

Amusement Authority's Carnival

Every year, people flock to the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds to enjoy the carnival rides and games.

Greg Walz, president of the Amusement Authority, said the attendance was bigger than last year and almost all of the prizes, totaling almost \$5,000, were bought with tokens earned at the game booths.

"It was a good carnival," Mr. Walz said. "But, we couldn't put on four days of the carnival without all the people who help."

Before the fair, there were still two-hour slots lacking volunteers to work games and rides. But, Mr. Walz said, people stepped up and offered to help so we were able to keep all the rides open.

In the spring, authority members and volunteers started meeting at the fairgrounds, getting equipment, rides and booths ready for the August fair. It is always a push toward the end of July but, everything is ready to go by fair time.

"No matter how big or small of a job, every person who helped is appreciated," he said.

And, now that the fair is over, it is time

to start planning for next year. During the fair, there were some mechanical failures. The motors on the Ferris wheel and train quit and the main gear on the merry-go-round broke.

Keeping the equipment in good working order is important, not only because they need to be safe but, Mr. Walz said, rides, even used rides, are extremely expensive.

The authority members and volunteers will start working on equipment the first Thursday in September and will work each Thursday evening until it is too cool.

"We need people to help," he said. "Just come out and we will find things for people to do."

Mr. Walz said the fair reminds him of when he was a child and people came to town to visit with friends and neighbors.

"I see people sitting on the benches and they are enjoying talking with people who have come to the fair to do the same thing," he said. "Seeing these smiling people makes all the work we do throughout the year worthwhile!"



The kids' airplane ride almost always had a waiting line. Addy Christensen, left, and Zoe Hankins were enjoying their ride.



Kids, young and old, enjoy the merry-go-round. This year, the ride had a main gear break so the amusement authority members will be seeing to getting this fixed throughout the winter months.



Chase Barnhart helps a riders into one of the octopus bucket seat.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien