



Pam Aakre Named To Fair Hall Of Honor

Pam Aakre jokingly blames Brian Halverson, who was president at the time, for joining the Clay County Fair Board of Directors 11 years ago.

"It was Brian who twisted my arm," Pam said with a laugh. "To this day I tell him that my arm is still sore."

Pam was working at the Record-Review when she joined the fair board in 2007. "So it made sense for me to do the public relations part of fair planning. I wrote stories, did the premium books, took pictures and also helped bring in band shelter entertainment."

The thousands of fair patrons who have enjoyed top-notch acts over the years probably don't give a second thought to the challenge of booking high-quality entertainment at a fair price—and that's "fair" in two senses of the word.

"The board works on a shoestring budget to bring in a variety of acts for all audiences," Pam said. "The fair gets a good portion of its funding from the Clay County Commissioners.



Now retired from the Clay County Fair Board, Pam Aakre will continue with her life-long involvement with 4-H.

The City of Barnesville and EDA have been generous, as well as select businesses throughout Clay County over the years. The board is appreciative of and mindful of how the funds are used.

"Recently, we received a legacy grant from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, which sees the value in promoting culture and the arts." In addition to bringing in entertainment, some of those grant funds were used during the 2013 fair's 100th anniversary celebration to create the mural on the back of the grandstand.

Pam takes pride in some of the event ideas she's brought to the Clay County Fair. One was called "Town of the Day," which was a booth with representatives featuring two different Clay County towns each year.

"One reason for Town of the Day was to remind people that this is the Clay County Fair, not the Barnesville Fair," she said. "Barnesville is just the host city. So my goal was to bring the

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