

East Texas News

The Polk County Publishing Company
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Home	Legals	Classifieds	Obituaries	Advertising	Media Kit	Phone Directory	Weather
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Main Sections

- [Home Page](#)
- [Legal Notices](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Advertising](#)
- [Media Kit](#)
- [Phone Directory](#)
- [East Texas Weather](#)
- [Local Shopping](#)

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Trinity Standard

Houston County Courier - Local News

Stories Added - June 2009
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73rd Annual Fiddlers' Festival & Regional Steak Cook-Off Draws Big Crowd

Houston County Courier - June 2009

By Jessica L. Zwar
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Saturday, June 13, The Crockett Civic Center was filled with spectators anticipating the 73rd Annual Fiddlers' Festival and Regional Steak Cook-Off. The grounds were filled with arts and crafts vendors, Antique Tractors and steak cook-off teams.

The Antique Tractor Show and Parade began at 11:30 a.m. The Fiddlers' Competition began at 10:30 a.m and lasted until 6 p.m which was followed by the Regional Steak-Cook Off, the Steak Dinner and Dennis Ivey Concert.

The Fiddlers' competition was divided into five divisions: Pee Wee which included children to nine years old, Jr. Jr Division ages 10-13, Jr. Division ages 14-16, Senior Division age 60 + and the Open Division.

In the Pee Wee Division Jessica Sell placed 1st, Maggie Banks placed 2nd, Colby Sheppard placed 3rd, and Marlys Coursey placed 4th. In the Jr.Jr. Division Faith Nugent placed 1st, Karissa Nugent placed 2nd, Dalton Banks placed 3rd, Noelle Nugent placed 4th, and Colette Boyette placed 5th.

In the Junior Division Mia Orasco placed 1st, Malieka Nugent placed 2nd, Cheyenne Craig placed 3rd, and Myka Williams placed 4th.

In the Senior Division Benny Bennett placed 1st, E J Hopkins placed 2nd, Tom Fonville placed 3rd and Don Gibbs placed 4th.

In the Open Division Wes Westmoreland placed 1st, Tonya Hopkins placed 2nd, Dennis Ludiker placed 3rd, Bubba Hopkins placed 4th and Cody Marriott placed 5th.

By placing 1st in the Open Division, Wes Westmoreland reclaimed his World Championship title. The People's Choice Award went to Bubba Hopkins and the Accompanist 1st place went to Anthony Mature.

There were 18 Antique Tractors entered in the Antique Tractor Show. The parade began at 11:30 a.m beginning at the Crockett Civic Center, circling the park and square and returning back to the civic center grounds where the tractors were displayed for the rest of day's activities.

The Oldest Tractor award was presented to Benny and Kelly White with a 1925 Fordson. The Best Restored 1949 and younger was a 1949 Farmall entered by Billy Doyle. Best Restored Tractor 1950 and older was presented to a 1963 Minneapolis Molino entered by Larry Skalicky.

The People's Choice Award went to Kevin Consil with a John Deere 60 1954.

The Regional Steak Cook-Off was an over the top huge success with an entry of eighteen Steak Cook-Off Teams. Between the 18 teams over 500 ribeye steaks were cooked.

The team of steak judges awarded the Best Rig Title to the Concrete Cookers, which was sponsored by Houston County Ready Mix.

The Service Club Award went to Critter Grillers, sponsored by the Crockett Lions Club.

The Bank Challenge Award went to First Community Bank. United Steaks of America won the Showmanship Award as well as 3rd place.

Fresh Country won 2nd place and the 1st place trophy went to the Texas Opry Steak Cook-Off Team.

The steaks were served at 6:00pm for the steak dinner which also included scrumptious twice baked potatoes, salad, rolls and raspberry tea.

The civic center lobby and auditorium were filled with eager individuals waiting to hear the

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Dennis Ivey Texas Opry Band which began at 7 p.m.
 The 73rd Annual Fiddlers' Festival and Regional Steak Cook-Off shined as a huge success to the committee members involved.
 Chamber board chairman, Wayne Mask said, "This years event brought back the energy and enthusiasm Crockett used to see in past Fiddlers' Festivals."
 "This year's festival was larger than it has been in years. We had nearly twice the tractors, over 40 fiddlers, and 18 steak teams.
 Our events overlapped each other with no dead time in between. I can't wait for next year with improvements for an even larger festival," Jeana Culp.
 The Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce is very pleased with the turnout of this yearly anticipated event. On behalf of the Crockett Area Chamber we would like to thank everyone whom was involved in helping make this event a huge success.
 If there are any questions regarding the Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce please contact our office at 544-2359 or visit our website at www.crockettareachamber.org



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