

GROWING THE FUTURE

23rd ANNUAL

Aug.
7-12



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GROWING THE FUTURE

Aug.
7-12



MONDAY AUGUST 7

MAIN STAGE

5PM
OPENING CEREMONY
& FAIR QUEEN
CROWNING



6:30 & 8:30PM
JOE BONSON &
COFFEE RUN



6-9PM
DJ CHICKEN
NUGGET



SMALL ARENA

7PM
SMALL GARDEN
TRACTOR PULL



ARENA

9:30PM
FIREWORKS



TUESDAY AUGUST 8

Children's Day MAIN STAGE

6:30 & 8:30PM
DOUG BREWIN
"ALAN JACKSON TRIBUTE"



ARENA

5, 6:30 & 8PM
LUMBER JACK
COMPETITION



7:45PM
BICYCLE
GIVE-AWAY



WEDNESDAY AUGUST 9

Sr Citizen's Day MAIN STAGE

6:30 & 8:30PM
MAIN STREET CRUISERS



ARENA

7PM
JUNK CAR RACE



7:45PM
SR CITIZENS' DRAWING

THURSDAY AUGUST 10

MAIN STAGE

6:30 & 8:30PM
STEEL CREEK



ARENA

7PM
DEMO
DERBY:
YOUTH,
SMALL &
LARGE CAR



AMAZING ANASTASINIS:
ACTS DAILY



FRIDAY AUGUST 11

MAIN STAGE

6:30 & 8:30PM
MYSTERY CITY



ARENA

5PM
PALMERTON HIGH SCHOOL
MARCHING BAND

5:30PM
LEHIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL
MARCHING BAND



6PM BARNYARD OLYMPICS

SATURDAY AUGUST 12

MAIN STAGE

4PM
DEAN HAHN
& THE HAWKS



4:30PM
SHAWL SPINNING & WEAVING
(LIVESTOCK SHOW RING)

ARENA

6PM
MICRO WRESTLING

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WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY

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• Buster the Clown

(Tuesday & Saturday)

• Face Painting

GROWING THE FUTURE



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Carbon County Fair has plenty to offer

The Carbon County Fair kicks off Aug. 7 and runs through Aug. 12 at 3285 Little Gap Road, Palmerton.

Entertainment, exhibits, food, rides, pony rides, face painting, petting zoo, wood carving, ax throwing, distillery specials will be featured daily.

The Amazing Anastasinis will perform aerial acts.

Admission is \$7. Arena shows are extra. Visit carboncountyfair.com.

The schedule includes:

Monday

Main Stage: 5 p.m., open-

ing ceremony and fair queen crowning.

4-10 p.m. \$25 per rider.

6:30 and 8:30 p.m., Joe Bonson and Coffee Run

9:30 p.m., fireworks

D.J. Chicken Nugget in the arena, with line dancing from 6 to 9 p.m.

Garden tractor pull at 7 p.m. in the small arena.

Tuesday

Children's day, with special, \$20 per rider

LVHN helicopter landing, 5- 6:30 p.m.

Buster the clown throughout the day.

6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Doug Brewin, Alan Jackson tribute, main stage

5, 6:30 and 8 p.m., Lumber Jack competition

7:45 p.m. Bicycle giveaway.

Wednesday

4 to 10 p.m. Ride special, \$25 per rider

6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Main Street Cruisers, main stage

7 p.m. Junk Car Race

7:45 p.m. Senior Citizens Drawing

Thursday

4 to 10 p.m. Ride special, \$25 per rider

6:30 and 8:30 p.m., Steel Creek, main stage

7 p.m. Youth, small and large car demolition derby

Friday

4 to 10 p.m. Ride special, \$25 per rider

6:30 and 8:30, Mystery City, main stage

5 p.m. Palmerton High School Band

5:30 p.m. Lehighton High School Band

6 p.m. Barnyard Olympics

Saturday

2-10 p.m., \$25 per rider

Buster the Clown

4 p.m. Dean Hahn and the Hawks

4:30 p.m. Shawl spinning

6 p.m. Micro Wrestling

7 and 9 p.m., Cramer Brothers

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Micro wrestling is action-packed night

BY MARTA GOUGER

MGOUGER@TNONLINE.COM

The Micro wrestling Federation of Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, is bringing its team to Palmerton for the closing night of the Carbon County Fair.

It's Michael Jackson, Elvis Presley and Ozzy Osbourne wrapped in a WWE style event performed by athletes all under 4 foot, 7 inches.

They're athletic and full-fledged wrestlers.

The little people have big appeal as they conduct matches regularly at a 30-seat arena and have two road teams, MicroFest 1 and Microfest Too.

Fairgoers will see four matches and matchless performers such as Redneck Brawler, Hot Rod, Jamaican Jo, Zach Presley, Disco Dom and Micro Jackson, who is 3 feet, 5 inches tall.

Chief Littlefoot is a wrestler whose home is on a reservation. Little Ozzy is, you guessed it, an Ozzy Osbourne tribute artist.

"He talks like him and looks like him," said Jack Darrell, show owner. Ozzy opens the show with song. Micro Jackson does a 10-minute Michael Jackson routine.

Then there's Andrew the Giant, a wrestler in training. He's 4 foot, 7 inches and weighs 380 pounds. "He's a monster of a little man," Darrell said.

No highflying show is complete without a referee. Meet Jay Mazing.

Hannah Hotlanta is another wrestler in training. She's of course from Atlanta.

Darrell said the show is "highflying nonstop action for two hours."

Darrell had spent time booking entertainment for bars and clubs



Chief Littlefoot will be coming to the Carbon County Fair. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

when he met a dwarf and learned of the success. He bought the company and says the show is "top notch, 100% quality little dudes and dudettes."

Darrell said the company is the largest of its type in the world, a huge social media following — nearing 2 million combined.

He employs a full-time videographer to post to social media nonstop. One thousand to 2,000 people attend each show and there are two or three shows a day.

"A lot of people who attend the show are not wrestling fans. They may not leave as wrestling fans but they leave as Micro fans," Darrell said. And they leave with Micro wrestling merchandise.

"People are inquisitive about little people," he added.

They range from 21 to 40 in age and some have families who travel with them and are homeschooled.

They are "totally legit," Darrell said.

More people will hear about them. The company is filming a reality show



Zach Presley performs in the ring.

to air on the Discovery channel before the end of the year.

"You can help but be in awe of them living their dreams as professional wrestlers," Darrell said.

The show starts at 6

p.m. Saturday in the arena. Doors open 60-90 minutes before show time.

Ringside seats are sold out but bleacher seats are available. Visit microwrestling.com or the fair website.

Demo derby dedicated to late competitor

BY AMY LEAP

ALEAP@TNONLINE.COM

The demolition derby Thursday night will be a memorial tribute to a local competitor who died in early July.

Tim Strohl, owner of Old School Promotions in Palmerton, said the race will honor Travis Levan, a regular competitor at the Carbon County Fair.

Levan, 29, was a graduate of Palmerton Area High School, was "a hard-hitting kid," Strohl said. "He definitely made the dirt fly."

He was good at getting the crowd on their feet and cheering. "He was no sandbagger," Strohl said. "He didn't hold back."

Friends have reached out to donate trophies, a helmet and other prizes for The Travis Levan Memorial Demo Derby, which kicks off at 7 p.m.

A 50/50 raffle will be



Demo drivers in one of Old School House Promotions get serious about winning.

held that night.

Strohl said everyone wants to be involved.

"He was a good kid who got along with everyone," Strohl remembered.

The derby

No question, the junk

car and demolition derbies are a big draw at local fairs.

Strohl said the idea for derbies came about when there was a crash out front of a diner and everyone ran out to see what happened.

People want to see the action and want to cheer on their friends.

This will be the 20th year Strohl is coordinating derbies. He works with Carbon County, West End and Plainfield

See **DERBY** on Page A6

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DERBY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A5

Township for their fairs.

A lot of work goes into getting the track ready for the junk car derby at the Carbon County Fair.

In Carbon, many of the competitors are local, but West End, which offers a bigger cash prize, will draw competitors from a larger area.

A long history

Strohl's love for derbies began when he sneaked into a car at age 15. He's 52 now and never stopped. Strohl competed won derbies locally and in Maryland New York and New Jersey.

One paid out \$1,600.

"Back in the day that was like gold," he said.

Now as promoter, he thinks about track prep and making sure everyone is following the rules.

Track prep requires Strohl to hire a machine operator who smooths the track and takes out all the bumps, and then when the derby is finished the machine operator has to push all the material back like it was before the demolition derby can be run.

"Thankfully we don't have to do that at any of any other places we promote," said Kyle Strohl, the owner's son.

Although it might look like mass confusion from where you are sitting in the stands, all of Strohl's crew members know what their job is and ev-

everything runs smoothly.

Once you register your car at the gate, the car is inspected to make sure it doesn't have too much reinforcement to make the car harder to damage.

Strohl's experience is helpful in this respect. "We get a lot of guys who try to sneak things through," he said. "I don't know it all but I know enough."

The rules for the junk car derby are not as stringent as they are for the demolition derby, according to Tim Strohl.

At the Carbon County Fair the junk car derby is 25 laps on a circular track and the driver who completes the 25 laps first is the winner and receives a cash prize.

During the pandemic, when new cars were short in supply, people hung onto their older cars or sold them with an inflated price so junk car derbies dropped off.

Township laws have cut down on the number of cars people store on their property. "Years ago people gave them to you to get them out of their yard."

Cars that are intact get a higher price at the junkyard too.

Ultimately the goal of the demolition derby is to crash into the other cars until they quit running, then stall out and can't restart.

"The goal is simple," they said, "you just need to be one of the last two cars still moving and advance to the main event at the end of the evening."

The last remaining car is the winner.

When asked if anything gets the crowd excited, Kyle Strohl said, "Yeah, when a car flips and rolls and ends back on it wheels, it gets the crowds in the bleachers really stomping their feet."

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Bicycle drawing a highlight Tuesday

Tuesday is Children's Day at the fair, with ride specials and great prizes.

Hours are from 4 to 10 p.m. Fair goers can purchase a wrist band for \$20 to ride the entire night.

At 7:45 p.m. there will be a special drawing for prizes, including six bicycles and electronics.

Tickets will be available 30 minutes before the drawing. Children must be present to win.

Andy Armadillo, mascot from Texas Roadhouse, will visit and present children with a bookmark which contains a ticket for a free children's meal.

The Amazing Anastasinis will perform aerial acts daily.

Don't miss a chance to see Smokey Bear and Buster the Clown.



On Tuesday, pay \$20 per rider and ride all night. MARTA GOUGER/TIMES NEWS

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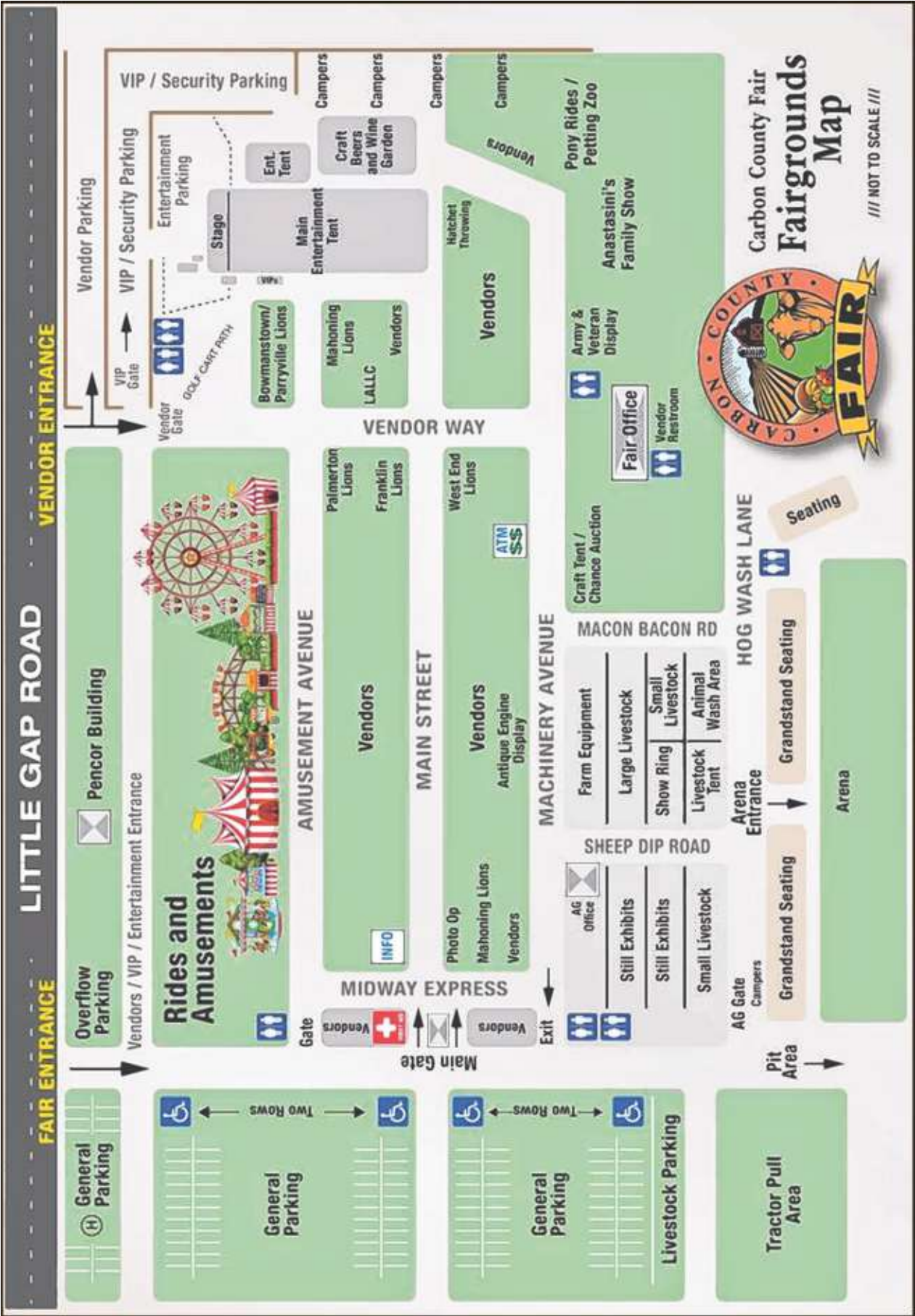
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SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY PRIZES

On Senior Citizens Day Wednesday, the fair will be giving away 15 gift cards for the Bowmanstown Diner. Each winner will also receive this piece of fluted pottery with the fair logo. The drawing is at 7:45 p.m.

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Alan Jackson tribute takes stage

BY AMY LEAP

ALEAP@TNONLINE.COM

If you are an Alan Jackson fan, you won't want to miss Doug Brewin's tribute to the country star at the Carbon County Fair.

Brewin was born into a musical family. "My mother taught music and my sister is a music teacher, and I learned to play the trombone and the guitar," he said.

Although he liked music, he studied graphics in college.

After graduation he remained involved in music, but when the pandemic hit most entertainment places were shut down. That's when he started a graphics business.

It was successful, but music was still a large part of his life.

Since 2004, he's been doing an Alan Jackson trib-

ute. Many people told him he looked and sounded just like Alan Jackson so he decided to put together the tribute show.

"My goal is to provide a fun, entertaining Alan Jackson tribute that is an accurate representation both visually and musically. I try to be as detailed as possible in creating the look and sound of AJ, and most importantly respectful to Alan's music," he said.

"For people who love country music and Alan Jackson, it's one big cel-

ebration. For those few who are unfamiliar with it, it's an amazing discovery. They love it too. Alan's songs are just that incredible," he said.

He performs as Jackson in the Las Vegas based review Legends In Concert and he continues to appear, write and record country music with his own band, Late Nite Rodeo. His band will also be performing with him at the fair.

Brewin's wife Jo-Anne often travels and performs with him and will be performing at the Carbon



Doug Brewin

County Fair. She has traveled worldwide with her ABBA production for 17 years.

Brewin will perform at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Tuesday on the Main Stage.

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Try variety of brews, spirits at the fair

BY JARRAD HEDES

JMHEDES@TNONLINE.COM

A Franklin Township brewing company will be making its third appearance at the Carbon County Fair in 2023, while a White Haven distillery will be on the grounds for the first time.

Half-Barrel Brewing Company owner Tim Wagner said events like the fair give his business an exposure he can't get during regular business hours.

"I can't really handle large crowds at my property, so going around and selling our beers at fairs and other events is the main income for the brewery," Wagner said.

When Wagner opened the brewery in 2019, he sold his beer at Insurrection Distillery, where it gained a local following. When the distillery closed, Wagner built a pole building on his property along Evergreen Road, which now serves as his tasting room.

"I started keeping records of brewing beer around 1999," Wagner said. "I was doing the family thing and brewing when I could but then I decided to open my own brewery as a side hustle. It's a hobby that I do for fun. People come to the



Half Barrel plans to offer a variety of beers including its pilsner, a blueberry beer and Summer Splash, which is a lemon shandy at the Carbon County Fair.

tap room to hang out and have some beer and we have a lot of fun with it."

At the fair, Half Barrel plans to offer a variety of beers including its pilsner, a blueberry beer and Summer Splash, which is a lemon shandy.

"We're also going to have a vanilla beer that a lot of people like," Wagner said. "Those are some of the flavored beers, but we'll also have our regular options like the Vienna Lager."

Holy Ghost Distillery and Tasting House, located in White Haven, will

make its inaugural appearance at the fair.

"I used to travel a lot for work and sometimes my wife Janice would join me on the weekends," owner John Sepcoski said. "Wherever we went, we normally ended up going to wineries and distilleries. About eight years ago, we left a distillery and I said I can do this and I think I can do it better. My wife said go for it and here we are today."

Holy Ghost opened in early 2020 at the onset of the pandemic.

Sepcoski said he looks

forward to the fair and meeting people who may have not heard of the distillery before.

"Word of mouth is key in any advertising plan and if we can get out and get that exposure, that's a big plus for us," he said. "Hopefully a lot of people like the product and want to make the trek out to the other side of the county to see us. We're also looking forward to getting to speak to the other brewery that is going to be there. It's always great to talk to someone else in the industry because sometimes you get to know what they're doing and a cool partnership opportunity may come of it."

Holy Ghost plans to offer its cocktails at the fair as well as wine from its partner.

"It'll be a full service bar out of our portable trailer," Sepcoski said. "Every night we'll have a featured cocktail. We have a vast array including some rums, bourbon, whiskey, gin, vodka, etc. We'll have some flavored vodkas and flavored bourbons as well. It'll be a good list."

The Carbon County Fair runs Aug. 7-12 at the fairgrounds along Little Gap Road in Palmerton.

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Mystery City to rock fair

BY AMY LEAP

ALEAP@TNONLINE.COM

Mystery City, a classic rock tribute band, has a 'go big or go home' mentality that energizes the band's shows.

Made up of local musicians, the band, which made its debut at the Carbon County Fair last year, has been playing in the area since the late 1980s.

Chuck Oehler is the lead singer with Mike Smathers on the lead guitar. Rich Hook also plays guitar with James Balogach on bass guitar and Albie Coccio on drums. The other four musicians back up Oehler on vocals.

With a monstrous sound system and light show, Mystery City brings it all out to make its show one to remember.

Mystery City covers such big names as Aerosmith, David Bowie, Queen, The Sweet, Blondie, Ozzy and Kiss.

Mystery City formed in 2014 and over the years its members have all played in successful bands and have developed a faithful following.

They recently had a lineup change, adding Smathers as the lead guitarist, and it has been nothing but fun for the entire band.

Smathers replaced Robb Justofin who was an original member of the band.

Mystery City also has a fabulous crew that handles everything from the set up of the equipment to the lights.

Brian Klock is on sound, Rich Lipshaw and Scott Hossler are the crew.

Mystery City will perform at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 11.



FAVORITES FROM YESTERYEAR

The Main Street Cruisers will be playing rock 'n' roll hits from the 50s, 60s and 70s, from Doo-wop to disco. They play shows at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Wednesday night. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Line dancing with DJ Chicken Nugget is set for opening day, from 6-9 p.m. Monday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO




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Animals are a big draw at the Carbon County Fair.

4-Hers work all year for fair

Local 4-H members work hard all year to raise animals for the live-stock auction.

This year the livestock auction will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12. There will be five beef steer, 11 dairy beef steer, 13 lambs, three hogs, 15 goats and four meat pens for rabbits offered for sale.

Through fair week there will be several events including 4-H and Open Goat Show at 1 p.m. Monday, 4-H and open sheep show at 1 p.m. Tuesday and 4-H show-manship contest at 5 p.m. Thursday.

Because of Avian flu concerns there will not be a poultry show this year.

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