HEY NEIGHBOR
By Frank J. Buchman

Volume XVI, Edition 370 Three Story Edition - July 12, 2016

Meriden Threshing Show This Weekend

Harvest the old fashioned way will be demonstrated as highlight of the 40th annual Meriden Threshing Show this weekend.

"Threshing will be featured, but we have a full schedule of activities Friday through Sunday, July 25-16-17, at the Meriden Antique Engine and Threshers Association grounds just east of town on Highway K-4," according to Jess Noll, president.

Advertised and promoted on 580 WIBW, Country Legions 106.9, The BIG 94.5 Country, WibwNewsNow and the Kansas Agriculture Network, there'll be threshing daily from 10 o'clock, till 2 o'clock, with a parade set for 1:30, each day as well.

"This year we'll be featuring Allis Chalmers tractors, and Fairbanks-Morse engines, but all tractor and engine owners are welcome to participate," Noll said. "We'll have a special antique car and truck show on Saturday, too."

A garden tractor pull is planned Friday evening at 7 o'clock, Saturday morning at 9 o'clock, and Sunday moring at 11 o'clock.

The children's pedal tractor pull is planned at 3 o'clock, Saturday, followed by the antique tractor and truck pull at 4 o'clock.

Triple Shot will entertain Friday evening, and Southern Reign is to be featured Saturday night. "Both shows begin at 8 o'clock, and be sure to bring your lawn chairs," Noll invited.

Those attending the 40th annual Meriden Threshing Show can tour the general store at Cottonwood Station_ living history town.

Sunday service at the Bloomfield Church begins at 9 o'clock, and there'll be a slow tractor race at 10:30.

In addition to these specially planned attractions, visitors can tour Cottonwood Station, the living history town. They'll see the Benedict Meyer log cabin built in 1854, among other replications of life nearly two centuries ago.

The most complete working blacksmith shop in the Midwest will be in operation. A thick and thin sawmill is to be cutting lumber each day.

Information is available at www.meridenthreshers.org, and on Facebook.

Texas 'Backflip' Feature For Kansas' Largest Open Rodeo At Junction City

Western entertainment at its very best is set for Junction City Thursday and Friday evening.

"Backflip" Johnny Dudley will be star attraction of the 23rd annual Junction City Rodeo, July 15-16, at the Geary County Fairgrounds, 1025 South Spring Valley Road, Junction City," announced Darryl Blocker, official of the Junction City Rodeo Association.

However, rodeo is what the action is really all about, clarified Blocker.

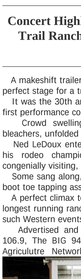
It has been advertised and promoted heavily on 580 WIBW, Country Legends 106.9 KTPK, The BIG 94.5 Country, WibwNewsNow and the Kansas Agriculture Network.

"Recognized as one of the 'largest open rodeos in Kansas,' contestants from throughout the Midwest come to compete in the performances at 7:30 each evening.

"This is an open rodeo which offers competition with exciting action for the entire family to enjoy. Come watch the saddle broncs, bareback riding, tie-down roping, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing, breakaway roping and bull riding," Blocker invited.

Each night, kids' events include a calf scramble, boot scramble and mutton busting, the rodeo official said.

"Friday evening's performance is planned as the Tough Enough To Wear Pink Night for cancer awareness and benefit," Blocker said.



"However, highlight of both evening's rodeo perfo-rmances will be Backflip's special entertainment," Blocker stated.

Professional rodeo clown and barrel man Johnny Dudley of Denton, Texas, is one of the top talents in professional rodeo.

"Backflip is known for amazing feature acts, along with his quick wit and off-the-cuff banter that keeps crowds laughing until their sides hurt," Blocker said.

Dudley has performed at rodeos from Florida to Alaska and just about everywhere in between.

He has been chosen twice to entertain at the Turquoise Circuit Finals Rodeo, and this year 2016 will be his third appearance at the Profession Rodeo Cowboys Association's All-American Finals.

Before becoming a rodeo clown, Dudley served eight years in the United States Marine Corps, and then went on to college where he graduated with an international business degree.

"Backflip is one of the most likeable people you will ever meet and greets everyone with a big Texas smile," Blocker assured. Detailed information can be found on Facebook.

Concert Highlights 30th Anniversary Santa Fe Trail Ranch Rodeo Won By Chase County Team

A makeshift trailer and flashing colored lights set the seemingly-perfect stage for a true cowboy concert.

It was the 30th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail Ranch Rodeo, first performance concluded.

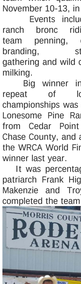
Crowd swelling to nearly a thousand turned around in bleachers, unfolded lawn chairs and majority stood on the lawn.

Ned LeDoux entertained with personal song repertoire, hits of his rodeo champion-chart-topping dad Chris LeDoux, most congenially visiting, and reflecting between each set.

Some sang along, occasional dance steps, and near continuous boot toe tapping assured rodeo fans loved the style.

A perfect climax to three-hour-packed action of the original and longest running ranch rodeo in Kansas, which was one of the first such Western events in the country.

Advertised and promoted on 580 WIBW, Country Legends 106.9, The BIG 94.5 Country, WibwNewsNow and the Kansas Agriculture Network, 16 teams representing ranches from throughout the Midwest showed their profession abilities in the Working Ranch Cowboys Association (WRCA) sanctioned competition.



Lonesome Pine Ranch_ Cedar Point_ topped 16 teams to win championship honors at the Santa Fe Trail Ranch Rodeo in Council Grove. Shown are Travis Duncan_ Chris Potter_ Frank Higgs_ Makenzie Higgs_ Troy Higgs and Bud Higgs._ /Photo by Bruce Hogle_

Four cowboys or cowgirls could be in the arena, although several ranches had sideline members who sometimes stepped in as replacements.

Attendance for Saturday's second go round was a bit shy Friday evening's celebration crowd, but said to still be one of largest in recollection.

Each night featured ranch bronc riding, team penning, calf branding, stray gathering and wild cow milking.

Points from both performances were totaled to name the top team which qualified to compete at the WRCA World Finals, November 10-13, in Amarillo, Texas.

Top Horse Award from the American Quarter Horse Association at the Santa Fe Trail Ranch Rodeo in Council Grove was presented to Adrian Vogel of Cottonwood Falls._ /Photo by Bruce Hogle_

Events included ranch bronc riding, team penning, calf branding, stray gathering and wild cow milking.

Big winner in a repeat of local championships was the Lonesome Pine Ranch from Cedar Point in Chase County, and also the WRCA World Finals winner last year.

It was percentage-wise a Higgs family-dominated outfit with patriarch Frank Higgs, his son Bud Higgs, along grandchildren Makenzie and Troy Higgs. Travis Duncan and Chris Potter completed the team.

Cole Wilson_ Lola Vogel and Carly Potter composed the _45 Cattle_ team winning the Junior Ranch Rodeo duringthe Santa Fe Trail Ranch Rodeo at Council Grove._ /Photo by Amy Allen_

Arndt & Bailey Ranches of Chase, Greenwood and Lyon Counties placed second with Mike and Ryan Arndt, Richell and Wes Bailey, along with Glen Collinge, and Josh Lilley, as team members.

Haywire Cattle Company of Butler County and Kalvesta Ranch of Finney County joined efforts to be the third place team. Andy, Callie and Randy Jones were joined by Pate Collins, Justin Peterson and Luke Rush as team members.

The team of Eight Over Quarter Circle and Stinson placed fourth with Kolby Boos, Ty Bryant, Josh Breeding, Clint Heller and Zack Parkin riding.

Adrian Vogel, Cottonwood Falls, of the Robbins & Keith Ranches team took home a trophy from the American Quarter Horse Association for having the Top Horse at the rodeo.

Cowboys and cowgirls, ages 13 and under, composed three-member teams competing in the Junior Ranch Rodeo Saturday morning. They competed in calf branding, team penning and ribbon roping.

Top honors went to the "45 Cattle" team of Carly Potter, Lola Vogel and Cole Wilson, with a tie for second between the Robbins Ranch and Diamond Creek Ranch.

Padre Says:

"We can solve many of life's problems if we feed the back burner of our mind with a list of problems, facts, and possible solutions."

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