

Community Foundation holds free breakfast for fair

By Christina Beringer

Colby Free Press
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Fair goers, 4-H kids, military-veteran grand marshals and everyone in between is invited to a free breakfast from 7:30 to 10 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 2, at the 4-H Building. Donations are welcome.

For the sixth consecutive year, the Thomas County Community Foundation is offering this free meal as a thank-you to the kids and everyone who makes the Thomas County Free Fair possible.

Virginia Umberger, owner of Sunflower Kitchen Bakery in Colby, will cater the event. She has cooked eggs, sausage, biscuits and hash brown potatoes for the last three years. She'll also serve fresh fruit, milk, orange juice and coffee.

Members of the foundation's board will help serve the buffet-style meal, visit with people and answer questions about the organization.

The foundation, created in 2001, is overseen by a board of business owners, farmers, financial experts and philanthropists of Thomas County. It pools donations and uses

the interest generated to benefit the community through grants and scholarships.

Since its inception, the foundation has granted more than \$408,000, said Executive Director Melinda Olson, who has been with the agency since August 2007.

"We are committed to being a community catalyst and a central place for both incoming tax-deductible donations and outgoing grant assistance for local non-profits, charities and governmental agencies in our county," said Olson.

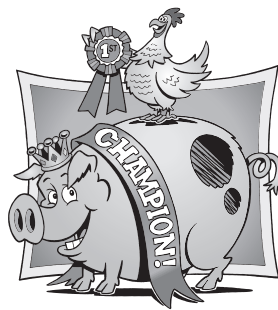
About 40 funds have been established to support arts and education, children, health, and various other community needs and projects, Olson said, including a William "Bill" Draper Memorial 4-H Fund which provides scholarships to Thomas County 4-H participants in regional, state, national or international events or conferences.

The foundation also facilitates contributions for new rides at the fair. The Farmers and Merchants Thomas County Amusement Fund was initiated by the bank in 2007 to purchase new carnival rides for kids. It was made possible, in large part, because of contributions from the bank, the Pete Henry Foundation and Western Sprinklers of Colby, Olson said.



A member of the Thomas County Community Foundation board served a free breakfast at the 4-H building last year during the fair.

Good luck to all
4-hers at the
Thomas County Fair!

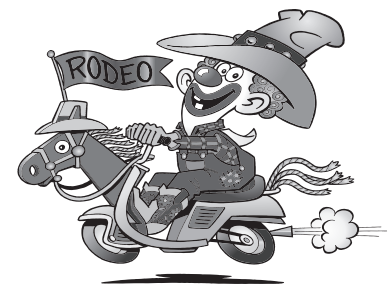


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