cinderella,* Andrina in *The Littlest Mermaid,* Hop in *Peter Pan,* Little Red in *Into the Woods* and Tweedle Dum in *Alice in Wonderland.* Heide played the role of the Cockney speaking Audrey in *A Christmas in London* in her school’s musical. Last year she sang and danced in Neewollah’s *Little Mermaid.* Heide was most recently cast in the “Gavroche Gang” in ICC’s production of *Les Misérables.*

Corban Matthew Crowe is the ten year-old son of Joshua and Katie Crowe and has two brothers and twin sisters. His family moved to Independence from Tennessee in 2014. In 2012 he was the lead role in the short film, Son, and acted in a national TV commercial. In 2013, he acted in the short film *Fort Camo* which won the Nashville 48 Hour Film Festival’s honors for “Best In Buddy Film Genre” and “Audience Choice” and second place for “Best Film.” In 2016, Corban was a town person in the ICST production of *Aladdin.*
MARY POPPINS FEATURED ROLES

Shelby Demo as Katie Nana
Denina Journot as Miss Lark
Lisa West as Mrs. Brill
Tami Payden as Miss Smythe
JeanAnn Routh as Bird Woman

Vanessa Dennis as Mrs. Corry
Jessica Turner as Fannie
Jessica Childress as Annie
Miss Andrew as Terri Barbera
Karl Wittenburg as Police Officer

Mark Lyon as Admiral Bloom
Mark Gard as Robertson Ay
Steve Wilson as Park Keeper
Justin Turner as Neleus
Larry Annable as Bank Chairman

Anthony Von Biehler as Von Hussler
Nick Reisner as John Northbrook

Mary Poppins Understudy - Evangeline Blackert
Jane Banks Understudy - Lillie Taylor
Michael Banks Understudy - Gabe Schenk
Bird Woman Understudy - Hannah Dacayo

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MARY POPPINS MUSICAL STAFF

Orchestra
Front Row: Don Farthing, Glenda Winkelman, Katie Southworth, Sarah Scovel
Back Row: Bruce Brooks, Terry Harper, Erin Shelton, Jim Cordes, Brayden Smith

Choral Director
Mark Gard

Rehearsal Accompanist
Glenda Winkelman

Orchestra Conductor
Don Farthing

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MARY POPPINS PRODUCTION STAFF

Barbara Blackert - Director
Barbara Blackert, (Dearing, KS) received her BS in Speech Ed and Theater Arts from Bob Jones University. Her acting experience includes such roles as Audrey in Ride, Ride, Fanny Crosby in Songs in the Night, Jeanne Guyon in On Holy Ground, Mrs. Barta in Macaroni at Midnight, Corrie ten Boom in The Hiding Place, Cornelia in Our Hearts Were Young and Gay, Janet Mckenzie in Witness For The Prosecution, and Mrs. Clayton in The Drums of Oude. Her directorial debut commenced at BJU's Vesper program with the play Hitting Home. She has been teaching fine arts in middle and high school for 23 years in between raising a family of five with husband, Harty Blackert. Together they have written, directed, and produced many inspirational plays over their 27 years of marriage. The most recent was Unrestrained, a large ensemble cast production, which was written and directed by Barbara. She also wrote and produced a one-woman show called Ruth, which she performed as a traveling show at various civic and church groups. In 2015, Barbara directed the delightful, off-Broadway musical, The Spitfire Grill at ICC. She currently teaches history, Bible, music and speech at Tyro Community Christian School where she also directs the yearly musicals.

Terri Barbera - Assistant Director
Terri Barbera is the Company Manager of the William Inge Center and Executive Associate of the ICC Fine Arts Department. Terri assists coordinating and facilitate productions and events throughout the year, while also participating in select groups within the Fine Arts programs. She has become a local name when referring to the arts of Independence and Southeast Kansas. Terri is a well-balanced performing artist with over twenty years experience singing and performing with cover and touring groups. All the while keeping refined skills for the classical stage intact, as Terri has also performed as supporting or lead actress in over 35 theater productions including plays, musicals and operas. Having such a love of the performing arts for years, if Terri isn't on stage she is behind the scenes in tech, prop construction, managing, staging, or crew for most area productions. Terri assists and serves on local and national committees such as ASTRA, Chance Film Productions, Neewollah, Independence Childrens Summer Theatre, and Montgomery County Theatre. Terri is a proud Kansas native married to the renowned Fuzzy Barbera.

Janet Demo - Co-Producer
This is Janet's first time serving as a co-producer for a Neewollah musical. Her other musical duties were as a props committee member and cast party chairman and committee member. Her husband Drew has been in several both on and behind the stage. Her three children Courtnee, Andrew and Paige have all performed in Neewollah musicals. Janet’s favorite year was when all four of them were in Wizard of Oz. She is hoping to see her granddaughters Diem, Ryanne and grandson Cooper all participate in upcoming shows. She is very excited to be a part of Mary Poppins and its fantastic cast and crew and promises a show everyone will want to see! Janet is the graphics manager at Best Beverage Sales/Best Beverage Printing.

Jay Jones - Co-Producer
Jay Jones will be serving as a producer in this year's Neewollah Production of Mary Poppins. Jones is an Independence native. He is currently employed as the Assistant Athletic Trainer at Independence Community College. Jay is a current Neewollah Board Member, and has served as the Race Director of the Neewollah SK & IK run for the previous seven years, as well as serving on the Neewollah Sponsorship committee. His previous musical experience was assisting with the flight crew in last year's production of Little Mermaid, and his role as King Sextimus the Silent in a high school production of Once Upon a Mattress. He is a member and deacon of Tyro Christian Church, and also sings and assists in the tech booth with praise team. Jay and his wife, Valerie, have three children: Whitley, Deacon, and Reese.
MARY Poppins Production Staff

Production Assistant – Dee Dee O'Malley
Rene Hines – Choreographer
Production Advisor – Lea Shepard
Accent Consultant – Ben Corbett
Flying Technician – Brenda Johnson

Musical Committees

Stage Managers
Teresa Fairbank, Lorraine Emmot (chair)

Musical Props
Front Row: Caitlyn Nguyen, Brooke Mills, Paris Drake, Cindy Neises,
           Samantha Montgomery (Chairman)
Back Row: Brenda Johnson, Tom Schroeder, David Neises, Trish Lewis

Musical Costumes
Mary Thompson O'Rourke, chair, Denise Hines, Leslie Coder,
Lea Shepard, Sarah Coder
Not Pictured: Angie Musgrove, Yolanda Mendoza, Marci Horning,
Martha Allison

Musical Hair
Tonda Lawrence, Chelsea Bailey

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MUSICAL COMMITTEES

Musical Makeup
Carrie Waters, Amy Easley (Co-Chair), Brynlee Taylor, Tabatha Easley (Co-Chair), Debbie Moore, Simona Finney

Musical Cast Party
Paula Marchant, Mary Kadel, Amanda Hoover, Pam Passauer (chair), Sandy Anable, Ingrid Papen, Mary Boulanger, Janet Demo

Set Crew
Not Pictured: Dustin Cain, Sean Clapp, Mark Coder, Joshua Crowe, Collin Dietrich, Drew Demo, Abby Emmot, Mark Ferrell, Dan Fry, Nick Riesner

Lighting Designer – Roger Bennin
Light Board – Eugene Lindsey
Tricks – Harold Goodner

Set Designer
Harty Blackert

Musical Sound Engineer
Chris Moore

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2017 Neewollah Run

Certified 5K and 10K Runs and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk
Saturday, October 21 • Riverside Park Oval

5K & 10K Run
Registration 7 to 8:15 a.m.
Race 8:30 a.m.

Fun Run/Walk
Registration 8 to 9:30 a.m.
Race 10:00 a.m.

The Neewollah Run is back for its 29th year. This year’s course will once again have participants running through the beautiful Riverside Park and Zoo. This certified 5k and 10k race will be electronically chip timed. Immediately following the completion of the 5k/10k, hundreds of children and adults will take to the oval to complete the 1 mile Fun Run/Walk. Join us at 11 a.m. at the Chili Cook-Off as we present awards to the winners of the 5k and 10k races.

What a “Practically Perfect” way to kick off Neewollah 2017.

Neewollah Medallion Hunt
Saturday, October 21 • 1 p.m. • Riverside Park Oval

The 2017 Medallion Hunt will kick off in conjunction with the annual Chili Cook-Off at the Riverside Park Oval on Saturday, October 21, at 1 p.m.

The medallion is hidden somewhere within the city limits of Independence on public property, and clues are issued each day regarding the location of the medallion. The prize offered this year to the finder of the medallion will be $500. If the winner is not wearing this year’s Neewollah button the prize will be reduced to $250. A new clue will be released at 3 p.m. each day at the Neewollah Headquarters located at 220 North Penn Avenue, in the Independence Daily Reporter, and on the Neewollah website. A complete list of the rules is available at the website: www.neewollah.com

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Chili Cook-Off & Dessert Contest
Saturday, October 21, 2017
Activities begin at 10:30 a.m. and last until 2 p.m.

Pop on over to the super-sized Riverside Park Oval and don't forget your umbrella! Rain or shine the Chili Cook-Off will happen. Will your spoonful of chili have sugar delights or be nice and spicy? Follow up your tasty chili with a sweet treat from our dessert competition that will have you singing!

Your penguins at the park will experience a fantastical time in our special kiddie area. Fly on by to see who will sweep the Talent Show. We promise the day will be "Practically Perfect in Every Way!"

Chili Cook-Off & Dessert Contest
Front Row: Charlotte Calisch, Valerie Smith, Judy Payne, Kim Eaton, Sandra Easter
Middle Row: Jennifer Tucker, Allison Johnston (co-chair), Sheryl Gorman, Madison Payne, Tabi Knight, Angela Jones, Mary Muninger
Back Row: Jennifer Leiker (co-chair), Carolyn Viets, Stephanie Julian, Emily Lanning, Jennifer Denney, Jennifer Brumley
Not Pictured: Gary Tucker, Danny Johnston, Maggie Gorman, Brook Hamlin, Kristyn Holehan, Stacie Cooper, Gabbi Muninger

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Ashley Johnson

QUEEN NEELAH LXXV
2016 Queen's Court

Sagan Shire, Miss Talent; Emily Lattin, Miss Originality; Isabella Castilleja, Miss Fashion; Avery Chism, Miss Photogenic; Jacey Smith, Miss Personality; Emily Wilson, Miss Congeniality & 2nd Runner-up; Ashley Johnson, Queen Neelah LXXV; Karson Ballew, 1st Runner-up; Brooklin Royer, Miss Poise; Shayla Drake, Miss Congeniality; Rindy Marquez, Miss Beauty; Kallie Smith, Miss Interview

Queen Neelah candidates are evaluated by a panel of judges over a period of three days. As a means of introduction, each candidate presents an individual biography which gives personal background, interests, and her reason for entering the pageant. Miss Originality is chosen in part from the most original and imaginative biography. Candidates are also required to submit a portrait from which Miss Photogenic is selected.

The first opportunity for the judges to meet the candidates is the Queen's Tea held Sunday, October 22. The judges hold a private interview with each candidate on Monday, October 23. That same evening, each candidate presents a one-and-a-half- to two-minute talent presentation. Miss Talent is chosen from the most polished and entertaining of the talent numbers. On Tuesday, October 24, a brunch is held during which the candidates have a final opportunity to meet with the judges in an informal setting prior to the coronation. Over the course of time spent with the candidates, the judges also evaluate each young woman's poise, personality, personal fashion sense, and beauty. The candidates themselves select Miss Congeniality.

**Point System for Judging Queen Neelah LXXVI**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Poise</td>
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<td>Interview</td>
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<td>Judges' Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opening Presentation of Queen LXXVI Candidates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation of Candidates 1-8</td>
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<td>Selected Talent Presentations</td>
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<td>Presentation of Candidates 9-17</td>
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<td>Selected Talent Presentations</td>
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<td>Presentation of Candidates 18-23</td>
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<td>Farewell of Queen Neelah LXXV Ashley Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Announcement of Category Winners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Originality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Interview</td>
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<td>Miss Congeniality</td>
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<td>Miss Talent</td>
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<td>Announcement of Finalists</td>
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<td>2nd Runner-up</td>
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<td>1st Runner-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crowning of Queen Neelah LXXVI</td>
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Breah Collins
Collins Racing

Terra Daniels
Classy Clippers - Toni Debo

Lauren Easley
SEKTAM of Independence

Abby Ewing
Heaven’s Angels

Emily Jane Fairbank
Hello, Beautiful! Salon -
Kelly Cox & Lindsay Shaw

Pauline Gomez
Wells Fargo Advisors -
Bob Miller
Athena McGearry
Woods Lumber

Lily Melle
Jim Hayward Fine Art

Jessica Reed
Atmos Energy Corp.

Autumn Robinson
First Baptist Church

Lyssa Schabel
Penn Avenue Styles
Erin Connors

Shayla Schaper
O’Malley Equipment
Coronation Judges

Jennifer McClelland comes from the beautiful Twin Lakes area in Arkansas. Along with a successful nursing career, Jennifer continues to be involved in community service projects. She is a supporter of the local animal shelters and has taken part in fundraising for the Wounded Warrior Project. Jennifer feels that being involved within our communities and giving back to those who have served us are traits that define true beauty.

Since she was a child, Jennifer has been involved in the pageant world. She has worked as a judge, director, and of course, contestant! Even as a wife and mother, Jennifer has continued her pageant career as a Mrs. Contestant and was crowned National World's Mrs. Tourism in 2016. Jennifer hopes to inspire other wives and mothers to celebrate their beauty by competing in pageants. Jennifer resides in Arkansas with husband Vincent and two sons Corbin and Skyler.

Emilie Fitzwater is a cosmetologist of 30 years. She has been a salon owner for the past 18 years. Emilie has been involved in pageantry for 16 years from directing the Little Miss and Mister Dogwood Pageant in Lake Ozark, MO, from 2001-2005, Missouri/Kansas Sunbrust State Model Search Pageants from 2006-2008, Miss America Heartland Pageants from 2010-2015, and now the Texas/Oklahoma Coordinator for the America's US Miss Scholarship Pageant System. She is an award-winning hair and make up artist where she shows her talents from the local to international level of pageants. She has won Hair and Make Up Artist of the Year for 2016 with the American Model and Pageant Magazine and is nominated for Hairstylist of the Year 2017 with Prestige Pageantry. Emilie has judged for many pageant systems such as Miss America Co-Ed, America's US Miss, Missouri USA Ambassador, and more. She received her judging certification for the Miss America Organization in 2016. She also has been a competitor and held the national title for America's US Miss as the National Mrs. 2017 and has been crowned the America's US Miss National Lifetime Woman. Emilie resides in Osage Beach, MO, with her husband, Brent and their dog, Jackson.

Raymond I. LaPietra is the founder, CEO of Career Images Model & Talent Agency, Inc., a full-service agency that Mr. LaPietra started over 35 years ago. Career Images is one of the largest and most-active model and talent agencies in the United States, doing business in 48 U.S. states and 29 foreign countries. He represents and books models, actors, entertainers, and celebrities, for print, fashion shows, trade-show conventions, T.V. and Radio commercials, film, product endorsements, and more. Mr. LaPietra was awarded the “Outstanding Promoter of the Year” award from Donald J. Trump at the Trump Castle. Mr. LaPietra was also the recipient of two President’s Volunteer Service Awards, and the President’s “Lifetime Achievement” award granted to him by President Barack Obama and the White House Council on Service and Civic Participation, for his over 4,000 hours of national volunteer and community service. Mr. LaPietra has judged over 400 beauty pageants in his over 35+ years in the industry, and has been the Master of Ceremonies for many shows and events.
Coronation Entertainers

Neelah Debs
*Front Row:* Kaydn King, Madeline Rutledge, Kara Swearingen
*Back Row:* Kyndall Clarkson, Briana Paolini, Maeson Bryant, Anna Wesselowski, Soli Groff

Stage Escorts
Jerod Knight, Kelvin Heckman, Jeb Stafford, Josh Pralle, Cal Bloomfield

Neewollah is privileged to welcome back John Hamlin to perform as background artist for this year’s Queen Coronation. John’s wide range of playing styles and compositions include Blues/Alternative Bluegrass and Classical/Spanish and Jazz. Today John performs, distributes and markets his music throughout the world, including time spent entertaining in his home State of Kansas and the Central United States. John also operates his own guitar studio and has studied under the direction of Maestro and Mentor Edgar Cruz, also having the pleasure to study with Maestro Mike Millard and Hector Garcia where John acquired his classical guitar skills at Oklahoma City University.

Coronation Music
John Hamlin

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Talent & Coronation Emcees

Daniel Shepard is a New York-based writer and producer from Independence, KS. After graduating from Pittsburg State University in 2006, Daniel started working for the Emmy Award-winning series, *Inside the Actors Studio*, where he served as Production Associate and Associate Producer on over 60 episodes. In 2010, he co-wrote the feature film *Spencer*, which went on to win Best USA Feature Film at the New York City International Film Festival. In 2011, Daniel co-founded Woodland View Productions (with his brother, Keith) where he produced the animated series *Chicks on a Bench* (MTV), the live-action digital series *Nice Guy* (SXSW) and the animated digital series *Swimming Lessons* (Above Average, Hulu). In 2015, Daniel became Co-Founder | Head of Animation & Development at Cartuna, a Brooklyn-based digital media brand focused on making animated comedy for adults. During his time at Cartuna, he has developed over 25 animated series including *Dogs in a Park* (Comcast’s Watchable), produced the critically-acclaimed documentary *Nuts!* (Sundance, Amazon) and is currently producing the animated feature film *The Adventures of Drunky* starring Sam Rockwell, Jeffrey Tambor and Steve Coogan. Daniel has two wonderful parents (Kevin and Lea), a best friend for a brother (Keith), a soulmate for a wife (Danielle), and a Rocko for a dog.

Keith Shepard is a native of Independence and is the second, and best, son of Kevin and Lea Shepard who still reside here. He has one brother, Daniel, who doesn’t actually exist, so you shouldn’t believe anything you read in his biography. Keith was a Neewollah stage escort in 2005 and graduated from IHS in 2006. He went on to receive his B.S. in Marketing/Advertising & Promotion and his MBA with an emphasis in Marketing from Missouri State University in Springfield.

For the next several years, Keith remained in Springfield where he worked in logistics, manufacturing, and sales management until late 2016 when he moved to Kansas City. He currently lives in KC where he works with data for the IRS (yes, that IRS). Those jobs aside, Keith’s passion remains working with his brother, Daniel, writing and producing animated comedies. In 2011, Keith co-founded Woodland View Productions (with his brother, Daniel) where he produced the animated digital series *Swimming Lessons* (Above Average, Hulu). In 2015, Keith produced another animated digital series *Dogs in a Park* (Comcast’s Watchable) with his brother through Daniel’s Brooklyn-based digital media brand, Cartuna. Keep your eyes out for Keith and Daniel’s upcoming animated digital project, *Yard Sale*, chronicling the stories of three retired Midwestern teachers who run a local yard sale!
Committees

Queen's Pageant Co-directors & Candidate Co-chairs
Debbie Schroeder and Liz Pralle (Candidate co-chairs)
Lauren Ysusi and Stacey Yakshaw (Pageant co-directors)

Transportation
Hannah Yanez, Jonathon Thompson (co-chairs)

Queen's Publicity
Not Pictured: Abby Emert

Pageant Technical Director
Not Pictured: Lisa Paige

Data Workshop
Emmi Knight, Laura McClure (chair), Haley Hinthorn

Neelah Debs
Lisa Wilson, Layne Wilson (co-chairs)

Guyer Family Trust
Gen 7 @ SEK
National Sovereignty • States’ Rights
Local Control • Personal Responsibility
Proverbs 1:5, 3:5, 4:26, 5:15, 14:15, 22:28, 31:23
Independence, Kansas
Committees

Pop Party
Megan Robins, Carrie Agosto (co-chair), Emily McCambridge (co-chair), Gina Botts
Not Pictured: Ellie Chickadonz

Queen's Brunch
Shea Casurole, Toni Camacho (co-chair), Melissa Small (co-chair), Lacey Perry

Queen's Talent
Front Row: Jamie Goodwin, Kai Rannels, Brandie Reyes (co-chair), Stephanie Beurskens
Middle Row: Traci Lumm, Courtney Voelker, Denise Hines, Shannon Oakes
Back Row: Lee Stroble, Kelly Kelly, Mandy Monroy (co-chair)
Not Pictured: Carrie Waters, Amber Gregory, Jessica Coda, Beth Heckman, Stephanie Turner

Queen's Buttons/Scrapbook
Traci Lumm (scrapbook chair), Ashley Muller (button chair)

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Committees

Queen's Coronation
Front Row: Kristie Groff, Kelli Edson-Ebert, co chair, Lisa Paige, co chair, Jen Rutledge, Latisha Avery, Michelle Anderson
Back Row: Doug Groff, Sarah Coder, Benessa Jones, Laura Sanders, Lindsey Foralund (choreographer)

Not pictured: Toni and Duane Jabben, Halle and Jacob Connors, Melanie and David Merrick, Emily and Zach Bryant, Vanessa Dennis

Stage Escorts
Chad and Christy Mavers (co-chairs)

Walk-in
Shanda Chambers, Anne Bertie (co-chairs)

Queen's Ball
Front Row: Chelsea Peters, Jillian Brock (co-chair), Sarah Wilson, Taylor Zuelke
Back Row: Elizabeth Goad, Alex Moore, Lensi Helfer, Alexis McMillin, Megan Lawrence (co-chair)
Committees

Summer Workshop
Sarah Kelley (co-chair), Taryn Meeds, Angela Pasternak, Emily Clubine (co-chair), Kara McGrath

Queen's Coffee & Conversation
Ashley Beurskens, Breezy LaForge (co-chair), Sabrina Overfield (co-chair)
Not Pictured: Chris Mangan

Window Display
Pam Ysusi (chair), Amanda Brock, Jim Hayward, Lisa Cushing

Interview
Whitney Chism, Sarah Lange (co-chair), Lacy King (co-chair)

Judges Committee
Not Pictured: Tabatha Snodgrass (co-chair), Hillary Sutherland (co-chair)

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Committees

Queen Candidates Tea
Front Row: Paula Schenk, Monique Brown
Back Row: Heather Holmes, Emily Lanning, Amy Shrum (co-chair), Mindy Blackard (co-chair)
Not Pictured: Heather Estes

Pre-Parade Breakfast
Stefanie Williams, Sandra Easter (co-chair), Linda Grice, Karin Stoner (co-chair), Mandi Johnson

Queen Neelah Schedule of Events

June 11           Summer Workshop
July 9            Coffee & Conversation
August 13         Packet turn-in
September 10      Every Sunday talent practice starts
September 17      Data Workshop
October 1         Pop Party
October 8         Mock Judging
October 15        Interview/Runway/Walk-In workshop
October 22        Queens Tea
                  Talent night full dress rehearsal
October 23        Interview
                  Talent Night
October 24        Queens Brunch
                  Coronation Rehearsal
                  Coronation
October 26        Coronation Ball
October 27        Doo Dah Parade
October 28        Kiddie Parade (Queens court only)
October 29        Pre-parade breakfast
                  Grand Parade
                  Candidate Packet Pick up

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2017 Queen Neelah Trophy Donors

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<th>Trophy</th>
<th>Donated By</th>
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<tr>
<td>Queen Neelah</td>
<td>Quality Motors/Quality Toyota</td>
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<td>1st Runner Up</td>
<td>Kelly &amp; Kusiak Law Office, LLC</td>
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<td>2nd Runner Up</td>
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<td>Miss Poise</td>
<td>Indoor Storage Solutions</td>
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<td>Miss Talent</td>
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<td>Miss Originality</td>
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<td>Miss Photogenic</td>
<td>Jennifer Beurskens, DDS</td>
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<td>Miss Personality</td>
<td>Winkleman's Garden Center</td>
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<td>Miss Congeniality</td>
<td>Medicalodges and Gran Villas</td>
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Queen Neelah Pageant Gifts & Sponsors

All Candidates:
Monogrammed tote bag, monogrammed blanket, umbrella, t-shirt, Independence Community College Scholarship up to 18 hours, gift bags, thank-you cards, mini facial gift, food and snacks during rehearsals

Candidates' Gifts provided By:

- Independence Community College
- Brother's Railroad Inn
- Standard Motors
- Rodan & Fields Consultant/Melissa Small
- Penn Avenue Styles/Merle Norman Studio
- Sonic Drive-In
- Ingrid Papen
- 2B Smokin' BBQ
- Heaven's Angels
- Heckman and Associates
- Sharper Images, LLC
- CJ's Threads
- Bill & Gail Woltkamp

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Queen Neelah Pageant Gifts & Sponsors

Queen:
A crown, rose bouquet, Apple Watch, TV, use of new car and $50 gas card, framed portrait, Kendra Scott necklace & earrings, Alex and Ani Bracelet, $50 retail card, $200 merchandise gift card, $25 bakery gift certificate, gift basket, curling iron, an Independence afghan, Queen’s scrapbook, original framed painting, home and health gift basket, luggage, gift basket, health drink gift card, cooler, shellac manicure, unblemish gift basket, modeling session

1st Runner Up:
$150 merchandise gift card, TV, $25 bakery gift certificate, $30 retail gift card, luggage, health drink gift card, Kendra Scott bracelet, an Independence afghan, shellac manicure

2nd Runner Up
$100 merchandise gift card, TV, $25 bakery gift certificate, $20 retail card, luggage, health drink gift card, Kendra Scott necklace, shellac manicure

Queen and Runner Up Gift Sponsors:
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Food Vendors

Each year the Food Vendors committee starts early contacting interested parties to ensure Neewollah goers find a great mix of good food as they enjoy downtown Independence. Concession Stands are open Wednesday through Saturday, and most concessions are open late morning and stay open as late as 10 p.m. or until they run out of food supplies each night. The cinnamon roll stand has been coming to Neewollah for over 30 years. It opens early Wednesday morning and stays open 24 hours a day throughout the festival. A wide variety of food offerings include Indian tacos, Philly steak sandwiches, funnel cakes, Polish sausages, fresh lemonade, fried pickles, toasted ravioli, roasted corn, barbequed meats, smoked turkey legs, apple fritters, grinder sandwiches, pineapple whip and much, much more. In other words, there is something for everyone.

Food Vendors
Beth Chaney (co-chair), Steve Wilkin, Vanessa Dennis (co-chair)
Not Pictured: Jim Kelly, Bo Dennis, Tom Schwartz

Carnival

The Neewollah Carnival is brought to you by Ottaway Amusements. One of the favorites in the Neewollah tradition, the carnival is a plethora of glittering lights and delighted screams. The Carnival is fun for the whole family; the adults seem to enjoy the rides just as much or more than the kids do! The flashing lights and sounds of the Midway leak out even onto the bandstand.

The carnival games will be moved up by the bandstand this year.

Carnival Schedule:
Wednesday, October 25, 5-10 p.m.
Thursday, October 26, 5-10 p.m.
Friday, October 27, 3-10 p.m.
Saturday, October 28, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Carnival Ticket Prices:
Single Ticket - $3.50
Family Pack 10 Tickets - $28.00
Super Saver 30 Tickets - $75.00
Wrist Band $25.00

Wristbands ($25) will be offered during 5 different time periods and will not be accepted outside the specific time period for which they were purchased. Those times periods are:
Wednesday, October 25, 5-10 p.m.  Saturday, October 28, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thursday, October 26, 5-10 p.m.   Saturday, October 28, 5-10 p.m.
Friday, October 27, 3-10 p.m.
Doo Dah Parade

“A Spoonful of Doo Helps the Dah Go Down”
Thursday, October 26, 6 p.m.

Are you an adult who doesn’t like adulting or do you have an exciting side you are tired of keeping bottled up? If you nodded your head or even thought for a second, “Yes, that’s me!”, dress up or dress down. We want you in the Doo Dah Parade! This is your chance to be in a parade so thousands can see how fun you really are!

The Doo Dah parade lineup will be on Penn in front of Memorial Hall at 5 p.m. The parade starts moving at 6 p.m. (Must be 18 years or older to participate.)

Doo Dah Parade
Front Row: Drew Demo
Middle Row: Andrew Demo (co-chair), Brett Shaw, Geoffrey Corle, Brent Bohr, (co-chair)
Back Row: Sean Clapp, Derek Kimzey, Dustin Cain
Not Pictured: Jason Bailey, Bret Kelley

Doo Dah Royalty

Shawn and Amy Bloomfield are excited to have a spoonful of sugar this year to help the Dah go down! They have been very involved in Neewollah for many years. Shawn is the owner of Sonic Drive-In and is always willing to donate and to volunteer where he is needed. (Usually getting pulled into whatever Amy is doing.) Amy is a 1st grade teacher at Eisenhower Elementary and has served on numerous committees for Neewollah. Some committees that she has been involved in are Talent Co-Chair, Talent Committee, Coronation Committee, Neelah Deb Co-Chair, Walk In Committee, Queens Ball, and Program Book. She has performed in several Neewollah plays with her favorite being Young Frankenstein where she portrayed “Inga”. They have three children, Madison, Cal, and Mallory. They believe “in every job that must be one there is an element of fun!”

King & Queen Doo Dah
Shawn & Amy Bloomfield

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St. John Kids Immunization Clinic
Wed: 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
*Children under the age of 19

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Kiddie Parade

Friday, October 27 • 4 p.m.

The Kiddie Parade is one of the most endearing parts of our annual festival. Over 900 children, area middle school bands, and numerous kiddie floats participate in the parade. Many come home for the weekend festivities. The parade gives an opportunity for parents and children to see, be seen and connect with friends. The Kiddie Parade participants gather in front of Memorial Hall and join their category. This year’s categories are Pre-K, Kindergarten - 2nd Grades, Families, 3rd - 5th Grades, 6th grade and up, Wheels, Animals and Pets. Parents usually accompany their young children along the parade route.

Grand Parade

Saturday, October 28 • 11 a.m.

The parade goers will all wait in anticipation of the Big Boom! That lets everyone know the Neewollah Grand Parade is about to begin. All eyes, young and old, will be scanning the busy street before them trying to take it all in.

The two hour long Grand Parade will start at the corner of Penn and Chestnut. It proceeds from Memorial Hall south on Penn Ave. to Main St., then east on Main St. to Sixth St., south one block to Maple where it turns west to Ninth St. The final leg travels north on Ninth St. ending just short of the Independence Middle School. The Grand Parade is exceedingly well attended. Parade goers set up chairs on the front row in the wee hours of the morning on parade day. They wait with great anticipation for the cannon to go off, sounding a loud boom at 11 a.m. The crowd will be five deep in many places along the route. There are free street acts, the carnival and food concessions along Penn Ave. both before and after the Neewollah Grand Parade.

Grand Parade Route

[Map of parade route with legend: Carnival, Bandstand, Deli, Booth, Middle School, Memorial Hall, LOCUST, CHESTNUT, LAUREL, MYRTLE, PENN, 10th St., 9th St., 8th St., 7th St., 6th St., 5th St., 4th St., 3rd St., 2nd St., 1st St., Main St., Street, Maple.]

Kiddie Parade
Back Row: Alex Moore, Tabitha Easley, Chris Moore (co-chair)
Front Row: Amy Easley (co-chair), Debbie Moore

Grand Parade
Front Row: Drew Demo
Middle Row: Andrew Demo, Brett Shaw (co-chair), Geoffrey Corle (co-chair), Brent Bohr
Back Row: Sean Clapp, Derek Kimzey, Dustin Cain
Not Pictured: Lance Chickadonz, Tim Kleiber, David Bryant
Sean Clapp is honored to be this year's Grand Parade Marshal. Originally from Kirksville, Missouri, Sean moved to Independence in 1995 to work for Heckman & Associate Architects after graduating from the University of Kansas with a BA in Architecture.

Sean started volunteering in the community during the Neewollah Musical of King and I in 1996. Over the past 21 years, he has been involved with numerous Neewollah musicals performing such duties as set construction, stage crew member, stage manager, and producer. Sean and also be involved with the Grand Parade for numerous years. He has served on the Neewollah Queen's Coronation Set committee, the security committee, the special events committee as well as the Professional Show. Sean was Neewollah board member for nine years and was the Generalissimo in 2009. He served as vice chair for one year before serving as Board Chairman for 3 years. He retired from the board in 2014.

Sean also volunteers for the William Inge Festival, ICC Dancing with the Indy Stars, and the St. Andrew Catholic School Gala. In addition to his volunteer activities, he serves as the Vice Chair of the Independence Historical Resource Commission, a FORPAZ board member and is a member of the American Institute of Architecture (AIA) as well as the Kansas Chapter of the AIA.

Sean has three children Alexis, Elizabeth and Owen.
2016 Grand Parade Winners

Sweepstakes Trophy:  
Most Outstanding Float Entry  
Standard Motor Products

Generalissimo's Trophy:  
Best Float Conforming to Neewollah Theme  
Standard Motor Products

Grand Prize Trophy:  
Most Outstanding Commercial Float  
First Oak Bank

Judge's Trophy:  
Most Beautiful Float  
Newkirk, Dennis & Buckles

Mayor's Trophy:  
Best Use of Color  
Zion Lutheran Church & School

Grand Marshal's Trophy:  
Most Outstanding Non-Commercial Float  
Independence Rotary Club

Queen's Trophy:  
Best Overall Design  
Commercial Bank

Governor's Trophy:  
Most Outstanding Float From Outside Independence  
Cherokee Casino
Arts & Crafts Fair

100 Block of East Myrtle
Downtown Independence
Saturday, October 28 • 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Arts & Crafts Show has been a mainstay of the Neewollah festival. Over the years, bringing in high-quality handcrafted items has been a priority. This is a great time to shop for Christmas. Unusual and distinctive crafts, framed artwork, and photos abound with 35-40 booths. This year they can be found in front of the VFW in the 100 block of East Myrtle.

Marching Band Competition

Shulthis Stadium - Kayo Emmot Field
Saturday, October 28 • 1:30 p.m.

Once again this year, Shulthis Stadium will be crowded to overflowing and alive with the sound of marching music. The Marching Band Festival will begin at 1:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon at Shulthis Stadium for approximately 20-25 marching bands from Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arkansas. The festival is sanctioned by the KHSAA. The festival was started in 1978 by band director, Don Farthing, along with I.H.S. Band Boosters. Since the event began, it has quadrupled in size.

Many of the bands march in the Grand Parade so they will be eligible to participate in the Marching Band Festival. The Independence High School Band Boosters will operate a concession stand throughout the afternoon. The public is invited to attend the festival, and this year it will cost $3.00 at the gate.
Professional Show

Saturday October 28 • 8 p.m. • Bandstand

Kyndon Oakes has been a star on one stage or another practically his whole life. Growing up in a combination of Pueblo, Colorado and Independence, Kansas he performed onstage in the school choirs and in plays from the time he was a small boy. Singing quickly became a lifelong passion for him. He equally loved sports, finding his exceptional ability as a tailback early on the football field and also shining on the baseball diamond as well throughout his early years growing up.

"I've been singing and playing sports for as long as I can remember," says Oakes about his dual loves. "I would sing in talent shows, and in choir the same week we had football games on Friday nights...it was just always something I loved doing."

His natural ability and success in sports led to him to being recruited by several Ivy League schools for football scholarships during high school as his grades scholarship drew attention from schools like Harvard, Yale, and Dartmouth. After electing instead to play college baseball for two years, he decided to transfer to CSU-Pueblo, CO, to walk on as a football player there. But after making the team's specialty squad, he broke an ankle two weeks before the season, so he decided to turn his full attention at that point to his music and performing. He eventually transferred to Nashville to receive his degree in exercise science and pursue his passion for performing full time.

Though he didn't even pick up a guitar until he was 17, Kyndon quickly began picking out chords and writing songs, and upon moving to Nashville found some kindred writers partners in fellow artists/writers like Susie Brown from the former duo the JaneDear Girls and former "American Idol" finalist Josh Gracin. His writing buddy, Mark Vikingstad became another frequent collaborator as he began to make inroads into the Nashville music scene.

Influenced by all kinds of music growing up, he found himself especially drawn to the stories and emotions country music offered, in both contemporary and 90's country, from power ballads like John Michael Montgomery to the soulful sounds of David Nail. Inspired by artists like the Goo Goo Dolls, Don Henley, Bruce Hornsby, and Gavin DeGraw, Kyndon began to carve out his own special sound and brand of country, evident in songs like the sparkling up-tempo song, "Drive" or the heart wrenching ballad titled "What If You're Wrong."

Hard at work on new music, Kyndon is looking forward to sharing his latest songs with fans very soon. As a writer he possesses an uncanny ability to tap into those universal emotions that stir the soul in songs like the upbeat "Domino," a fun tune lamenting the hold a girl has over a guy she's just met the first time he lays eyes on her. Or on the opposite end of the spectrum in his song "Hands," a love song inspired by the miracle birth story of his brother's youngest child. "Mark and I wrote that song and that's where we came up with "Hands" explains Kyndon. "He and his wife adopted their first child at birth because they were having trouble having children. His wife Shannon then miraculously became pregnant, and they had their own little boy. He ended up being born prematurely five weeks early, though, and I remember talking to him about how helpless they felt watching the little guy in that incubator and how much they wanted to just hold him and take away his pain and isolation and be there for him. And that just inspired me so much that we came up with our song "Hands."

The hardworking Kansas native is apt to find inspiration any where these days as he navigates his path towards country stardom, and though it can be a tempestuous path, Kyndon has never been one to shy away from a challenge or hard work, and is eager to make his mark on the country scene having lived in Nashville the last 7 years. "I'm about working hard and grew up that way with a supportive mother and father who remain a big part of my life. I believe nothing worth having comes easy, and I think that shows in who I am and what I stand for, and comes through in my music. And I just hope people enjoy my music as much as I enjoy making it."
Bandstand Schedule

**Wednesday, October 25**
11:30 a.m. IHS Orchestra
6-6:45 p.m. John Hamlin (Solo Guitar)
6:45-7:30 p.m. Motley Two (80s Rock Acoustic Duo)
7:30-8:15 p.m. First Baptist Church (Praise)
8:30 p.m. Queen Neelah and the Generalissimo
8:35 p.m. Neelah Debs
8:45-9 p.m. IHS Band
9-9:15 p.m. IHS Drum Line
9:15-10 p.m. Christ Church of Neodesha (Praise)

**Thursday, October 26**
7-8 p.m. Del Shields (Cowboy Singer/Poet)
8:30-10 p.m. Bryton Stoll (Country)

**Friday, October 27**
5:30 p.m. Straight Away (Rock)
6:45 p.m. Galaxia (Rock)
8 p.m. Mark Claytor (Rock)
9:15 p.m. Edge over Edge (Rock)
10:15 p.m. CMND (Rock)

**Saturday, October 28**
1 p.m. The Caddywhompus Band (Rock/Blues/Funk)
3:30-5:30 p.m. The Band Delorean (Rock/R&B/Blues)
5:45 p.m. R&S Studios (Dance)
Street Acts

John Hamlin succeeds in merging styles of instrumental guitar music not normally found in the same room together. Blues/Alternative Bluegrass and Classical/Spanish and Swamp music seem to be fully represented within John's playing and compositions. While devoted to the emotive side of the instrument, John demonstrates considerable technical prowess. His own musical vision is a blending of beauty with technique to bring forth the many voices that the steel-string and classical guitar can manifest.

Del Shields is a nationally known Cowboy Singer Song writer, Entertainer, Cowboy Poet. These talents have earned him the positions of host and featured entertainer on Best of America by Horseback television show on RFD TV for the past twelve years. He also hosts his own world wide radio show, DelShieldswesternworld on Betterhorsesnetwork.com.

Bryton Stoll started playing guitar when he was 11, started writing songs when he was 14, and made his first CD when he was 16. Since then he has picked up several more instruments, recorded 2 more CDs, and played hundreds of shows in the bars and honky-tons of Kansas and Nebraska. Now he is taking a new step in his musical career: his debut, full-length, studio quality album, "Finger on the Trigger", a collection of 10 original songs that were written across 3 years of his life.

Caddywhompus is truly a lineup of Indy All-stars. Caddywhompus includes John Hamlin on bass guitar, Cherrryvale native, Jacob Lyon, is driving the groove on drums, Donnie Fuqua on guitar, and one of Indy's hometown favorites, Nate Bunn, on vocals and guitar. Led by the melodies and lyrics from Nate, this band is making waves in the area. Everyone has been talking about them. They have their own style of Funk/Rock/Blues that just makes you want to get up, get happy and dance.

The Delorean Band is a five piece cover band from the four-state area comprised of some of the most talented and experienced professional musicians around. Their shows encompass all of the following music styles: Top 40, Pop, Blues, Rock, Funk, Country, R&B, Jazz and Soul. They acclimate our set list to best suit the type of crowd or venue.

2017 Neewollah Supporters

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Neewollah Committees

Generalissimo's Scrapbook  Marci Hornig
Sanitation  Keith Confer
Spotlight  Jim Kelly
Professional Show  John Hamlin

Security  Sean Clapp, Jeff Gettler
Publicity, Generalissimo's Assistant, Advertising  Kathy Woods, Jonathon Thompson, Anne Bertie

Program Book  Kathy Clapp (co-chair), Stacy Near (co-chair), Amy Bloomfield (co-chair)
Compliance  Jeff Gettler, Stacey Yakshaw
Neewollah Committees

Brochure
Tom Posch
Not Pictured: Mandy Monroy

Website
Not Pictured: Mary Thompson-O'Rourke, Marci Horning (chair), Lisa Paige, Carin Barwick

Social Media
Not Pictured: Lori Wesselowski (co-chair), Janet Demo (co-chair)

Sponsorship
Not Pictured: Lori Wesselowski, Sabrina Overfield

Special Events
Drew Demo (co-chair), Andrew Demo, Sean Clapp (co-chair)

Kick-Off Party
Front Row: Bria Fabrizius, Lyndi Easter
Back Row: Dana Anderson, Heather Fabrizius, Sandra Easter (chair)

Street Acts
Erin Connors, Donnie Fuqua (chair), Tracy Connors

Don't Be Afraid TO BE GREAT
THANKS TO NEEWOLLAH FOR TRUSTING US TO DESIGN AND PRINT THIS YEAR'S LOGO, POSTERS, PROGRAMS, AND HEADQUARTERS MERCHANDISE.

620-331-5040
422 W. MAIN STREET • INDEPENDENCE, KANSAS
GRASS ROOTS DESIGN GROUP
GRAPHIC DESIGN • PRINTING • SIGNAGE • BANNERS
CUSTOM APPAREL • AD SPECIALTIES • DIRECT MAIL
<table>
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<td>Tim Emert &amp; Judy Carroll</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Bye, Bye Birdie</td>
<td>Keith Confer</td>
<td>Steve Wilkis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>The Pajama Game</td>
<td>Lisa Mitchell</td>
<td>Vanessa Dennis &amp; Cyndy Sherwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>The King &amp; I</td>
<td>Lisa Mitchell</td>
<td>Sandy Dodson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>The Wizard of Oz</td>
<td>Jill Warford</td>
<td>Stewart Crow &amp; Steve DeFever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Peter Pan</td>
<td>Debbie Tincher</td>
<td>Stewart &amp; Ann Crow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Cinderella</td>
<td>Sue Woods</td>
<td>Beth Chaney &amp; Vanessa Dennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Hello Dolly!</td>
<td>Lisa Mitchell</td>
<td>Lea Shepard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Annie</td>
<td>Lisa Mitchell</td>
<td>Vanessa Dennis &amp; Steve Wilkis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Brigadoon</td>
<td>Mark Frank</td>
<td>Tim Emert, Judy Carroll &amp; David Torbett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Little Shop of Horrors</td>
<td>Keith Confer</td>
<td>Steve Wilkis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Meet Me in St. Louis</td>
<td>Debbie Tincher</td>
<td>Don Farthing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Neewollah Follies</td>
<td>Lisa Mitchell</td>
<td>Leslie Coder &amp; Sandy Annable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Beauty and the Beast</td>
<td>Lisa Mitchell</td>
<td>Bob &amp; Debbie Tincher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Li' Abner</td>
<td>Ray Rothgeb</td>
<td>Drew Demo &amp; Leslie Coder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Joseph &amp; The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoast</td>
<td>Lisa Mitchell Paige</td>
<td>Don Farthing &amp; Sean Clapp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Thoroughly Modern Millie</td>
<td>Lisa Paige</td>
<td>Ann Crow &amp; Lisa Paige</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>The Music Man</td>
<td>Mark Frank</td>
<td>Keith Confer &amp; Drew Demo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Willy Wonka &amp; The Chocolate Factory</td>
<td>Rick Huguenin</td>
<td>Sarah Wilson &amp; Lori Wesselowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Grease</td>
<td>Lois Lessman &amp; Lisa Paige</td>
<td>Stacey Neary &amp; Lea Shepard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Young Frankenstein</td>
<td>Lois Lessman</td>
<td>Drew Demo &amp; Keith Confer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Honk!</td>
<td>Bruce Peterson</td>
<td>Kelli Eisdon-Ebert, Lori Wesselowski &amp; Sarah Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Damn Yankees</td>
<td>Lois Lessman &amp; Lisa Paige</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>The Little Mermaid</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Neewollah Board of Directors is made up of 15 members who are elected for three-year terms, and each can serve for up to three terms. New board members are often selected based on their active involvement in the festival, and the expertise they bring to the board table. These individuals often assume positions of leadership in the overall running of the festival. The Generalissimo is most likely to be a board member. He or she has a year as Generalissimo-elect to become more fully acquainted with all facets of the celebration before moving into command.

Neewollah 2018

Neewollah 2017 "Practically Perfect in Every Way!" has been an exciting experience for all of the Neewollah 2017 committees. Neewollah is an Independence tradition, and preparations for next year’s celebration are already in progress. Tentative dates for the 2018 festival are October 19-through October 27. To obtain information for Neewollah 2018, like us on facebook or at www.neewollah.com.

Neewollah
PO Box 311 • Independence, KS 67301
1-877-NEE-WOLLAH (1-877-633-9655) • www.neewollah.com
**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Wednesday, October 25**
- 8:30 p.m.: Neevollowh Carnival

**Thursday, October 26**
- 6:30 p.m.: Doo Dah Parade
- 9:30 a.m.: Bandstand Entertainment

**Friday, October 27**
- 6:30 p.m.: A Spoonful of Doo Helps the Dall Go Down
- 9:30 a.m.: Bandstand Entertainment
- 5:00 p.m.: Ottawa Carnival

**Saturday, October 28**
- 6:30 p.m.: Bandstand Entertainment
- 5:00 p.m.: Ottawa Carnival

**Sunday, October 29**
- 6:30 p.m.: Bandstand Entertainment

**Monday, October 30**
- 6:30 p.m.: Bandstand Entertainment

**Tuesday, October 31**
- 6:30 p.m.: Bandstand Entertainment

**Wednesday, October 31**
- 6:30 p.m.: Bandstand Entertainment