

Weekend of car races to bring fair to a close once again this year

By Kayla Cornett

Colby Free Press
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The Summer Shootout car races will mark the end of the Thomas County Free Fair this year, beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 3 and 4.

There will be three divisions: sport modified and hobby stock cars, modified and stock cars and econo cars.

Admission to the races each night is \$12 for adults and \$5 for kids 6 to 12, with kids 5 and under free.

Jeff Carney, Thomas County Speedway promoter, said the money from the entry fees and admission will go to the purse, or prize money.

"If you add up all the prize money, it totals almost \$40,000," he said. "It takes everything we pull in just to put that on."

The pits will open at 4 p.m. and the grandstands at 5 p.m. Hot laps will begin at 6 and the races will follow at 7.

The entry fee for the sport mod and hobby classes is \$60 per night. The first-place finisher will win \$600. Second place will get \$400, third \$275, fourth \$200, fifth \$150, sixth \$125 and seventh to ninth \$100 each.

The 10th-place racer will get \$90, 11th \$80, 12th \$75, 13th and 14th \$70 apiece, 15th to 17th \$65 each, 18th to 20th \$50 each and non-qualifiers get \$30.

The entry fee for modified and stock racers is \$75 per night, and the winner will take home \$1,000. Second place will get \$750, third \$500, fourth \$400, fifth \$375, sixth \$350, seventh \$375, eighth \$300 and ninth \$275.

The 10th-place racer will get \$250, 11th \$225, 12th \$200, 13th \$175, 14th \$150, 15th \$125 each, 16th to 24th \$100 each and non-qualifiers \$50.

The purse of this class is based on a 30-car

field, Carney added.

The final division, the econo class, will charge an entry fee of \$35 per night. The winning racer will get \$250, second \$150, third \$125, fourth \$100, fifth \$90, sixth \$80, seventh \$75, eighth \$70 and ninth \$60.

The 10th-place racer will get \$50, 11th to 15th, \$40 each, 16th to 20th \$35 each and nonqualifiers \$20.

Payouts and entry fees are per night, and both nights have a draw-redraw format for all divisions, which means racers will draw a number out of a hat to determine where they start.

Carney said during regular races, the order is determined by previous finishes, but since this is a special event, the format needs to be different.

The races are then split up into heats, and the number of racers that move on to the finals will depend on number of heats, he said. The racers in the finals will then redraw to figure their starting positions.

For example, Carney said, if you have five heats, the top two cars from each heat would make the finals and redraw for positions.

There is no deadline for racers to register, but Carney said they would like drivers to enter as soon as possible. He said they can enter up until the day of the race, though.

Entry forms are available on the speedway's website, www.thomascountyspeedway.com, and Carney said there are also a few fliers floating around town that have entry forms on the bottom.

If you are not already registered with the track, you must fill out and return the driver entry form. Mail your form and fee to Thomas County Speedway, 415 S. Chickamauga Ave., Colby, Kan., 67701.

For information or to register, go to website or call Carney at (785) 443-0284 or thomas-countyspeedway@gmail.com.



ERIC GAEDE/Thomas County Speedway

Gary Walker interviewed John Hansen after the Summer Shootout races during the Thomas County Free Fair last year. Races will come again at the end of the fair this year.

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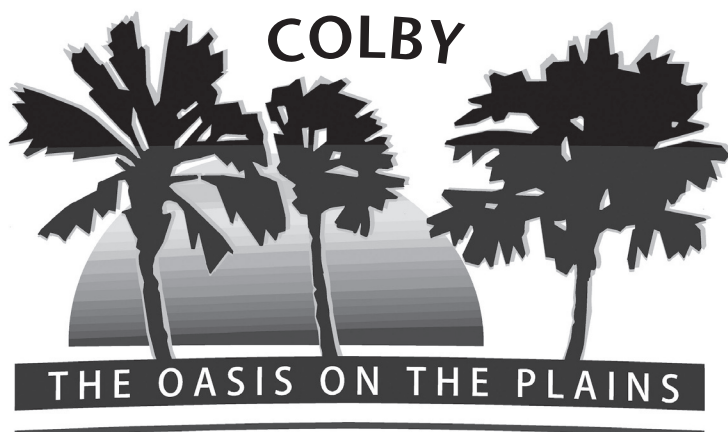
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