

Nothing gets fair rolling like annual parade

Painting contest adds great color

By R.B. Headley

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A few words of warning to all those attending the Thomas County Fair's kickoff celebration on Tuesday.

If you're thinking "same old parade," you might just get soaked.

"You never know what the fair parade will hold. You might see Shriners going around squirting people with water," said Colby-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Holly Whitaker. "There's often some surprises. But the main thing is it's a huge community event that get a lot of people involved."

Expect nothing less with this year's Thomas County Fair Parade, which begins at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Whitaker noted about 75 entries had already been submitted more than a week before today's deadline.

"That's a very good number," she said.

The parade will feature all sorts of displays from floats to farm implements to marching groups.

Among the entry categories are antique vehicles, dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles, horses with riders and implement dealers.

Former county commissioner Ken Christiansen is this year's parade grand marshal.

"They're all tying in with this year's theme of 'Blue Jeans and Country Dreams,'" Whitaker noted. "There will be some floats playing a little bit of country music."

No candy can be thrown due to safety concerns.

However, parade participants can hand out candy and treats while traveling the parade route.

The parade will start at Franklin and Eighth. It will follow Franklin to Cedar where it will turn right and continue across Range before reaching the Thomas County Fairgrounds.



Judges will again award prizes to the best creations.

There is also a window painting contest

which was inspiring impressive efforts from several Colby businesses.

"We always do get great participation in the

MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press
Attractions of all sizes have become a tradition during the Thomas County Fair Parade. Participants can include everything from massive farm machinery (above) to Logan County miniature mini-vans with Oakley Shriners (left). Antique vehicles, dirt bikes, marching bands and horses will also be among those traversing Franklin Street to Range Avenue and into the Thomas County Fairgrounds. The parade is Tuesday and had already drawn 75 entries more than a week before entry deadline. Ken Christiansen is the grand marshal.

parade," Whitaker concluded. "We're looking forward to it and a great fair week."

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