

This year's 35th fair run comes with much history

Written by Wauneta Breeze
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While the start/finish of this year's Chase County Fair Run will be in front of Chase County Schools on East 9th St., much of the rest of the route will be very similar to previous years. Last year's race, above, drew the most participants in the 35-year history with 156 registered for all distances. (Imperial Republican file photo)

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

The Chase County Fair Run will mark its 35th year later this month when the event draws runners and walkers from a wide area on Saturday morning, Aug. 17.

Registrations are now being taken for the kids' half mile (under 12), one mile, 5K and 10K events that are all part of the morning activities.

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A big change this year will be the start and finish, which is moving to Chase County Schools on East 9th St. It will provide a wider, more spacious area at the start, as well as plentiful parking in two lots by the school.

Registration the morning of the race starts at 6:30 a.m.

This year, the kids' half mile will be held at the school track nearby, and will be held after the other races at about 8:45 a.m. The awards ceremony will start about 9 a.m.

Participants this year will receive hats with a 35th year logo.

Cost to participate for adults is \$15 before Aug. 11, and \$18 after that and on the day of the race. Kids half-mile run participants are free.

Registration information can be found on the "Schedule" link at the top of the page at chasecountyfair.com, or at Imperial Super Foods.

While looking back over the years of the fair run, Jonathan Beverly of Imperial, one of the race co-directors, compiled 10 fun facts about the Chase County Fair Run, which are attached.

Fair Run facts

NINE RUNNERS PARTICIPATED in the inaugural 10K run in 1979, including locals Pat McNair, Lyle Grosbach, Marshall Martin, Terry Schuman, Rick Gladue, Bruce Vires and Del Schuman.

A 5K WAS FIRST ADDED in 1982, and the start and finish were moved that year from north of town to Broadway in front of the McNair Agency offices.

THE COURSE HAS CHANGED three times since: It moved to the east side of town in 1992 to celebrate the building of the new school, back to the west side in 1995 heading out of town from the pool and back to the east side in 2003, starting and finishing at the fairgrounds.

THE EVENT RECORD for the men's 10K of 33:09 was set by Randy Mather of Goodland, KS in 1989. The women's event record is held by Susan Bennett of Holyoke, CO with a 40:40 in 1984. Second best 10K times are held by Mark Gokie with a 33:10 in 1982, and Lyndsy Schultz, who ran 40:55 in 2006.

IN THE 5K, the event record for men was set by Kevin Gockley of Grant with a time of 14:53 in 1984. Gockley holds the four fastest times recorded in the 5K. For women, Michelle (Dill) May holds the two fastest 5K times, with her 19:28 record, set in 2009, 30 seconds faster than the next best time in race history, set by Marlene Mustion of McCook in 1984.

WOMEN RUNNERS have crossed the line first—ahead of all men as well as the other women—three times in race history. Lyndsy Schultz did it in the 10K in 2005 and 2006 and Michelle May accomplished the feat in the 5K in 2011.

2012 HAD THE LARGEST NUMBER of participants, with 156 registered and 143 finishers in all of the distances. 2009 had the second highest with 123 runners, while the 1990 and 2010 editions tied for the third largest at 119 participants.

WAYNE WALLACE OF NORTH PLATTE has won the most medals in race history with a total of 18 awards. For women, Crystal (Jaeger) Peterson has the most with 13 medals accumulated over the years.

MARV METZER OF MCCOOK, the oldest finisher in race history, completed the 10K at age 83 in 2011, capping a streak of 12 finishes dating from 2000. He had to skip the 2012 event due to a health issue, but is registered for the 10K again in 2013.

PAT MCNAIR FOUNDED the race and will be directing the kid's run in 2013. Brad and Jill Moline and Jonathan and Tracy Beverly have co-directed the race since 2003.

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