

## Changes to the Phillips Co. Fair well received

Written by Jes-c Brandt

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As the 2009 Phillips County Fair came to an end this Sunday, July 26, Fair Board President Sherry Mari felt fairgoers left pleased with the changes to Fair. Although the biggest change—the new event center—has yet to be completed, smaller changes added new and exciting features to the Fair.

This year board members decided to charge \$5 for all of the fair events, a change Mari noted was especially well received. “It encouraged people to come out and just enjoy the Fair,” she said. At the various events throughout the week, Mari observed full grandstands, and she attributes that partially to the discounted rates.

Another change to the line-up this year was the addition of the pickup derby. Mari stated the derby had a good turn out, as people were interested in seeing something new. Even the combine derby, which is in its third year, feels new and exciting, and is still a major attraction at the Fair.

Kicking off Fair activities was the youth rodeo Wednesday, July 22. Area youth competed in various events including pole bending, barrel racing, flag racing and goat tying.

Thursday’s entertainment featured country singer Lexi Moul. Many spectators commented they were impressed with the 18-year-old’s ‘big voice.’

Many were in attendance Friday night for the barbecue and talent show, which included singing, dancing and gymnastics. The stock car races that evening had a large crowd, but the event was cut short due to a nasty storm. The rest of the weekend, the temperatures were back up and the remainder of the events went off without a hitch.

The parade was the beginning of a full day of events Saturday. Several floats were entered in business, adult, youth and school categories, all touting the Fair theme ‘Keepin’ It Country.’

Throughout the day Saturday, Mari said she noticed many people milling about the fairgrounds, taking a look at the projects and animals. Saturday’s events included the combine derby and pickup derby. There were also several children’s activities including kids’ races, a pedal tractor pull and a stick horse rodeo.

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4-H and FFA members participated in the livestock sale Saturday afternoon. Mari noted, while numbers were down as expected, they appreciate the support from the community.

While festivities were winding down Sunday, some got in a few last moments at the fair. A community church service started the morning at Homesteaders Park, where guest Terri Tedford shared a message and music. The last event at the 2009 Fair was the antique tractor pull. The event brought in many drivers from throughout Colorado and Nebraska.

Phillips County Fair Board noted their appreciation of everyone's cooperation as they are still working around construction. This year will be the final year without an event center, and Mari noted they are all very excited for future years in the new building. They also look forward to continued success in the events that have recently been added to the schedule, and bringing a fair that is enjoyable for everyone in the county.

Full Fair coverage and competition results are included throughout this week and next week's edition of the Enterprise.