

Cow Patty Bingo finishes in record time | Sep 15, 2019 12:00 AM

By Jasmine Gallup | jgallup@sanfordherald.com | 919-718-1217

Audiences were settling in for the long-haul Friday night when, barely a minute out of the gate, the aptly named Patty did what they had all been waiting for.

The deep brown Jersey cow deposited her "patty" on the floor of the Arena Barn at the Lee County Fair, marking spot 476. Patty's patty had picked a winner for Cow Patty Bingo.

"That was the quickest cow patty I've ever seen!" said Bill Stone, event organizer and director of the Lee County Extension Center.

A few seconds later, the distinct smell of victory wafted over the crowd.

"Ooh, stinker, that's a stinker!" said Joan Hawes, one of the bingo participants.

The second annual Cow Patty Bingo was hosted by S3 Housing Connect, a joint city-county task force whose mission is to end homelessness. By the end of the night, the event raised a little more than \$6,000 for area homeless shelters.

"We wanted to do something that was a little different, something that would get people's attention," Stone said. "Part of it, of course, is to raise money, but the other part is to create awareness of the issue of homelessness in our community and how we can all come together to address it."

The lucky winner, Pam Kerley, went home with \$500 for the Crazy Quilters 4-H Club, a group of school-age children who meet every month to quilt and sew. Kerley is the 4-H Program Assistant and bought her single bingo space on behalf of the club.

She said she never expected to win. Her spot was among 235 others, spray-painted on the floor of the barn in a grid surrounded by iron barriers.

"That was a fun surprise," she said. "I was on my way out when I heard them hootin' and hollerin' about the cow. She went so fast."

Club member Julianne McKinney, 10, agreed.

"I wasn't expecting it to be that fast," she said. "It smelled awful."

McKinney said she hoped the money they won could be used for more quilting supplies, like specialty fabric.

And though the grand prize was handed out so quickly, the mood remained festive with a cow lookalike contest and cow patty pie-eating contest.

Cow costumes were on display everywhere, with one little girl, Kendall Logan, wearing a black-and-white spotted T-shirt complete with udders. Even Penelope the goat, owned by S3 Housing Connect volunteer Gabby Murillo, was dressed up in a spotted wrap and tutu.

RV Hight, communications director for Central Carolina Community College and the event's MC, also got in on the fun with cow-themed jokes that were good for a groan if not a chuckle.

"What do you get when a cow is caught in an earthquake?" he asked. "A milkshake, that's right!"

