

Fair well underway; much more ahead

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Thursday, 16 August 2012 12:59 -

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Even though several Chase County Fair events are in the books, there are five more days of events until the fair officially concludes Sunday, Aug. 19.

Nice breezy weather greeted the 20 participants in Sunday's 4-H horse show. It followed another comfortable day Saturday when 42 dogs and their owners competed in the fifth annual cattedog trials.

The 4-H dog and cat shows, entry day at the exhibit building, along with entering beef, sheep and swine was held Tuesday morning. Other fun events in the arena were held that afternoon and evening.

Activity on the grounds was bustling on Monday, as the Heart of America carnival moved in and was making good progress setting up for their 5 p.m. opening Wednesday.

Food booths were moving in Monday, as were exhibitors for the 12 noon opening Wednesday of the expo, northwest of the main walkway into the fairgrounds.

Wednesday, Aug. 15

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Wednesday began with the 4-H and FFA swine show in the show arena at 8 a.m., followed by the sheep show at 11 a.m. No goats are entered this year. The poultry and rabbit show is set for 2 p.m.

At noon, the largest expo in the tri-state area featuring farm equipment, vehicles, service companies, apparel and more opens at 12 noon and runs through 7 p.m. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday the expo is open from 12 noon to 10 p.m.

The 4-H exhibit building opens to the public at 12:30 p.m., and opens each subsequent day through Saturday at 12:30, closing each night at 8:30 p.m.

Lions bingo kicks off for its four-day run at 3 p.m. and will be open until 12 midnight, continuing 3 p.m. to midnight Thursday and from 1 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

Activities in the arena begin at 3 p.m. with the mutton bustin' for kids ages 5-7 who weigh no more than 60 pounds. The frozen t-shirt contest follows at 4 p.m., which is open to all ages.

From 5-7 p.m., there's a bratwurst supper outside the grandstand area to benefit the Mercy Meals program.

The carnival opens at 5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and will run until 11 p.m. The carnival will open at 3:30 p.m. Friday and 1 p.m. Saturday. A mega pass good for riding all week is available, and well as daily carnival ride specials.

A late addition announced last week is a bounce house and mechanical bull. The bounce house will open at 1 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, closing each day at 6 p.m. For \$5, youngsters can gain access to the bounce house all day.

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The free Christian Family Show begins at 7 p.m. in the grandstand, featuring allison, casto & williams.

The evening wraps up with a square dance beginning at 8 p.m. in the open air pavilion.

Thursday, Aug. 16

Kicking off Thursday's events is the ABATE breakfast, served this year at the Eagles food stand from 6 to 10 a.m. It continues Friday and Saturday from 6 to 10 a.m.

The largest of the livestock shows, the 4-H/FFA beef show, starts at 8:30 a.m. This year, 66 animals will compete in five categories. Forty-two were entered in the market beef divisions.

At 1 p.m., budding entertainers of all ages will be in the open air pavilion for the "Got Talent?" show. Sue Moore of KADL Radio, one of the co-sponsors, said she's already received 14 entries. Preregistration is preferred no later than Thursday morning by calling her at 882-4209 or stopping by the KADL office in Imperial. Cash prizes will be awarded and the first place winner also wins a trip of their choice.

Capping off Thursday's events is the 24th annual demolition derby in the grandstand arena, sponsored by the Imperial Jaycees.

Friday, Aug. 17

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It gets busier on Friday, with the first night of grandstand shows, the bobtail truck show entries, pedal tractor pull, hypnotist shows, horseshoes and the 4-H livestock auction on the schedule.

4-H and FFA members will have one last chance for competition at the round robin showmanship contest at 9 a.m. Here, participants individually judge a horse, swine, sheep and beef cattle for an overall score. Earlier at 8 a.m. is the 4-H rocket launch on the east part of the fairgrounds.

Check-in for the two-day truck show, to be set up in the school parking lot, starts at 10 a.m. Later in the afternoon at 3 p.m., there will be a truck burnout contest on East 9th St. by the school. A truck light show will follow the Travis Tritt/Hunter Hayes grandstand show that night.

Pedal tractor pullers, age four to 12, registration begins in the open air pavilion at 11:30 a.m. for the 12:30 p.m. contest. Winners receive prizes and first place winners can compete at state fair.

Horseshoes will fly from 1 to 5 p.m. during the open horseshoe pitching contest south of the livestock show arena.

At 2 p.m. is the 4-H livestock auction in the show arena.

A pair of free shows by hypnotist Ray Thompson are scheduled at 3 and 5 p.m. in the open air pavilion.

Country singer Travis Tritt and newcomer Hunter Hayes will headline the 7:30 p.m. grandstand show.

A dance with Night Sounds will follow.

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Saturday, Aug. 18

Preregistration numbers appear to be running ahead of this time last year for Saturday's fair run which includes a 5K, 10K, one-mile run/walk and kids' half mile. Registration starts at 6:30 a.m., the kids' half-mile race (for age 12 and under) starts at 7:15 a.m., followed by the 5K, 10K and mile start at 7:30 a.m.

Coordinator Jonathan Beverly noted all kids 12 and under can participate at no charge, no matter which race they compete in. Others will have a fee of \$18 on race day. Start and finish of all races is at the west end of the fairgrounds, 7th and Park Streets.

The course has been modified for 10K runners. They will double up the 5K route, Beverly said, to avoid setup for the car shows.

The bobtail truck show opens at 9 a.m. with awards at 5 p.m. Visitors will be able to vote for a "People's Choice" winner. The show will also sponsor fireworks between bands at Saturday's grandstand show.

One of the biggest events of the entire fair is the parade, set to start at 10th and Wellington Streets at 10:30 a.m. It then travels down Broadway, concluding at 4th St. This year's theme is "Homegrown Success" and entries will vie for two places in business, organizations, religious, equestrian and open class divisions.

Following the parade, the Imperial Young Farmers & Ranchers will again host their BBQ at 7th and Wellington St. People can cap off the meal with pie and ice cream provided across the street at St. Patrick Church by the Knights of Columbus.

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The classic car show, the corvette classic and motorcycle shows start at 12 noon. The car shows will be set up along Wellington St., and some of the side streets west of the fairgrounds. The motorcycle show returns to the main entry way to the fairgrounds. Winners in various divisions will be named in each show.

Afternoon events include the dance crew contest at 1:30 p.m. in the open air pavilion, a Chase County horseshoe pitching contest from 1 to 5 p.m. and two more hypnotist shows at 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Closing out the evening will be the rock grandstand show featuring Brian Howe, former lead singer for Bad Company, and Theory of a Deadman.

On Sunday, the 11th annual antique tractor pull gets underway at 10 a.m., closing out the fair activities.

All livestock, 4-H and open class exhibits will be released Sunday.