



The Colorado County Fair Association recently awarded scholarships to graduating seniors from the county's three high schools. Pictured left to right, front row, are Lori Smith, Jacob Little, Misty Morales and Amber Mahallit all from Rice High School and, back row, Lora Weishuhn, Cody Swyden, Jacob Glueck and Kaylee Robinson all from Columbus High School and Travis Leihardt from Weimar High School. The fair association expanded its scholarship program this year by offering two \$1000 and two \$500 scholarships to students at each high school.

County Fair Kick Off Day

The annual Colorado County Fair Kick Off Day held Saturday, August 25, was another unqualified success! Traditionally, the Kick Off has been a dance and auction held in the evening at a local hall. This year the Kick Off was moved to the new fairgrounds at the Colorado County Ag Complex and expanded to be an all day event.

The day's activities began with the first annual Colorado County Fair Chili Appreciation Society International (CASI) Cookoff. The cookoff also included competition for beans and margaritas. A total of 16 teams from a larger field of contestants had their chili make it to the final round of judging.

The event also included a youth barrel racing competition held in the rodeo arena on the grounds at 1 p.m. The barrel racing was followed by a Round Robin Roping with a large number of calf ropers from around the area participating. The arena events wrapped up with a wild and woolly Bull Buck Out held at 6 p.m.

Evening activities began at 7:30 p.m. with a social hour with free cold drinks and popcorn hosted by

the Fair Association's Board of Directors. A dance featuring rising country western singer Chris Chitsey from Austin began at 8:30 p.m. The annual Scholarship Auction was held at 9:30 p.m. raising a total of \$9000 for the fair's Youth Scholarship Fund. Former Colorado County Ag Extension Agent Jack Hunter served as auctioneer for the evening.

The Colorado County Junior Fair Board was on hand to help with the dance and auction and held their annual silent auction in conjunction with the event.

This year the Fair Association increased its scholarship program dramatically. In previous years each of the three high schools in the county were eligible for one \$500 scholarship per school. This year the number was increased to two \$1000 and two \$500 per school for a total of twelve, and an increase from \$1500 to \$9000. In addition, the Queens Pageant scholarship total has been increased from \$1500 last year to \$4250 to be awarded to the winners in this year's contest.

The increase in scholarship awards has been due to the generosity and support of fair patrons who purchase items at the annual Scholarship Auction. The Fair Association extends sincere thanks to those individuals and businesses

who made this year's Kick Off Day and Scholarship Auction a tremendous success.



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