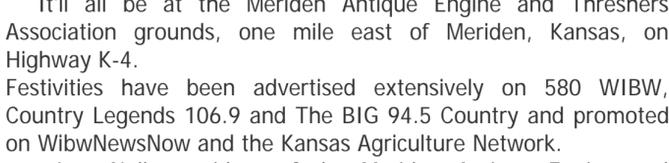


Turning Back Pages Of Days Gone By At Meriden Fall Festival This Weekend



Old time farming methods and ways of living days gone by will once again be featured Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 23-24, at the 39th Fall Festival and Swap Meet

It'll all be at the Meriden Antique Engine and Threshers Association grounds, one mile east of Meriden, Kansas, on Highway K-4.

Festivities have been advertised extensively on 580 WIBW, Country Legends 106.9 and The BIG 94.5 Country and promoted on WibwNewsNow and the Kansas Agriculture Network.

Jess Noll, president of the Meriden Antique Engine and Threshers Association, said one special attraction is the stock antique garden tractor pull at 10 o'clock, Saturday morning, and Sunday afternoon at 12:30.

"There'll be seven classes with trophies in each class," Noll said. Cottonwood Station, a reproduction living history of an early day Kansas town, will come to life both days.

"The 'old town' was established in 1977 with the purpose to preserve, through living history, early farming techniques, the appreciation of antique engines, occupations and cultures in small town and rural areas of early Kansas," Noll explained.



A steam-engine powered buzz saw is to be in operation at the 39th annual Fall Festival and Swap Meet this weekend, Sept. 23-24, east of Meriden on K-4 Highway.

"We are now pleased to offer private tours of our grounds year-around," he added.

During this weekend's festival, a flea market is to be offering a wide array of arts and crafts and other items.

"Come on out. There's plenty to do and see," Noll invited. "Watch us make apple butter, apple cider and sorghum, and grind flour from wheat.

"Watch us saw wood with a steam-engine powered buzz saw. Watch us be blacksmiths and make things with iron," Noll continued. "Watch us do this and more the old fashioned way."

Special antique engine and antique tractors are to be on display and for buying, selling and trading

"There will be plenty of good deals on engines, tractors, machinery, antiques, tools and collectibles," Noll said.

Simms Garage, the general store, print shop, blacksmith shop, sawmill, flour mill, log cabin and gas engine buildings will be open with working displays.

The 4-Closure Band will provide music for the old-time barn dance Saturday evening, Sept. 23, starting at 7:30.

Services are planned Sunday morning, Sept. 24, at 9 o'clock, in the Bloomfield Church.

The chuck wagon is to be open for meals both days serving breakfast, dinner and short orders anytime.

Camping hookups are available, but dogs without a leash and all-terrain vehicles are not permitted on the grounds. Utility vehicles and golf carts can be used with a registration fee.

Complete details are available at www.meridentreshers.org.

Alta Vista To Celebrate 130 Years With Old Settlers Day September 23

It'll be a community appreciation celebration of 130 years.

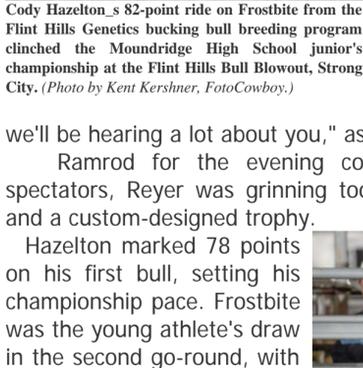
Old Settlers Day at Alta Vista in western Wabaunsee County features a full lineup of festivities Saturday, Sept. 23.

"There'll be something for everybody to come to our little town on the prairie," promised Pam McDiffett, city official.

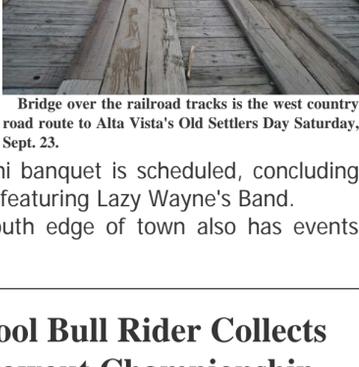
Free breakfast will be served at the High View Church on Main Street, 7:30, until 9:30.

A 5K run/walk races starts at 8 o'clock, when the antique and craft vendor market opens in the park.

Marilyn Andres will host a free Make and Take Crafts event for toddlers and older youth across from the park at 9 o'clock.



Main Street is paved now, but several Alta Vista buildings of a century ago and still in business today.



Bridge over the railroad tracks is the west country road route to Alta Vista's Old Settlers Day Saturday, Sept. 23.

Advertised on Country Legends 106.9 and featured on WibwNewsNow and the Kansas Agriculture Network, highlight of the day is the parade at 11 o'clock, with all entries and spectators extended a special welcome.

Farmers & Drivers Bank will host lunch, and the Masonic Lodge is to serve homemade ice cream.

Afternoon features are a longest beard contest, horseshoes and games for kids and adults.

"We're having a bale toss, root beer chugging, watermelon seed spitting and jalapeno eating, all for excitement," McDiffett insisted.

There'll be a fashion review and talent show at 3 o'clock, with all participants receiving a congenial invitation.

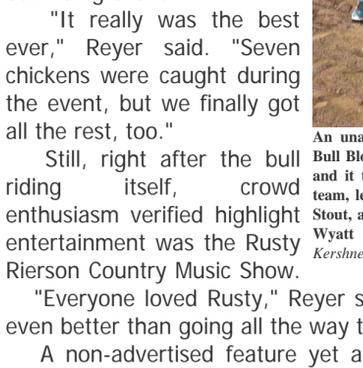
The annual Alta Vista alumni banquet is scheduled, concluding with an 8 o'clock street dance featuring Lazy Wayne's Band.

Ag Heritage Park at the south edge of town also has events planned during the day.

Talented High School Bull Rider Collects Flint Hills Bull Blowout Championship

Getting down on five chute-fighting, rank bucking bulls in one day is an enviable feat itself by most anybody's standards.

Making qualified rides on the last two meanest professional-caliber quakers within just a few minutes becomes even more notable.



Cody Hazelton's 82-point ride on Frostbite from the Flint Hills Genetics bucking bull breeding program clinched the Moundridge High School junior's championship at the Flint Hills Bull Blowout, Strong City. (Photo by Kent Kershner, FotoCowboy.)

When the 16-year-old high school cowboy tops 18 riders, including several professionals, championship cash and trophy undeniably well earned.

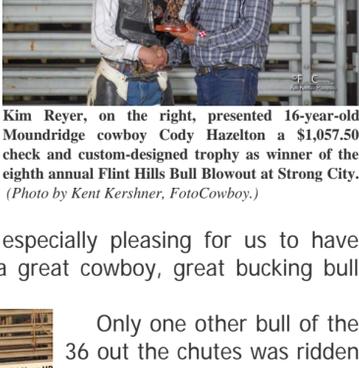
Cody Hazelton, Moundridge junior, was all smiles accepting awards for the eighth annual Flint Hills Bull Blowout at Strong City.

"You're a champion tonight and with your natural ability, we'll be hearing a lot about you," assured Kim Reyer.

Ramrod for the evening competition luring a thousand spectators, Reyer was grinning too while presenting \$1,057.50, and a custom-designed trophy.

Hazelton marked 78 points on his first bull, setting his championship pace. Frostbite was the young athlete's draw in the second go-round, with attention peaked as the gates opened.

Cowboy was the winner, scoring 83 points, locking in the title. "We raised and own Frostbite, a product of our Flint Hills Genetics bucking bull breeding program," Reyer informed. "So, it was especially pleasing for us to have Cody win on him. That was a great cowboy, great bucking bull matchup."



Kim Reyer, on the right, presented 16-year-old Moundridge cowboy Cody Hazelton a \$1,057.50 check and custom-designed trophy as winner of the eighth annual Flint Hills Bull Blowout at Strong City. (Photo by Kent Kershner, FotoCowboy.)

Only one other bull of the 36 out the chutes was ridden to the eight-second whistle. Coy Pollmeier from Ft. Scott marked 78 points from Ft. Scott the \$705 check for second place of the prestigious event.

Advertised on 580 WIBW, Country Legends 106.9, and The BIG 94.5 Country and promoted on WibwNewsNow and the Kansas Agriculture Network, the Flint Hills Bull Blowout was sponsored by Reyer's Country Store and Flint Hills Genetics, with support from throughout the Flint Hills and beyond.

"We sure couldn't do this without so much help from so many people," Reyer acknowledged. "First and foremost is my wife, our children and their families. Then, of course, Jimmy Crowther and New Frontier Rodeo Company; there are so many in Chase County and everywhere."

Described as a beautiful evening, folks locally and from more than a hundred miles away gathered for the barbecue beef supper.

Action kickoff was the mutton busting with top ewe sheep riding honors going to Lahna and Blaze Passmore of Cottonwood Falls, who were first and second respectively. McKenna Murray of Andover was third.

"Arena was full of kids for the chicken scramble," an anticipated feature of the bull riding event.

"It really was the best ever," Reyer said. "Seven chickens were caught during the event, but we finally got all the rest, too."

Still, right after the bull riding itself, crowd enthusiasm verified highlight entertainment was the Rusty Rierson Country Music Show.

"Everyone loved Rusty," Reyer said. "He was second to none, even better than going all the way to Nashville."

A non-advertised feature yet another spectator pleaser with plenty of contestant adrenalin as well was the sheep dressing.

"That really was a hit. The crowd loved it," Reyer said.

Tanner Koch, Wyatt Reyer, and Shea Terrell were the first place sheep-dressing team with second place team composed of Jesse Potter, Cael Budke, and Caleb Stout.

What's an evening entertainment without good eating, too? "The sophomore class did the concessions and had a very busy night, the food was great," Reyer insisted.

Arena was full of kids for the chicken scramble at the Flint Hills Bull Blowout in Strong City with seven chickens caught during the event. (Photo by Kent Kershner, FotoCowboy.)

An unadvertised unique feature for the Flint Hills Bull Blowout in Strong City was the sheep dressing and it turned out a "crowd pleaser." Second place team, left, was Jesse Potter, Cael Budke, and Caleb Stout, and first place team, right, was Tanner Koch, Wyatt Reyer, and Shea Terrell. (Photo by Kent Kershner, FotoCowboy.)

Hazelton has only been riding bucking bulls for three years. "My family really doesn't have any background in rodeo, but I wanted to give it a try," he said. The call was returned between his high school classes.

"It's really working out quite well," admitted Hazelton, in a misnomer of sorts, considering his youthful bull riding successes.

Son of Don and Jennifer Hazelton of Moundridge, the champion is presently also in first place in the Kansas High School Rodeo Association standings.

"Well, I really feel good about winning Strong City, because I came off pretty fast at the high school rodeo earlier in the day," he admitted.

However, before mounting the three competition bulls that day, Hazelton had already been on two practice bulls earlier in the morning.

"I'm starting a bucking bull breeding program of my own," he informed. "I just have a couple of bucking-bred cows so far, but I do have three bulls I get on for practice."

The five-foot-ten, 160-pound athlete keeps in shape by playing on the high school football team. "I'm fortunate that Coach understands I'm a cowboy first and football player second," he noted.

Fifth in state high school rodeo bull riding standings last year, Hazelton has his sights on qualifying for the nationals this year. "I have to keep making qualified rides. That's the key," he recognized.

Long term, the inspirational teenager looks to a professional career in the rodeo business. "I just love riding bulls," Hazelton summarized.

Padre Says:

"Do what is right, not what is easy."

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