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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Eastern Idaho State Fair Announces 2016 Grand Marshal**

### **Jack Olney Dedicated 50 Years to EISF**

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Blackfoot, ID – The Eastern Idaho State Fair Board of Directors has named Jack Olney as Grand Marshal of this year's Eastern Idaho State Fair. Jack Olney has served the Eastern Idaho State Fair for over 50 years and will be honored as the Grand Marshal for the 2016 fair. He will lead the annual EISF Parade down Shilling Avenue on Saturday, September 3, at 10 am.

"The fair's greatness is the result of individuals who put their heart and soul into its success," said Brandon Bird, General Manager of the State Fair. "Jack is without doubt one of those people who gave so much to the fair for over half a century."

A Blackfoot native, Olney started working with his father at the fair in 1954 as a security guard, ensuring the barns, livestock and other exhibits were protected during the night. From there, he was promoted to Gatekeeper and went to serve as the Gate Superintendent from 1987-2010, where he managed all the tickets, parking and employees needed to move things efficiently. All in all, he's been associated with the Eastern Idaho State Fair for 52 years.

"I have seen all the big changes over the years from the new barns and commercial spaces to improved restrooms," says Olney. "But one thing that hasn't changed is what the fair does for the economy of our community. This fair really put Blackfoot on the map."

Besides changes on the grounds, Olney believes the entertainment has gotten bigger and better over the past five decades. "I come to the fair every day during fair week because of the variety of the free stages," says Olney. "Once you've paid to get in, there is something to keep everyone entertained."

Olney worked for the City of Blackfoot as the Water Department Superintendent until retiring in 1995. He and his wife, Valine, raised two children and now have six

grandchildren. They have enjoyed their retirement years exploring the United States and Canada via motorhome with the Good Sam Recreational Vehicle club, of which he is a past president.

Olney has earned title of Grand Marshal for his immense love and service to the fair and his service to the east Idaho community.

See Grand Marshal Jack Olney leading the 2016 Eastern Idaho State Fair Parade at 10 am on Saturday, September 3. Each year, hundreds of spectators and Fairgoers gather along Shilling Avenue to watch the annual parade travel from Rich Street to East Alice Street. For spectators and over 125 entry participants alike, the annual parade brings tradition and hometown fun for Opening Day of the 2016 Eastern Idaho State Fair-which runs Saturday, September 3, through Saturday, September 10.

Complete schedules and 2016 Fair information can be found at [www.funatthefair.com](http://www.funatthefair.com).

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*The Eastern Idaho State Fair is a 16 County Fair District. Over 230,000 people visit the annual event, making it Eastern Idaho's longest running and largest community event. The mission of the EISF is to provide wholesome, affordable family education and entertainment in a clean and safe agricultural environment. Eat, Drink, and BE HAPPY at the 2016 fair  
September 3 – September 10!*