

## Wiebers goes behind the scenes in Phillips County

Written by Darci Tomky

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☐☐ Phillips County Maintenance Supervisor Gale Wiebers maneuvers his

tractor while cleaning up at the Fairgrounds last week.☐☐

—Enterprise photo

A day in the life of...

A Phillips County maintenance supervisor

☐ Hundreds of people flocked to the Phillips County Fair two weeks ago, and everything from the junior rodeo to the open class exhibits seemed to go off without a hitch. Grasses were mowed, trash cans emptied and pens set-up.

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□ It's like a well-oiled machine, and Gale Wiebers certainly played a big part in it all. As Phillips County's maintenance supervisor for the last eight years, Wiebers keeps things running smoothly so Fair organizers and participants don't have to worry about the day-to-day operations of the Fairgrounds.

□ Prior to the big event, Wiebers spent extra time at the Fairgrounds, doing things like mowing the parking lot, keeping the weeds cleaned up, making repairs and auto scrubbing the Event Center floor. Prisoners from Sterling also came to help him set up the animal pens.

□ During the Fair, Wiebers could be seen on his tractor, moving trash cans, in the Event Center and everything in between.

□ He said his day usually started at 4 a.m. and ended as late as midnight.

□ Wiebers was pleased with the turnout at the Fair this year, noting there were more people there than he's seen for a long, long time.

□ Upgrading the Fairgrounds with the new Event Center was a great way to boost interest in Phillips County. The more we promote the county, more people will come, and this will help out the whole community, he said. This not only helps Holyoke, but also the surrounding towns.

□ Besides the general Fair work, Wiebers loves getting a chance to help with the children of Phillips County. He likes interacting with the 4-H kids and rodeo participants.

□ 4-H has always been an important part of Wiebers' life. "My folks started the first 4-H club in Logan County," he pointed out. Wiebers was a 10-year 4-H member, and his son is a former member and now the head of the organization in Kansas.

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- Wiebers has also helped organize the Colorado Junior Rodeo Association (CJRA) rodeo that came to town earlier this summer.
  
- As the county maintenance supervisor, Wiebers has been extra busy lately with the construction of the Event Center, and of course, summer is a busy time in general. He does have help from a co-worker during the summer, and the county recently hired an Event Center coordinator.
  
- Now that the big push of the Fair is over, Wiebers' work will be getting back to normal.
  
- Part of the maintenance supervisor's daily routine is opening the Phillips County Courthouse at 7:30 a.m., including putting up the flags.
  
- Other duties include maintaining the lawns and grounds, changing lights, making repairs and buffing the floors. He also spends time taking care of the boilers at the courthouse and moving snow during the winter.
  
- Wiebers keeps the fairgrounds looking good all year 'round. He said people probably don't realize he's the one that gets the call when campers arrive in the middle of the night or when things need unlocked.
  
- On a regular basis, Wiebers is available to help county employees at the courthouse, Social Services headquarters and the Event Center. No request would be too wacky for Wiebers, who said he's seen and heard just about everything.
  
- "When things come up, you just deal with it," he said.
  
- So whether he's changing a light bulb, fixing a leak or riding on his lawn mower, a day in the life of this supervisor is anything but ordinary.

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