

McDonald celebrates 125th birthday

By Norma Martinez
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McDonald's anniversary celebration, for 125 years of the good life on the plains was off to a banging start on Saturday at 8 a.m. with the McDonald Sesquicentennial 10K and 5K Road Races for runners and walkers, and 1-mile race for runners, walkers, and stroller-pushers. See article on the results.

Parade watchers were walking up and down both sides of the street looking to see how many names they could recognize in the new sidewalks. These sidewalks were stamped with names and dates as a memorial to families, individuals or business' that paid for a square. It's worth the stop just to take the "Walk Down Memory Lane."

Several alumni members from out of town were checking out the new changes made to the McDonald Grocery, owned by Barb and Alan Antholz. Mr. Antholz was greeting folks and telling the history of the store. He also pointed out that the grocery store and liquor store down the street were the only two open businesses remaining in McDonald besides the post office and the Co-op.

Others were sitting on the new white benches or in the chairs they brought with them. Children were anxiously waiting with their bags which they filled to the brim with candy during the parade.

The parade began at 10:30 a.m. with George Louderbaugh announcing the 57 entrees: American Legion - Sam Hubbard Post, Cheyenne County's Young Miss, Stephanie Busse, Cheylin band - director Rose Hengen was playing the trumpet with one hand as she held onto the side with the other hand, grand marshal's - Leonard

Vyzourek and Eleanor Swihart in Vyzourek and Charlene Kramer's 1959 Ford, Rawlins County Health Center, Kansas Army National Guard, Laverne and Rodney Klepper - two generations of families, Cheyenne Shrine Club, Hawkins Farms, Harry Bearley, Raymond Johnson families, McDonald Coop Equity, Mayor Gary Loker, Chuck Wagoner, Patti Kelley Wagoner, Janice and Gilbert Antholz, McCain Trucking, McDonald Town and Country Club, Hiss-Sherman Wealth Management, McDonald Lions Club represented 82 years of service to McDonald, The Bank - Atwood and Bird City, The Red Hatters - McDonald and Bird City, Levi Pochop family, The Craftsman's Corner, Pochop Farm and Ranch, Dave Flemming, McDonald Area Development, Harlan Hubbard, Federated Church - Awana Club, Curby Poore, Tom Aschenbrenner three generations, Lyle Worthy, Marty Kopriva, Gary Taylor, Loker Retail Liquor, Federated Church - Ladies Guild, Gabi Pochop - Snowflake, Beaver Creek Carriages, McGilvray Farms with their Clydesdales and stage coach, Samson family with four generations, Leonard Golden

Grains, Laurie Leonard, CPA, Vyzourek Family, Craig and Hal Antholz families, Peoples State Bank, Banister Farms, McDonald Rescue Truck, McDonald Fire Truck, McDonald Rural Fire Truck, Judge Dorothy Reinert, Cheylin Sanitation, Dennis Howard families, and Abigail Schneider walked both sides passing out small American flags to everyone.

The elementary gym was lined up with quilts of all patterns and Mini Museum Memorabilia. The hand quilted, Queen Size quilt made with "Kansas Troubles Material" was on display. Jan Curtin from Atwood was the lucky winner with her name drawn from the 2,752 tickets. Joe Cramer, and Penny Loker from McDonald, Kirk Lowry from Atwood and Alex Hengen from Bird City were winners of a bundle of a fourth of a beef. Winners of the Memory Quiz were Mae Enfield, who won a wall hanging and Albert Antholz, a knife.

Vendors with a variety of tastes set up outside were: Chuck Wagon Tacos, Pizza from The Corner Pocket Bar and Grill in Atwood, the Cheyenne Shrine Club wagon with popcorn, snow cones and cotton candy. Inside the fire station shell, Cheylin senior class was selling, brats, hamburgers, hot dogs, and soft serve ice cream. The Estrada family was selling pork and beef burritos.

For entertainment for the kids there was a large cattle tank full of corn with buried prizes, a blow-up castle jumping gym, the Cheylin Spirit Squad was doing face painting, there was a bean bag pitch, and barrel rides. The most popular one was the string of barrels made into horses. The McGilvray family was giving stage coach rides to anyone who wanted to ride.

Vendors were Sentsy, Duck Salt with her ladies clothing, jewelry and purses, Tony Lazerach from Nebraska had all sorts of wind spinners.

Kelly and Heather Simmonds entertained everyone with their Cat 5 U Like A Hurricane DJ Service from Colby all afternoon.

In the afternoon those that stayed around had fun playing Bingo. A free barbecue was provided from 6-7 p.m. sponsored by the McDonald Lions Club and Celebration Committee. Adults had fun street dancing with Joe Vyzourek and his DJ music Service after the brief hailstorm.

Sunday, a chuck wagon Breakfast of Biscuits and Gravy was served before everyone went to the church service of their choice of local churches. To wrap everything up the alumni classes of 1940, 50 and 60 sponsored an alumni potluck dinner.

"This is nowhere near what our hundredth celebration was," but the efforts of the committee and participants made this a memorable event for this small, but close knit town - McDonald, 1888-2013.



THE HONOR GUARD represented the fallen and active service men from the McDonald area.



CRISTI ANTHOLZ drives her pony through the parade.



ANITA BURTON waves at the cheering crowd in the parade as her granddaughter on the back throws candy.



DIANA GARCIA with the Cheylin Spirit Squad is doing face painting on Alex Dart.

Times staff photos by Norma Martinez

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