

Many activities returning to the Thomas County Fair

By Christina Beringer

Colby Free Press
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Despite the hot summer days, many of the “Timeless Traditions” that people have become accustomed to will return to the Thomas County Free Fair and the home-owned carnival this year.

Age-old crowd pleasers include the Demolition Derby, which will begin at 8 p.m. on Saturday, July 28, sponsored by Cornerstone Ag.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and free for kids under 5. It will include events for full-size and compact cars and figure-eight races for a second year.

Monday night is “busting” at the seams with fun activities. Mutton Busting will begin at 6 p.m., and the kids always make this event highly entertaining as they try to stay on wild, bucking sheep.

People can root for the kids as they try to stay atop a sheep for the longest time. This event is sponsored by Orscheln Farm and Home Supply.

Stick around after Mutton Busting to watch the Kansas Professional Rodeo Association’s rodeo at 8 p.m. During the rodeo, the Queen and Princess of the fair will be crowned. Adults can get in for \$10 and it’s \$5 for kids 6 to 10. The rodeo will continue at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 31.

In addition to the second half of the rodeo and the tallest corn plant contest, Tuesday is the day for judging the 4-H exhibits, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Head over to the small animal barn at 2 p.m. to see the open class exhibits. Young kids especially like to see the cats, rabbits, birds and other small hand pets.

At 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 31, find some shade and line Franklin Avenue downtown for the big parade.

The judges’ stage will face east in front of Kevin Berens’ law office near Franklin and Fourth Street. The parade will begin at Fike Park, travel south on Franklin and continue west toward the fairgrounds on Cedar Street.

Floats, antique cars, tractors and other entries will be decorated to the theme, “Timeless Traditions.” About 60 entries are expected this



A judge looked at a painting submitted for the 4-H Art Contest last year during the Thomas County Fair. The art contest is just one of the many activities returning to the fair this year.

year, said Holly Whitaker, director of the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce.

Tuesday is also the first night for the carnival rides and games from 8 to 11 p.m. The last night of the carnival is Saturday, Aug. 4. Tickets are 50 cents, and most rides take two tickets to get on. Buy a \$10 wrist band on Saturday to enjoy the rides all night long.

People can get a chance at half-priced wrist bands for the entire night of rides Tuesday by stopping by the Farmers and Merchants Bank at 240 W. Fourth St.

Half-priced wrist bands, \$5, will be sold to the first 100 people in line when the bank opens at 9 a.m. Tuesday, one per person, and each person requesting a band must be present.

Also, the first 300 people who buy 20 ride tickets at the ticket booth on Tuesday will receive five additional tickets free. The booth opens at 6:30 p.m.

People are in for a real treat on Wednesday, with the antique tractor show and pedal tractor pull. The show will begin at 11 a.m. in the 4-H building parking lot. This is a great opportunity to get a close-up look at many of the tractors seen in the parade.

Later, at 5 p.m., the pedal tractor pull will take place, sponsored by the Thomas County Farm Bureau.

Following these treats, people can have some free dinner. The Thomas County Fair Board invites the public to the big tent for a barbecue. Donations are welcome.

More free food will be served the following morning from 7:30 to 10 a.m. in the 4-H building. The Thomas County Community Foundation will host its sixth annual fair breakfast as a thank you to the 4-H kids and the many people who make the fair possible. Donations again will be welcome.

Also on Thursday will be the 4-H livestock sale at 5:30 p.m. A buyers’ appreciation barbecue will take place after the sale.

The car races are another annual event that people look forward to during the fair. They’ll take place on Friday and Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$5 for kids age 6 to 12. Those 5 and under get in free.

**WELCOME to the 2012
Thomas County Free Fair!**

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