

FAIR FUN AND FINISH LINES



COUNTY FAIR GETS CRACKIN'

The Dickinson County Fair kicked off Friday with its pet and dog show, and organizers welcomed the public back to the fairgrounds Saturday during the second annual Family Fun Night. Caleb Frostestad, president of the local 4-H youth council, said he and other organizers received plenty of positive feedback after last year's Family Fun Night, and the youth council chose to focus on expanding the emerging tradition for this year's fair. Frostestad said the council and the six 4-H clubs in the county began making phone calls as early as November and gathered about 25 different attractions for this year's event, from live music to food trucks and kiddie carnival games as well as the return of 'Touch a Truck,' where youngsters were able to get up close and personal with anything from cranes to fire engines, farm machinery and construction equipment. Saturday's festivities also featured the fair's Open Jackpot Barrel Races, where competitors rode their faithful steeds in rapid circuits around the fair's outdoor arena. A number of animal and livestock competitions are scheduled throughout the fair — Monday marked the sheep and goat competitions, with beef and swine competitions later in the week. (Photos by Seth Boyes)



RACERS RUN, BIKE AND SWIM DURING U OF O HOMECOMING

Officials with the Iowa Great Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce said more than 1,000 people participated in the annual University of Okoboji Homecoming Races on Saturday morning. The races have been held in the Lakes Area since 1978, and Saturday's events began with the swimming leg of the traditional triathlon at 7 a.m. near Preservation Plaza in Arnolds Park. Officials fired the starting pistol again at 8 a.m. to begin the 5K, 10K and half-marathon across the Lakes Region. Supporters lined the fences ahead of the finish line near Berkeley Bedell State Pier, but calls of support also rang out along the race routes — both from the general public and from fellow racers, who cheered for competitors by either name or number. There were even a few shouts of encouragement for the canine companions which some chose to bring along during the competition. (Photos by Seth Boyes)

