

Volume XV, Edition 320 - September 30, 2015
Three Story Edition - Pioneer Bluffs Barn, Chisholm Trail Days Relived, Ranch Rodeo

Refurbished Barn Unveiling At Afternoon-Packed Pioneer Bluffs Fall Festival This Saturday, Oct. 3

"It's been 100 years old since the barn was built, and now it's as good as new, so we're planning a big birthday bash in recognition and party."

Lynn Smith, director of the historical Pioneer Bluffs classic early 1900s family farmstead, a National Register Historic District farmstead at Matfield Green in Chase County, didn't say it exactly like way, but it sure best summarizes what's happening.



There's been a new paintjob and additional renovations on this historic barn, but the old-time music will be just as sweet as when the entertainers performed last year. It's been 100 years since the barn was built at Pioneer Bluffs, north of Matfield Green, and the refurbishing birthday celebration is in conjunction with all of the activities set for the Fall Festival there Saturday, Oct. 3.

"The eighth annual Pioneer Bluffs Fall Festival Saturday, Oct. 3, is a centennial celebration as the historic Flint Hills ranch recognizes the 100th anniversary of an iconic barn with music, activities, and food for the whole family," Smith did state.

"A well-known Flint Hills feature at the original Rogler family ranch, the barn at Pioneer Bluffs has recently undergone a transformation back to its 1915 appearance; and the festival will showcase the newly restored barn," she added emphatically.

Advertised and promoted on 580 WIBW, www.WibwNewsNow.com and the Kansas Agriculture Network, Saturday's features kickoff at 2 o'clock, with the packed afternoon to include live music, a petting zoo, car and tractor shows, old-time games and drum play, horse-drawn carriage rides, a historic performance, silent auction, arts and crafts fair, caricatures, and much more for the entire family, Smith declared.

"The Bluestem Swingers will host a square dance in the cathedral-like loft of the barn. Steps and moves of today's square dance have been updated, but visitors will enjoy watching or joining the dancers," Smith invited.

At 4:45, there'll be a first-person performance by Tom Thompson, Strong City, portraying Billy Morgan, the man who sold the Emporia Gazette to William Allen White. Thompson will share stories, of Morgan, the Rogler family, and J.H. Mercer, that have been discovered through research of 1915 newspapers.

This year's music lineup:

* 2 o'clock, Gary Kirkland, who has been proclaimed "Kansas City's gift to yodeling" by the Kansas City Star.

* 3 o'clock, The Vogts Sisters offer a graceful performance, blending timeless music with sweet sister harmony.

* 4 o'clock, Tiny Flowers plays an eclectic, acoustic mix of vintage Americana.

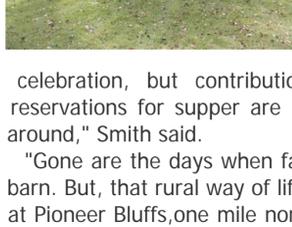
* 5 o'clock, Flint Hills Balladeer, Annie Wilson, will share the beauty of the Flint Hills in her original music with Carl Reed.

* 6 o'clock, Tom Page is joined by Dustin Arbuckle for a Tom Page Trio and Haymakers combo.

* 7:30, The Skirts, all-female group, will perform bluegrass music with rock and pop influences.



Classic cars along with antique tractors from afar are coming as part of a full afternoon slate of entertaining, educational and fun for all activities set for the Pioneer Bluffs Fall Festival, just north of Matfield Green, Kansas, on Saturday, Oct. 3.



A hog roast with locally grown produce will be served at 6 o'clock, and at dusk a fireworks extravaganza will conclude the festivities. "All performers and volunteers contribute their time and talent to this event, which benefits Pioneer Bluffs. There is no charge for this community celebration, but contributions are greatly appreciated, and reservations for supper are requested so there's enough to go around," Smith said.

"Gone are the days when family life revolved around a country barn. But, that rural way of life, and its unique story, is preserved at Pioneer Bluffs, one mile north of Matfield Green, Kansas, or 15 miles south of Cottonwood Falls on Flint Hills National Scenic Byway K-177.

"This classic early 1900s family farmstead is today a nonprofit organization with a mission to respect the land, preserve history, and engage with community," the director reminded.

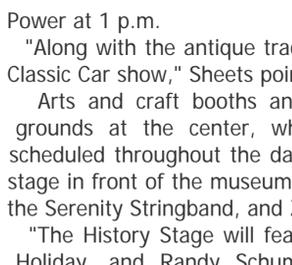
Information can be found at www.pioneerbluffs.org, but supper reservations should be made by e-mailing lynn@pioneerbluffs.org or calling Smith at 620-753-3484.

"The Pioneer Bluffs Fall Festival is a celebration of community and local food. Don't miss this party that happens once every 100 years," Smith pointed out.

Chisholm Trail Festival Turns Back The Pages With Activities For All At Abilene Heritage Center

"All trails lead to Abilene and end at the 37th annual Chisholm Trail Festival, on Saturday, Oct. 3."

That's Jeff Sheet's official announcement and cordial welcome to the Dickinson County Heritage Center, 412 South Campbell in Abilene, for festivities beginning at 10 o'clock, and continuing through 4 o'clock and will continue till 4 pm.



Known as the Original Kansas Cowboy Minstrel, Zerf will entertain with songs of the wild Kansas frontier during the Chisholm Trail Festival, Saturday, Oct. 3, in Abilene.

"The Dickinson County Historical Society invites you to bring your family and friends to enjoy the heritage of our county," invited director Sheets.

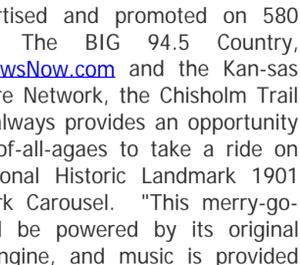
Registration for the antique tractor show featuring Ford and Fordson tractors starts at 8 o'clock, with tractor games beginning at 10, and a Parade of Power at 1 p.m.

"Along with the antique tractors, there will be an Antiques and Classic Car show," Sheets pointed out.

Arts and craft booths and food vendors are to be on the grounds at the center, which has a full slate of activities scheduled throughout the day. Live entertainment on the main stage in front of the museum will feature the Classic Heart Band, the Serenity Stringband, and Zerf.

"The History Stage will feature Marc Ferguson portraying Doc Holiday, and Randy Schumock singing county and western songs," Sheets said.

Living history demonstrations are to include blacksmithing, wheat weaving, wood carving, bread baking, chair caning, soap making, molasses cooking, spinning, weaving, and apple cider pressing. "The saw mill will also be operating throughout the day," noted Sheets.



Green will turn red to a point and most colors of the rainbow as Ford and Fordson are to be featured as every model of iron horse of the past has been invited to the tractor show, Parade of Power and other early day farming activities set in conjunction with the Chisholm Trail Festival, Saturday, Oct. 3, at Abilene.

The Day Care Providers of Dickinson County plan art projects for the kids. Children from age four to 10 are invited to participate in the pedal tractor pull, with registration at 2 o'clock, and competition starting at 2:30. "Perks key to all of the young people's activities is that Kasey and Timbo the clowns will there to assist in every way," Sheets credited.

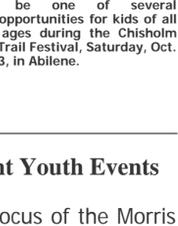


Bread used to be made in the kitchen rather than coming off the grocery shelf, and a homemade bread baking demonstration will be just a sample of home chores of days gone by presented during the Chisholm Trail Festival, Saturday, Oct. 3, in Abilene.

Advertised and promoted on 580 WIBW, The BIG 94.5 Country, WibwNewsNow.com and the Kansas Agriculture Network, the Chisholm Trail Festival always provides an opportunity for kids-of-all-ages to take a ride on the National Historic Landmark 1901 C.W. Park Carousel. "This merry-go-round will be powered by its original steam engine, and music is provided by a 1903 Wurlitzer band organ," Sheets informed.

"While attending the festival, make sure you go inside the Dickinson County Heritage center and look at the exhibits," Sheets insisted.

"During the day, there will be a table set up to collect the public's memories of Brown's Park. We would like to collect all stories about the park. It could be prior to the 1951 flood, or as recent as this year. Tell us about a family outing, attending a camp or just taking a pleasant drive through the park. We want to preserve this heritage," Sheets declared.



Firsthand experience grinding corn into meal for homemade corn-bread will be one of several opportunities for kids of all ages during the Chisholm Trail Festival, Saturday, Oct. 3, in Abilene.

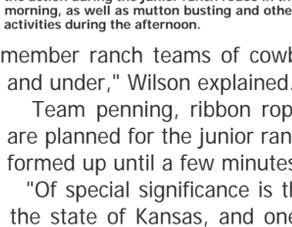
Information about the 37th annual Chisholm Trail Festival, Saturday, Oct. 3, in Abilene is available at www.heritagecenterdk.com, by calling 785-263-2681 or on Facebook at Dickinson County Heritage Center.

Ranch Rodeo At Council Grove To Highlight Youth Events

Cowboys and cowgirls of the future remain focus of the Morris County Youth Rodeo Association.

"While our organization sponsors several horse-related activities every year, encouraging youth to participate in rodeo and related horse events was the initial objective when the Morris County Youth Rodeo Association was formed nearly four decades ago. Our annual fall ranch rodeo this weekend will highlight special events for the youngsters," according to Clay Wilson, president of the Council Grove-based group.

The 29th annual Fall Ranch Rodeo has been scheduled for Sunday, Oct 4, 1 o'clock, at the Morris County Youth Rodeo Association (MCYRA) arena, located 1½ miles east of Council Grove on Highway 56.



From the sidelines to the arena dust, little cowboys and cowgirls are what the Morris County Youth Rodeo Association is all about. They'll be watching the ranch rodeo Sunday, Oct. 4, at Council Grove, and also getting in on the action during the junior ranch rodeo in the morning, as well as mutton busting and other activities during the afternoon.

It will again feature mutton busting, actually sheep riding competition, for cowboys and cowgirls seven years of age and under, who are welcome to sign up with parental-release day of the rodeo.

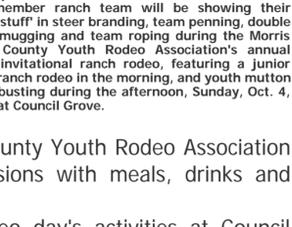
Likewise again an added attraction for the day is a Junior Ranch Rodeo, Sunday, morning at 10 o'clock. "Entries are still open for this unique action for three-member ranch teams of cowboys and cowgirls, 13 years of age and under," Wilson explained.

Team penning, ribbon roping and calf branding competitions are planned for the junior ranch rodeo, with teams typically being formed up until a few minutes before show time, Wilson noted.

"Of special significance is that our ranch rodeo is the oldest in the state of Kansas, and one of the oldest in the nation, along with possibly being the longest continuously annual ranch rodeo anywhere," Wilson said.

Set for Sunday's Western action matinee will be steer branding, team penning, double mugging and team roping.

"Four-member cowboy teams representing a dozen Flint Hills ranches will be competing for event and overall championship recognition," Wilson pointed out.



Team spirit and cooperation are required to be a winner in ranch rodeo competition as Flint Hills cowboys and cowgirls compete in events just like they do every day in their professional life. More than a dozen four-member ranch team will be showing their "stuff" in steer branding, team penning, double mugging and team roping during the Morris County Youth Rodeo Association's annual invitational ranch rodeo, featuring a junior ranch rodeo in the morning, and youth mutton busting during the afternoon, Sunday, Oct. 4, at Council Grove.

Further involvement of youth, in both assisting and receiving, will be a 50-50 drawing to help raise funds for sponsoring the Morris County Youth Rodeo Association Scholarship given annually as incentive to those young people involved in the sport of rodeo, horse events and agriculture.

To provide for a full family day of rodeo activities, the host Morris County Youth Rodeo Association will again offer complete concessions with meals, drinks and homemade lunch offerings.

Information about the full rodeo day's activities at Council Grove, October 4, is available from Wilson at 785-466-1359, www.mrcyora.com, and Facebook.

Padre Says:

"There are two primary choices in life: to accept conditions as they exist, or accept the responsibility for changing them."

Frank J. Buchman
Marketing Consultant

Direct: 785-228-7259 Cell: 785-499-3063

E-mail: frank.buchman@wibwradio.com
Website: www.frankjbuchman.com

PO Box 1818
1210 SW Executive Drive, Topeka, Kansas 66615



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