

THE MONAHANS NEWS



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Free food, drinks, entertainment BBQ Bash visited by thousands

By JAN CRANFILL
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The fourth annual West Texas BBQ Bash is now in the books as a huge, smashing success according to the event organizers. The scheduled gate opening time was for 11 a.m, Saturday at the Ward County Arena, but the gate was opened early to start receiving a record number of visitors for the day's event.

What started four years ago by original event organizers, George Bunker and Colin McElrath, as a way to have human contact and feed some of Pyote's senior citizens, who were short on food due to the Covid-19 lockdown has mushroomed into a major event. The lockdown was a hurdle effecting the gathering of people and needed special permission from the governor before it could be organized. The two men attained all the legal permissions to hold a small BBQ cook off at the Pyote park. The decision to



Laura Regalado with Coco's Mangonadas Y Mas, LLC was awarded the Peoples Choice trophy during the 4th Annual West Texas BBQ Bash held last Saturday at the Ward County Arena. Regalado (center) is pictured with CS Welding (l-r) Miguel Sosa Cesar Salgado Laura Regalado Nicolas Salgado Maria Ortuno Oscar Salgado. CS Welding sponsored Coco's Mangonadas Y Mas for the event.



West Texas BBQ Bash Best of Show winner, Cas Castonguay (l), from Odessa, and BBQ Bash co-organizer, George Bunker (r) with Cas' winning 1955 Chevy Nomad. (Photo by Jan Cranfill)

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BBQ BASH

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hold the cook off the following year saw an increase of interest and enough growth to hold the event at the Ward County Arena.

The third year, which was last year, saw an even larger increase in pitmaster competition and the addition of the Car Show with approximately 10,000 visitors in attendance. The event was able to donate \$15,000 to the Monahans Kids Zone and \$15,000 to the Monahans Volunteer Fire Department (which they donated to the Kids Zone).

This year was even bigger with more public attendance, 88 cars entered into the car show, with 47 trophies and awards handed out for car show entrants, 41 Pit-masters vying for Best Pitmaster, six bands performing for the visitors (Jerry Hart and Flatland, Churchwell, Chris DeAnda, Clay Creek, Gone By 9, and the Chad Cook Band), more than \$500,000 worth of free food, drinks and entertainment was spent for the public.

"This year the BBQ

competition was sanctioned with the Championship BBQ Alliance (CBA).

CBA representative, Brenda Waters, was onsite to oversee compliance to the CBA rules and to award prizes to the winners," said Keith Balderaz the Event Coordinator and Resident Ambassador.

With the CBA sanctioning for the Bash, discussions and considerations can take place to have The West Texas BBQ Bash become a Texas State Championship competition, which would allow the winner to compete in higher competition, such as the Jack Daniel's World Championship Invitational Barbecue, an annual barbecue competition held in Lynchburg, Tennessee.

Grand Champion winner was Aaron Cruz BBQ, of Petus, sponsored by JW Services. Reserve Champion went to Aaron Lesley, of Midland, with Texas Oil Dust sponsored by H2O Oilfield Solutions.

Coco's Mangonadas Y Maz, sponsored by CS Welding, Monahans, won the Peoples Choice award and the

Showmanship Award went to Zealous Energy (regional office in Midland) with pitmaster Bernie Zertuche. The competitors won trophies, buckles and banners and awarded through the top ten places.

Car Show results were:
 Specialty Awards
 Best Paint- Ryan Flores 1948 Chevy Fleetmaster
 Best Interior-- Caden Leal 1971 Chevy C10
 Best Engine- Brandon Pyle 2019 Dodge
 People's Choice- Kimberly Tyler 1979 Camaro
 Favorite Ford- Jason Terry 1967 Ford Mustang
 Favorite GM- Elizabeth Scoggins 1956 Chevy Belair
 Favorite Mopar- Chad LeBlanc 2021 Charger
 Favorite Import- Stephanie Brown 1967 Volkswagen Bicycle/Pedal Car- Kelsi Priest 2015 Jeep Mini Wrangler 4x4/ Off-road David & Marilyn Valencia 1972 Chevy 4x4
 Favorite Low-rider Michael Flores 1964 Chevy Impala
 Favorite Motorcycle- Eli Salazar 2010 Harley Street Glide
 Best Truck- Leon Grigry 1957

Chevy
 Best Of Show Cas Castonguay 1955 Chevy Nomad
 Top 30 in no particular order
 1. Karley Pounds 1970 Chevy Chevelle
 2. Caden Leal 2023 Charger
 3. Fred Holguin 1955 Ford Crown Victoria
 4. Valerie Grant 1968 Ford Mustang
 5. Morgan Layman 1959 Chevy Apache
 6. Abb Gandy 1955 Chevy Belair
 7. Frank & Bonnie Davis 1936 Ford 5 Window Coupe
 8. Lorri Gandy 1932 Chevy Coupe
 9. Sean Layman 1969 Chevy Camaro SS
 10. Manuel Benavidez 1948 Chevy Fleetmaster
 11. Louie French 1965 Chevy ElCamino
 12. Gary Willmon 1947 Ford 2 door
 13. Nancy Willmon 1965 Mustang
 14. Aaron Villanueva 2017 Challenger
 15. Jeremy Brown 2021 Challenger
 16. Silver Rayos 2015

Challenger
 17. Raul Pena 2006 Dodge Viper
 18. Kyle Atchison 2020 Gladiator
 19. Leslie Fraser 2022 Jeep Wrangler
 20. Ashley Stock 2015 Jeep Wrangler
 21. Amber Pyle 2020 Chevy Tahoe
 22. Ramon Martinez 1990 Chevy 1500 454 SS
 23. Eddie Cervantes 1953 Chevy Belair
 24. Pete Luna 1954 Chevy Belair
 25. Ben Smith 1968 ElCamino
 26. Bryan Fuentes 1991 Mitsubishi 3000 GT
 27. Pete Dominguez 1984 Chevy
 28. Steve Brown 1976 Cushman Truckster
 29. Arturo Madrid 2019 Kia Optima
 30. Steve Brown 1980 John Deer Tractor
 A firearm raffle sponsored by Ace Hardware offered the public a \$20 per ticket chance to win one of the following choices :
 Rock Island Armory TM22 20-RT-22 LR (\$800 Value)

Ruger RUAR-556-MPRCRG 18" (\$1200 Value)
 Winchester SXP Upland Field 12 Gauge (\$600 Value)
 Ruger RUAMER SR6.5CR 22" Barrel w/Vortex Scope (\$1200 Value)
 Diamondback Firearms Carbon DB10 .308WIN 16" M-LOK (\$1200 Value)
 "Plans are already under way for West Texas BBQ Bash 2024 for the third weekend in October. We have chosen the October third weekend because the Farmer's Almanac always has it as the best weather weekend." Balderaz said.
 Event co-organizer George Bunker said, "This all happens and comes together because we have great sponsors for the pitmasters, great bands, help from the Monahans Chamber, help from the county, and support from the Desert Reflections Car Club and, the wonderful people of Monahans and surrounding area who help to make this the super success that it has become. Somewhere around 10,000 people came through the gate to enjoy the day."



BBQ Bash Videographers twin brothers Aaron and Andrew Gonzales. They took still photos and videos of the car show winners. They are from the Corpus Christi area where their photography business, The Twins Videography, is located.



Ashley Deerinwater (recently married to Mark Deerinwater of Monahans), Maeghan Davie, Cora Jimmerson serving adult beverages to the BBQ Bash visitors at the Topline Pumping booth. The young ladies are from Henderson and came all the way across Texas to take part in the West Texas BBQ Bash.



Dawn and John Jobe relaxing with their little dog during the car show.



Miguel Carrillo and Juan Morales, from Monahans, relax and enjoy some refreshments before taking a tour of the car show.

(Photos by Jan Cranfill)



