



Tabor welcomed the world to town for its annual Czech Days celebration, which hit the ripe age of 65 this year. ABOVE: Many generations honored Tabor's ethnic tradition by wearing traditional ethnic attire, such as during Friday's parade. (Hertz) RIGHT: Czech Days opened with fire in the skies Thursday night during the annual Rich Schild Memorial Fireworks Display at the baseball diamond. (Hertz)



Czech Mates

A Look Back On Czech Days 2013

P&D Photos By Kelly Hertz and Nathan Johnson



Czech Days is a celebration of old-world ethnic tradition and time-honored rituals that have come to define the annual summer festival. LEFT: A staple of the Czech Days tradition is the kolache, a fruit-filled pastry that an army of workers toil long hours to prepare. But an ample supply is always welcomed — and gobbled up — by Czech Days attendees. (Hertz) ABOVE LEFT: Another tradition is the performance of the Beseda Dancers in Sokol Park, featuring more than 200 dancers of all ages performing to live polka music. (Johnson) ABOVE RIGHT: The 65th anniversary of Czech Days brought back past Czech Days Queens, many of whom participated in Friday's parade. (Hertz)



Music has always been a major part of the Czech Days celebration. LEFT: Marlene Kostel, whose singing has long been a fixture of weddings in Tabor, serenaded the crowd at Sokol Park during Friday's opening ceremonies. (Hertz) CENTER: Betsy Jo



Paprocki, the 2013 Clarkson (Neb.) Czech-Slovak Queen, not only added to the regal proceedings during Friday's parade but she also provided her own music. (Hertz) RIGHT: Musicians of all ages took part in Friday's parade. (Hertz)



The warm and humid conditions during Friday's parade prompted this young Czech Days fan to cool off with a bottle of water. Stormy weather on Friday night hindered some of the proceedings but held off until after the first performance of the Beseda Dancers. (Hertz)



The carnival midway was a source of fun and thrills for Czech Days attendees of all ages. LEFT: These kids enjoyed a train ride on Friday afternoon. (Hertz) ABOVE: Meanwhile, these two young tractor operators enjoyed their ride on the midway Friday afternoon. (Hertz)



ABOVE: Doug and Claudette Sternhagen reigned as the Czech Days Parade Marshals Friday afternoon. (Hertz) BELOW: Children in traditional Czech costumes were popular features of the Czech Days parade entries. (Hertz)



LEFT: Raquel Sutera, the 2012 Czech Days Queen, greeted the many visitors who attended Friday's Czech Days parade in Tabor. This year, all of the past Czech Days queens were honored to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the celebration. (Hertz) RIGHT: Mariah Kostal, the 2013 Czech Days queen, is congratulated after her coronation Saturday by past Czech Days queens assembled for the event's 65th anniversary (Johnson). To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net.



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