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YAKIMA'S 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION TO DEBUT "YAKIMA APPLEJAM: BATTLE OF THE BANDS"

This year's 4th of July Celebration just got a little more competitive as musicians from around the area are invited to compete for more than \$1,500 in cash and prizes along with a spot performing at this year's Central Washington State Fair.

Starting Thursday, April 27th, musicians will be able to visit **YakimaAppleJam.com** and provide a link to a performance, along with a photo and a bio. They will also be able to choose to compete in either the solo or the band contest.

On May 18th, all the entries will be made available on **YakimaAppleJam.com** for public voting. "The first part of the selection process will depend on bands motivating their friends, family and fans to get out and vote," said organizer Paul Crawford, Digital Director of yakimaherald.com.

The top vote-getters in the first round will be invited to perform live at **Yakima's 4th of July Celebration at State Fair Park** to compete for cash and prizes.

Musicians will be ranked by VIP judges according to ability, crowd enthusiasm, stage presence and more. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded before the fireworks celebration begins.

The highest ranked band will win \$1,000 and highest ranked solo performance will win \$500.

The contests are open to all ages and all musical types, and there are no entry fees to compete.

"We have a lot of talent here in the Yakima Valley," said Crawford, "It's time we celebrate these amazing artists with a fun family-friendly contest in front of a great big crowd."

YAKIMA APPLEJAM is a free event and is produced by the Yakima Herald-Republic and Radio Yakima. Support is provided by the City of Yakima and the Central Washington State Fair.

This year's 4th of July Celebration is scheduled from Noon to 11:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 4th, at State Fair Park, 1301 South Fair Avenue, Yakima.

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