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Attendance record broken by 2nd night

The 16-year-old girl tore down the center of the main arena's dirt floor on her horse and began firing her gun at the white balloons that poked out of the orange cones. Children in the audience plugged their ears with their fingers as the girl fired five shots seconds apart in a perfect rhythm.

The announcer had said simply that her name was Amy when she and her horse rode into the Horseshoe on Saturday afternoon during the second annual Midland County Fair.

The attraction, sponsored by the "Cowboy Mounted Shooters Association," was one of many that was added to this year's fair as staff sought to increase attendance. The bull riding events for Friday and Saturday nights

and the all-day outdoor carnival and rides were two of this year's new highlights.

Amy the horsewoman switched her guns in her holsters as she circled the

barrel. Her cowgirl hat fell off her head and landed on the ground as her horse galloped down the center once again.

Please see **FAIR/4A**

Story by Audrie Palmer • Photos by Tim Fischer

FAIR

From 1A

Still, that didn't stop her. She aimed her gun and shot five more balloons along the way, leaving none untouched.

Her time, 10.695 seconds, was the fastest for the event so far that afternoon.

Those in the stands cheered and hollered when the announcement was made. Fair board member Tammy Dooley said programs like these are what has made this year's fair "unbelievable."

Opening Thursday evening near Interstate 20, vendors and spectators were forced to shut the event down 90 minutes early because of the dust and rainstorm that blew into the area.

However, Friday night's attendance was almost the total number of those who attended last year's full event.

"We've seen record-breaking numbers," Dooley said.

Midland County Fair

If you want to go, Sunday's events are as scheduled:

- Carnival: noon to midnight
- Motorcycle show: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Goat show: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Longhorns: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Petting zoo: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Calf roping: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Entertainment on the main stage:

- Karaoke: 12 to 3 p.m.
- Brown Sneakers: 3 to 5 p.m.
- Global Warming: 5 to 7 p.m.

Source: www.midlandcofair.com

The first bull riding event that took place Friday was before a packed arena where only standing room was left available to spectators. All the programs and events,

including the free concerts on the two entertainment stages, the live-stock shows and the petting zoo, are included in the \$5 ticket price at the front gate, officials said. Children younger than 5 are admitted for free.

"Everybody's smiling," Dooley said Saturday afternoon. "There's smiles on everyone's face. I think they're pleased and surprised with the one low price."

This year was the first time a carnival was added to the activities, and Dooley said the organizer of the carnival already has expressed interest to sign a five-year contract to return to the event. Next year, organizers said they also plan to add events and possibly additional days and, and they are considering to host a beauty pageant.

"There's more to do than you can do in just one day," she said.

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