

HEY NEIGHBOR

By Frank J. Buchman

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Green All-Terrain Vehicles Tour Flint Hills Pastures Benefiting Four worthwhile Lyon County Charities

Four Lyon County charities were beneficiaries at conclusion of four nights of riding green four-wheeled, all-terrain vehicles in the beautiful Flint Hills of Kansas.

"Our fifth annual Gator Rally was a tremendous success as participants from as far as Arkansas rode through luscious pastures in this community-support effort," exclaimed Paul DuToit, manager of PrairieLand Partner Emporia, regular advertiser on 580 WIBW.

The Emporia branch-location of the John Deere dealership, with nine locations in central Kansas, was the host of the fun-filled evenings touring the Flint Hills.

Two to four riders were in the special John Deere Gators all-terrain vehicles touring the native grasslands with conclusion riding under bright star-filled Kansas skies.



PrairieLand Partners hosted the fifth annual Gator Rally in Flint Hills pastures as a fund raiser benefiting four Lyon County charities

"Actually, the PrairieLand Partners Emporia team organizes and hosts the four evening rides, but we're super blessed with a great partnership," DuToit credited.

"With our event sponsors, the Ritchie family of the Highland Ranch, and other land owners, drivers and riders

viewed green native grassland pastures in the lushest condition many can remember," DuToit said.

Raising approximately \$40,000, according to DuToit, proceeds went to the SOS Child Advocacy Center, The June Bug Foundation, Team Hope World Foundation, and Emporia Child Care.

Evaluating the four-day benefit rally, DuToit said, "We went into the week facing high temperatures and did everything we could to do as much of our prep work and start to our event in the shade.

Our supper site was also very well shaded."

Special acknowledgement was given by DuToit to these sponsors: 580 WIBW, Bobby D's, Hastco, Clint Bowyer Autoplex, Fanestil Meats, Frontier Farm Credit, Emporia Gazette, The Favored Benefits, Williams Automotive, KVOE, Kansas Continental Express, Country 101.7, Harshman Construction, Mix 104.9, KTAG, Navrat's, CSC, Four Seasons Apartments, John North Ford, and Clover Cliff Ranch.

Cross Country Chaos Draws Runners To Osage County Mud Benefiting Charities

"It was a muddy and fun day, but most importantly a worthwhile cause."

Perry Thompson wrapped up the fourth annual Cross Country Chaos 5K mud run on his Osage City farm.

While an entertaining time, support of the Osage County Community Foundation was the harvest for efforts.

"We don't have all of the totals together, but the raffle was exceeded that past," Thompson said. "Since merchants donated those items, proceeds all go for Foundation support."

Although race entries were off from a year ago, there was expanded enthusiasm for associated activities, Thompson noted.

The Osage County Community Foundation awarded several grants earlier this year.

"We've started the process for selecting the next round of grant recipients to be awarded later this summer," Thompson said.

While still a lot of work for Thompson and many volunteers, this year was somewhat easier than earlier times. "I appreciate the help from so many people," he credited.

It was rest time for one watching a partner get to the top of the net obstacle at the Cross Country Chaos mud run fund raiser recently on the Perry Thompson farm near Osage City.

The water slide gave a fun cool down for participants in the recent fund raiser Cross Country Chaos.

she'll be back," Thompson said.

Raffle winners were from Burlingame, Osage City, Holton and Hutchinson.

"We're looking for new ways to build and promote the Cross Country Chaos to continue support of the Osage County Community Foundation and the area," Thompson assured.

Advertised and promoted on WIBW, Country Legends 106.9, and The BIG 94.5 Country, as well as WibwNewsNow and the Kansas Agriculture Network, most of the attendance came from outside of the county.

"One young woman was from Hays. It was her first mud run, and

she'll be back," Thompson said.

Raffle winners were from Burlingame, Osage City, Holton and Hutchinson.

"We're looking for new ways to build and promote the Cross Country Chaos to continue support of the Osage County Community Foundation and the area," Thompson assured.

Padre Says:

"When one person can rise to the occasion and become more humble, wonderful things begin to happen."

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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