HAY NEIGHBOR
By Frank J. Buchman

Volume XV, Edition 316 : September 11, 2015

Wildlife Appreciation And Conservation Days Educational, Fun Attraction For All

"Let's get these kids off the couch and outdoors."

That's Bruce Burnebinde, longtime management at Bluestem Farm & Ranch in Emporia, encouraging and inviting children of all ages, even those who spend more time over-exercising rodeo chairs, to participate in the 13th annual Wildlife Appreciation and Conservation Days, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 11-12, hosted by the business serving the Flint Hills for more than 54 years, and advertising on 580 WIBW the entertainer.

Children of all ages will have a ball learning about wildlife and conservation at Wildlife Appreciation and Conservation Days, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 11-12, at Bluestem Farm & Ranch in Emporia.

"We work to make this an educational and fun day for everybody and especially the children, who often just don't know, understand and appreciate the world outdoors, especially the rich bottomland world represented by grassland Flint Hills," Burnebinde emphasized.

Among the conservation groups to be in attendance are Quail Unlimited, Kansas Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited, Rosy Footprint Foundation, Kansas Hunter Education, Camp Alexander, Kansas Hunters, Kansas Muzzleloaders, Kansas Rifle Association, and the local Beau Arch Foundation.

"These interesting organizations come into the store, set up booths and welcome an opportunity to meet everyone to explain about the importance of wildlife and conservation to the region," Burnebinde said.

Children will have a ball learning about wildlife with laser guns, air rifles and pellet guns, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 11-12, at Bluestem Farm & Ranch, September 11-12, in Emporia.

Officials from Kansas Wildlife and Parks will have their laser shooting booth for everyone to test their skills on all kinds of game targets, and there'll be an air rifle and pellet gun range. The Kansas Bow Hunters will also have their archery shooting range here." said Burnebinde.

Shoot and archery were all the rage at last year's Wildlife Appreciation and Conservation Days, and promises into centuries ago, and promises to be just as popular this year. Children of all ages will have a ball learning about wildlife and conservation. All can test their skills with air rifles and pellet guns, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 11-12, at Bluestem Farm & Ranch in Emporia. Wildlife Appreciation and Conservation Days, September 11-12.

There will be representatives from several manufacturers with their products in the store's sporting goods department. Some of these are knives, guns, camo and wild game and waterfowl calls, storage cabinets, camo wear, ammunition and the like.

Gas-fueled grills are to be set up outdoors for a hot dog stand with beef and bratwurst, beer brunch, dinner, or early supper. "All proceeds from the stand will be donated to the wildlife conservation groups," Burnebinde related.

There will be drawings for prizes, with the grand prize being a Henry rifle, Burnebinde stated.

Information can be found at www.bluestemfarmandranch.com.

Pie Bakers Face Challenge In Flavors Of The Flint Hills Benefit For Pioneer Bluffs

"Who's the best pie baker in the Flint Hills?"

That's a highly debatable and most controversial question.

Such that a cowboy's mom would drop the rolling pin on the kitchen cabinet, to respond with raised opinionated voice, as spring flour from nostrils onto tan apron, just like the mom and whose mom's recipe always goes into her own "best" pies.

Well, despite prejudices and beliefs of cooks and pleased pie eaters, alike, the official "Best Pie Baker" is to be named in the "Pie to the Power" Pie Contest, scheduled for Saturday, in conjunction with the Flavors of the Flint Hills Saturday, Sept. 12, at Cottonwood Falls, according to Lynn Smith, executive director of Pioneer Bluffs, Flint Hills prairie education center at Matfield Green.

While serving as a benefit for Pioneer Bluffs, prairie education center at Matfield Green, Flavors of the Flint Hills Saturday, Sept. 12, at Cottonwood Falls, promises to be a delicious, fun-filled day of sampling the best of the Flint Hills entrepreneurs, fun-filled auction of unique items, and a "Pie to the Power" Pie Contest, with the appearance of a celebrity judge in the pie fray.

Whoever thinks they have the best pie concoction, all kitchen gear but the pastry and Flint Hills included, are welcomed to the contest if they really do. But, there'll be no "Simple Simon" pie-in-the-sky judges" cards are marked. It'll be officially "The Best Pie in the Flint Hills" for 2015.

"We've had a few rules pie bakers must abide, according to Smith.

The entry fee is a delicious dessert but also bring a second pie, even though it won't be evaluated. But, so there's ample for sampling by those wanting a taste of what everybody thinks is the best.

Entries can be made in all three categories: pumpkin, fruit or cream. "However, all custard pies must be made completely from scratch," emphasized Smith.

Pies are to be delivered to the Symphony in the Flint Hills Gallery, 331 Broadway, Cottonwood Falls, from 9 o'clock, until noon Saturday morning, Sept. 12.

"The cooks women, men or children are asked to please mark non-disposable pies so they can be returned, which we don't want to misplace a family heirloom that great grandma baked her pies in," Smith added.

Actually irrelevant to most participants, yet, the winner of the pie baking competition will be $100.

In reality, the second pie entry will be served for dessert at the Flavors of the Flint Hills that evening, with strong possibility you might get a nibble of other entries, even the "Best Pie," if just a tiny figure-eight.

The Flavors of the Flint Hills event, advertised and promoted on 580 WIBW, www.WilbwhenShow, and the Kansas Ag Network is to benefit Pioneer Bluffs, and will also be at the "Symphony" office, beginning at 5:30.

Guests are welcomed to join in a horse drawn 1800s hinged-top carriage down the historic brick main street overshadowed by the world famous Chase County Courthouse. In the supper hall, all are to be greeted with music by the Flint Hills Balladeer Annie Wilson and the Tallgrass Express String Band.

Supper is to include Flint Hills beef, of course, and other Flint Hills specialties appropriate to symphony-produced night in the heartland with preparation by chefs from the Ad Astra, nationally acclaimed Chase County eating establishment.

Longtime Pioneer Bluffs board member Col. Dave Webb will serve as the "prairie entertaining/educating, humor-laced-with-taunting" auctioneer for the fund raising auction featuring most unique items reflecting the spirit of the Flint Hills.

Jerry Hedrick, this year's president of the Pioneer Bluffs Foundation and author in all things prairie, Flint Hills related, is expected to step up, pull plush-white hat tighter, to prod more donating folks there to open their fabled, typically-deep-pocketed supporters.

Featured speaker for the Pioneer Bluffs fundraising supper affair is Dr. Bonnie Lynn-Sherow, executive director of the Chapman Center for Rural Studies at Kansas State University.

Sherow's presentation, "Tallgrass Landscapes of North American agricultural, Indian and environmental history, and is a sounding-board-resonant tribute to the Flint Hills Symphony in Manhattan.

"The Chapman Center is committed to researching preserving and sharing history of rural Kansas, and is a major sponsor of Flavors of the Flint Hills," Smith noted.

In her anticipated supper program presentation, Lynn-Sherow is to discuss the important and unique role of the prairie, which have already been made.

Sherow Bluffs, on the National Register of Historic Places, is the original homestead of the Rogler Ranch at Matfield Green.

"It is now a nonprofit prairie education organization with the mission to restore the land, preserve history, and educate the community," emphasized Smith, who can be contacted for all information at 620-753-3484, or tyrn@pioneerbluffs.org.

Yates Center Cowboy Looks To Winning Career As Bull Rider

"When it's in the blood, that's all one ever wants to do."

From when he barely turned four-years-old, Cody Hunsperger has gotten life's thrill from riding renegade livestock.

"My dad's a roper, so he's been going to rodeos since before I was born, actually. I started out in the mutton-busting thing those runaway sheep, really liked that a lot, and couldn't wait to get on bucking stock and ride. Then, I started winning then entered the steer riding, junior bulls, now I live to rodeo and ride professional bucking bulls," Hunsperger quickly summarized his 20 years.

"I qualified for the bull riding at the Junior High Rodeo Finals both years, in New Mexico, placed fourth in the seventh grade, drew a little bigger, and was eighth, as one finalist, the next. I remembered the Yates Center cowboy.

Cody Hunsperger

"Qualifying for the National High School Rodeo Finals four years, Hunsperger won the bull riding in the Kansas High School Rodeo Association as a sophomore while placing in the top four the other three years.

His future was bull riding. After graduating in 2010, Hunsperger went on the rodeo trail, mounting 100 bulls in the past year. However, he has a day job, operating a road grader for Woodson County.

"I'm doing all right with the entry fees and travel expenses, it takes more than I'm winning right, yet. But, that's come I'm a ranch cowboy," Hunsperger, 23, 175-pound cowboy bull rider.

Competition now is limited to the Midwest. "I ride in the Central Plains Rodeo Association (CPRA), and big open rodeos," he said.

"Responded to Internet, from Flint Hills Beef Cowboys, a Kansas City."

The cowboy continued, "I drew two bulls, at Gardner, had qualified once, three times, was second the first year, and was the second year."

"They've retired Overstreet now, and that's disappointing to me. I really liked him. There are some sons that are starting to buck and I haven't drown any of them yet, but I'm looking forward to the Overstreet bulls.

Cody Hunsperger of Yates Center shows his shoulder-to-hip, bucking style which is to be tested at the Flint Hills Bull Bonanza, Saturday night, Sept. 12, at Strong City, Kansas. Hunsperger is a professional bull rider. Photo by Photo Cowboy.

"Hunsperger rides Overstreet's bulls, Hunsperger continued.

Interesting to look over the arena record of Overstreet, too. Bucked at rodeos sponsored by Harper Frontier Rodeo Company, Rodeo, Professional Bull Statistics show Overstreet bucked out of the chutes in 12 competitions and out of the chutes and bucked off 76-92 percent of the time. In that competition, he was only ridden by three riders.

"Since we owned him, Overstreet had 35 outs in all levels of competitions, and he rodeo a total of only six times, which makes his percentage of dumping some of the best cowboys in the world on the ground." commented the Kansas Rodeo Company and Hills Bull Genetics.

That cowboy quote Cody Hunsperger among the unique few cowboys capable of winning money on one of the best that was rodeo, Overstreet, yet, "Never pointed out.

Hunsperger has a full rodeo and bull riding schedule for several weeks.

"I'm really looking forward to the Flint Hills Bull Blowout at Strong City on Saturday night, Sept. 12. Jimmy Crowther of the New Frontier Rodeo Company at Rosbury will supply the bulls, but there'll also be several bulls in the draw that are owned Flint Hills Bull Genetics, including some sons of Overstreet," Hunsperger commented.

The bull riding competition at the famed Flint Hills Rodeo Arena right on Highway 50, has been advertised and promoted heavily on 580 WIBW, The BIG 94.5 Country, www.WilbwhenShow.com, and the Kansas Ag Network.

Rough stock riding has been his life, and just moving into his prime, Hunsperger optimistically, excitedly anticipates his expanding bull riding career and accomplishments.

"I haven't been to any Championship Bull Riders events or other professional competitions yet, it's so expensive. But, I'm on a keep going as hard as I can, enter more, ride more, and win more. It'll all come," Hunsperger assured.

Holton Fair Complex Hosts Family Fun Day, Ranch Rodeo September 12

"Old-fashioned family fun with kids' activities and rodeo competition just like done every day in the ranch profession."

Dale Dillner of the Jackson County Fair Association organized this's the excitement set for the Family Fun Day and sixth annual ranch rodeo Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Northeast Kansas Heritage Complex south of Holton.

"This will be a fundraising event for continued construction of the complex, located just west of Highway 75 and 63 Road, and gate admission will be free will donation," said Dillner, also on the ranch rodeo committee, sponsoring activities on the big board.

Advertised and promoted on 580 WIBW, The BIG 94.5 Country, www.WilbwhenShow.com, the Kansas Agriculture Network, The Ranch Rodeo plans to open at 11 o'clock, along with concessions, and pony rides are to be available, until mid-afternoon.

Rough stock riding, the excitement of the ranch rodeo, will be the highlight when Saturday, September 12, at the Northeast Kansas Heritage Complex south of Holton.

"Ranch competition starting at noon will feature four member ranch teams exhibiting their skills in simulating ranch work chores by cowboys for centuries," Dillner noted.

Events include team sorting, steer mugging, steer branding, and ladder loading. "We have contestants learn for the first time this year, so the competition will be at their best," Dillner warned.

Highlight for little cowpokes is the mutton busting for those eight years of age and younger, weighing less than 60 pounds. Sponsored at 12:30, with competition at 1:00, the stock dog demonstration will be a feature of the sheep riding, noon," Dillner noted.

An open barrel race will be a half-hour after the ranch rodeo competition, scheduled about 4:30, it was announced.

"We're having a silent auction of wonderful donated items, including several that are homemade, with viewing throughout the day, and announcement of successful bidders at 5 o'clock," Dillner said.

"We'll have a full day of old-fashioned fun for the whole family Saturday afternoon, Sept. 12, at the Northeast Kansas Heritage Complex, south of Holton. Grab your hat and come join the excitement," welcomed Dillner, pointing out that additional information is on Facebook.

Pudre Says:

"The only person you are destined to become is the person YOU decide to be."

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