

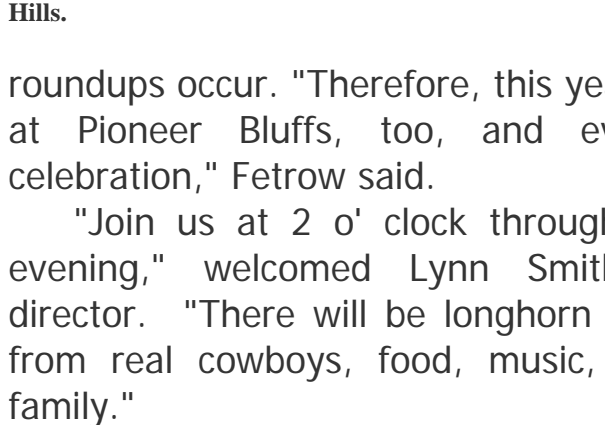
Heritage At Forefront Of Pioneer Bluffs With Fall Roundup Planned At The Matfield Green Ranch

The historic Rogler ranch near Matfield Green, Pioneer Bluffs is becoming home to Flint Hills ranching heritage.

"It will be the only nonprofit in the Midwest dedicated exclusively to ranching heritage," according to Chase County resident Denise Fetrow, Pioneer Bluffs board president.

"We think it is important to honor the legacy of the ranching families who settled the Flint Hills," she said.

"Where would be a better location than the 150-year ranching legacy left by the Rogler family in the heart of the Flint Hills?" she wondered.



Restoration of the historic barn built in 1915 at Pioneer Bluffs near Matfield Green is one of many efforts to preserve ranching heritage in the Flint Hills.

"Our mission to preserve that ranching heritage will be announced at the Pioneer Bluffs Fall Roundup on Saturday, Oct. 6." Fetrow said.

It's that time of year when fall season cattle are shipped and calves are weaned as the traditional fall roundups occur. "Therefore, this year we're having a Fall Roundup at Pioneer Bluffs, too, and everybody is invited to the celebration," Fetrow said.

"Join us at 2 o'clock throughout the afternoon into early evening," welcomed Lynn Smith, Pioneer Bluffs executive director. "There will be longhorn cattle, horses, cowboy stories from real cowboys, food, music, and activities for the entire family."

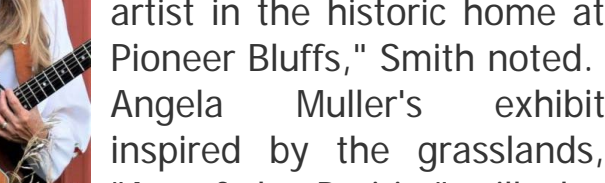
The festivities have been advertised extensively on 580 WIBW, Country 106.9 and The BIG 94.5 County in addition to promotions on WibwNewsNow and the Kansas Ag Network

A panel of ranchers will discuss the cycle of ranching and its importance in the Flint Hills. Author, historian, cowboy, and Pioneer Bluffs founding board member Jim Hoy will lead the opening discussion at 2 o'clock in the 1915 barn.

"More than a million head of stocker cattle come into the Flint Hills each year to put on weight," Hoy said. "Those visitors join more than 150,000 cows that are permanent residents of the native prairie."

"The Davis Ranch, the Z Bar Story" is a study of historic photographs, giving insight to one of the most famed ranches in Kansas history. Author and historian Greg Hoots, who curates this exhibit in the 1908 home at Pioneer Bluffs, will speak about the Z Bar at 3:30.

Josh and Gwen Hoy of the Flying W Ranch at Cedar Point will share cowboy stories throughout the afternoon from a 1880s chuck wagon. "Their cattle and horses will be on display nearby," Smith added.



This chuck wagon will be on display during the Fall Roundup events planned October 6, at Pioneer Bluffs near Matfield Green. Jim and Josh Hoy will be among those relating stories of cattle production in the Flint Hills during the afternoon program.

Russell Martin will demonstrate blacksmithing and his art creations also will be on exhibit. "Russell is the featured Prairie Pastimes artist in the historic home at Pioneer Bluffs," Smith noted.

Angela Muller's exhibit inspired by the grasslands, "Art of the Prairie," will also be in the 1908 home.

"Music has always been important on a ranch, and the tradition continues at Pioneer Bluffs," the enthusiastic director proclaimed.

The Tom Page Trio performs at 3 o'clock, Flint Hills Balladeer Annie Wilson and Jim Versch at 4:30, and cowboy singer Jeff Davidson at 6 o'clock.

There will be new ranching exhibits and educational booths to view. Additional family activities featured throughout the day are to include craft demonstrations, horseshoes, disc golf, and junior wrangler games.

At 5:30, will be the dedication of Pioneer Bluffs as a center of Flint Hills ranching heritage, Fetrow said.

The Rogler ranch sold at auction in 2006 and became a nonprofit education center. "For the first decade, goals centered on building improvements, including renovation of the 1916 granary and restoration of the 1915 barn to serve as a unique event center for community events," Smith said.

"As the nonprofit focuses on ranching heritage, a grant from the Trusler Foundation of Emporia has funded educational exhibits," she said. Two will be dedicated during the day, and visitors will have an opportunity to browse ranching stories and photos.

"In the coming year, additional exhibits will be installed, including the story of a granary, and the year-round cycle of ranching will be added," Smith informed.

"Changes to our programs will be subtle," Smith continued. "Our signature events, Prairie Talks, music performances, food experiences, and youth field trips, will continue because they share the human story of ranching."

"Pioneer Bluffs will collaborate with other organizations to provide hands-on ranching experiences," Smith pointed out.

"Ranching in the Flint Hills has changed since the early settlers arrived in the 1850s. It is important to document those developments and note their influence on today's ranching practices," Hoy said.

"We aim to highlight these differences and changes that make the Flint Hills unique through exhibits, programs, events, and symposiums," Hoy continued. "We invite ranchers, locals, schools, and visitors seeking a Flint Hills experience to come along with us as we journey through time, and join us as we explore contemporary ranching issues."

Pioneer Bluffs, on the National Register of Historic Places, is located one-mile north of Matfield Green or 14 miles south of Cottonwood Falls on Flint Hills National Scenic Byway K-177.

"There is no charge for this community event, but food will be available for purchase," Smith said.

More information on the event and all activities at Pioneer Bluffs are available at www.pioneerbluffs.org, Facebook or from Smith at 620-753-3484 or lynn@pioneerbluffs.org.

Morris County Annual Fall Ranch Rodeo At Council Grove October 7

Working cowboys from throughout the Flint Hills and beyond have Sunday, Oct. 7, circled in red on their calendars.

It's the 32rd annual Fall Ranch Rodeo at Council Grove, and they wouldn't miss it.

Actually many of the cowboys were there for the first rodeo when such true-ranch-like-work competitions were a new attraction. They've been there ever since making sure the first Sunday in October is always free.

Of course, it's a family and neighbors affair. Like the contestants, their immediate families, some third generations now, extended relatives, friends and neighbors wouldn't miss the action either.

Sponsored by the Morris County Youth Rodeo Association, this is an invitational event featuring more local cowboys. Yet, those who've won national ranch rodeo association competitions will be there, too.

They sure hope those working cowboys who stay home more doing necessary work on the ranch don't beat them. Yet, that's happened on several occasions.

The rodeo has been advertised extensively on Country 106.9 and promoted on WibwNewsNow and the Kansas Ag Network.

At the arena just off Highway 56, a mile-and-a-half east of town, action starts with a morning junior ranch rodeo.

Events, at 10 o'clock, include team penning, ribbon roping and calf branding. According to Clay Wilson, president of the sponsoring group, entries can be made by calling him at 785-466-1359.

Beginning at 1 o'clock, the ranch rodeo is to feature double mugging, team penning, steer penning and team penning.

At least a dozen four-member-working-cowboy ranch teams, possibly more, are anticipating the stringent competitions.

An annual additional attraction is always the mutton busting, or sheep riding, for little cowboys and cowgirls. They can sign up with parental permission release at the rodeo.

A new highlight set this year is a steer dressing contest for FFA teams from the area.

Of course, there'll be refreshments for all, with the snack shack operated by the Morris County Youth Rodeo Association. A fundraiser for the group, complete meals, snacks and cool drinks are on the menu.

St. Marys High School Junior Class Has Parking Lot Yard Sale Planned

Prom Night is a special high school memory for many. It's when juniors and seniors come together in a decorated evening of relaxation and fun to remember forever.

But, Prom Night is typically an expensive formal affair hosted by the Junior Class for the graduating Seniors, generally requiring some sort of special fundraising effort.

The Junior Class at St. Mary High School is no exception. "This year, St. Mary's Juniors are conducting a Parking Lot Yard Sale Saturday, Oct. 6, from 7 a.m., to 4 p.m.," announced Mrs. Emily Moore, class sponsor.

The fundraiser has been advertised on Country 106.9 as well as WibwNewsNow and the Kansas Agriculture Network.

"There'll be many different sellers with just about everything imaginable offered all in one location," she insisted.

That'll be the St. Marys High School Parking Lot at 601 East Lasley Street in St. Marys.

Everybody's welcome to consign sale items, and everybody's invited to come check out the vast selection.

"Then, everyone can purchase and take home exactly what they need, even though they didn't realize it was needed until coming to the parking lot yard sale," Mrs. Moore noted.

Reservation deadline has been extended to Friday afternoon, Oct. 5, for those desiring to participate in the massive yard sale on Saturday, Oct. 6.

Consignments should be confirmed with Mrs. Moore, at 785-215-5277, or mooree@kawvalley.k12.ks.us.

Information can also be obtained through those connections.

Padre Says:

"For any problem, no matter how big or complex it may be, there is a solution."

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