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(Neb)-Laramie Fiddler Claims Peabody Hale Championship

By: John Axtell Posted at: 07/30/2019 07:54 AM

CRAWFORD - For the second year in a row, the oldest competitor in the Peabody Hale Fiddle Contest was the overall winner.

Jack Wallace of Laramie claimed the title Saturday afternoon at the 57th edition of the competition begun by the late local musician and entertainer Ellis "Peabody" Hale to help preserve the art of old-time fiddle playing.

The fiddle contest, the centerpiece of the day, was held in 4 age categories with the winners returning for a head-to-head showdown.

In addition to Wallace - the 60-and-older Senior Division champion, Callie Robbins of Alliance was the Pee Wee 12-and-under winner, Grant Robbins - also of Alliance - took honors in the Junior Division for those 13-18, and Shawn Marie Delinger of Chadron claimed the Adult Division of 19-59.

Grant Robbins was also the winner of the Junior Vocal Contest and placed 2nd in the Miscellaneous Instrument competition on the guitar.

Winning the Adult Vocal Contest was Mike Goodrich of Greeley, Neb, while mandolin player Deborah Horst of Crawford won the Miscellaneous title.

Peabody Hale coordinator Marietta Moffatt says this year's competition drew about 200 spectators and 17 competitors ranging in age from 11 to 74 from Nebraska, Wyoming and South Dakota.

The day also included a quilt show, entertainment by Boots and Saddles, and a horseshow tournament that remained at City Park when the decision was made earlier this month to shift the rest of the events to the Community Building

Receiving the People's Choice Award in the quilt show was one by NOrma Horkey of Crawford that featured a Saddle design.

Moffatt says the contest, run by the Crawford Eagles Club the last several years, is made possible by wonderful donations from local business with the music competition trophies donated by families and individuals.

The family of Peabody and Dora Hale donated all the fiddle trophies, Betty Moffatt donated the voal and miscellaneous trophies, and the overall trophy was in memory of long time fiddle player and event supporter Ray Hamaker.

Marietta Moffat says it was a great day of family entertainment, adding that Peabody Hale's longtime signoff - "Keep a Smile on Your Face and May the Good Lord Take A Likin' to You" - fit the day perfectly.

WINNERS

ADULT VOCAL CONTEST

1ST - Mike Goodrich - Greeley, NE

2nd- Renae Tollman- Jones - Crawford, NE
3rd-Dwain Soester - Crawford, NE

JUNIOR VOCAL CONTEST

1ST-Grant Robbins - Alliance, NE

PEE WEE FIDDLE DIVISION (12 & UNDER)

1ST PLACE - Callie Robbins - Alliance, NE

JUNIOR FIDDLE DIVISION (13-18)

1ST PLACE - Grant Robbins - Alliance, NE

2nd PLACE- Kadin Cochrane - Kearney, NE

3rd PLACE- Lillian Hudnall - Columbus, NE

ADULT FIDDLE DIVISION (19-59)

1ST PLACE - Shawn Marie Delinger-Chadron, NE

2nd PLACE - Glenda Burgess - Ashby, NE

3rd PLACE - Renae Tollman-Jones - Crawford, NE

SENIOR FIDDLE DIVISION (60+)

1ST PLACE - Jack Wallace - Laramie, WY

MISCELLANEOUS DIVISION

1ST PLACE - Deborah Horst (Mandolin) -- -Crawford, NE

2nd PLACE - Grant Robbins (Guitar) - Alliance, NE

3rd PLACE - Cleone Hoyda (Piano) - Crawford, NE

OVERALL WINNER-- JACK WALLACE--- DOUGLAS, WY