

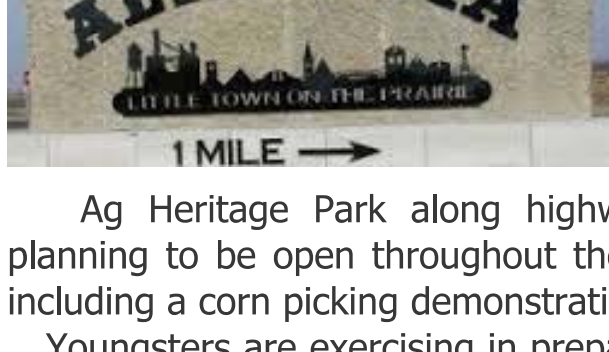
Fun For All Promised Saturday, Sept. 24, At Alta Vista's 129th Birthday Celebration

The little town on the prairie is 129 years old, and they're celebrating.

It's Old Settlers Day this Saturday, Sept. 24, at Alta Vista, Kansas.

Advertised and promoted on WIBW, Country Legends, The BIG 94.5 Country, WibwNewsNow and the Kansas Ag Network, a full slate of activities has been coordinated by the western Wabaunsee County farming community.

According to Pam McDiffett, who's been instrumental in event coordination, activities kick off bright and early with an antique and crafts vendor market in the City Park. Exhibitors from all around have reserved spaces, and late comers likely can still find a location as well.



At the nearby ball field, the Dale Roberts Memorial Softball Tournament will also get underway, at 8 o'clock, and refreshments will be there for ballgame snack or brunch.

Ag Heritage Park along highway entrance to Alta Vista is planning to be open throughout the day, with special attractions, including a corn picking demonstration during the afternoon.

Youngsters are exercising in preparation for the Pedal Pull at the park, with registration set for 9 o'clock, and the first pull at 9:30.

An annual feature of Old Settlers Day is the model train display, with it opening at 10 o'clock, in the City Park Pavilion.

Wherever one is or whatever the like, invitation has been made to participate or just bring a lawn chair to watch the parade down Alta Vista Main Street. Lineup is at 10:30, with the color guard taking first step forward at 11 o'clock.

The Duane Andres family is coordinating lunch, at the park. The Masonic Lodge's homemade ice cream is forever a tradition to top off the noon meal.

Horseshoe pitchers from nearby and down the byways in every direction are set to test their skills at the pits beginning at 1 o'clock.

It's always fun for the younger set and the observing more matures when kids' games get underway. Scheduled events at the park include stick horse races, bike races, bean bag toss, balloon race, and the very most popular frog and turtle races, not planned against each other, but one just never knows for certain.



There'll be a drawing for a barn quilt at 3:30, with the Alta Vista High School Alumni Banquet starting at 4 o'clock, at the Prairie Heights Elementary School..

Steve Woelk and Jerry Long have joined together calling themselves Old Enough To Know Better and will present a musical show at 6 o'clock.

They've promised ballads, country pop songs from to 50s, 60s and 70s, with the public all invited to join in the listening and toe tapping as concluding highlight of the alumni banquet, right at the school.

"Take a drive in the beautiful green Flint Hills and come to Old Settlers Day at Alta Vista Saturday. You'll sure be glad you did," McDiffett welcomed.

Medicine Lodge Cowboy Spoils Bucking Bulls' Perfect Record To Collect Blowout's Big Check

"The bulls were the winners."

That's the quickest and most accurate synopsis of the seventh annual Flint Hills Bull Blowout.

Thirty-nine professional bucking bulls bucked off 38 cowboys mounting and attempting to make qualified rides on them at the bull riding event coordinated and presented by Kim Reyer and his family at the Strong City arena.

That's nearly 98 percent buck off rate for the bulls presented by Jimmy Crowther's New Frontier Rodeo Company complemented by a select handful of bulls born to buck from the Kim Reyer family's Flint Hills Genetics breeding operation.

Exception to the bull winners' percentage was Ty Boor of Medicine Lodge.



Ty Boor, Medicine Lodge, was awarded a \$2,056 winner's check and Flint Hills Bull Blowout trophy belt buckle given by Brad Miller of Jim's Cowboy Shop at Emporia and presented by Kim Reyer of Reyer's Country Store and Flint Hills Genetics bucking bull breeding program. (FotoCowboy photograph)

In actually, the professional bull rider was the big winner of the rank riding competition. Boor was the lone rider making a qualified ride, and he took home the winner's check for \$2,056.

Not bad wages for 8-seconds of work.

"Ty had a great ride on the tough bull called Swerve, Number 746, and marked 82 points. That score would have won many of the major rodeos and bull riding events around the country," analyzed Reyer.

Moreover, it was a unique occurrence for Swerve to allow a qualifying-ride. This Strong City competition was only the second time anybody's ever made the eight-second whistle on the rank buck. He was ridden to a winning score at the North Central Kansas Rodeo in Concordia earlier this year.

Advertised and promoted on WIBW, Country Legends, The BIG 94.5 Country, WibwNewsNow and the Kansas Ag Network, the Flint Hills Bull Blowout is much more than a bull riding competition attracting top professional riders from throughout the Midwest. It is a community function, with many special activities.

"We sure appreciate the opportunity to have the bull riding in the world renowned Flint Hills Rodeo Arena, made famous by the world champion rodeo Emmett Roberts family," said Reyer, who is the general sponsor through his Reyer's Country Store.

"Many other generous businesses throughout the Midwest assist with financial contributions and other services that are essential to have such an event. We truly thank them for their assistance in every way," Reyer added.



All of the family gets involved in the Flint Hills Bull Blowout at Strong City. Gathered for picture taking time were Kyle, Jenna, Tate and Karlie, Kim, Lana and Wyatt, Kelsey, Adam, and LaKin Spain. (FotoCowboy photograph)

Furthermore, numerous additional individuals and supporters come forward to provide gate and arena help as well as additional out behind the arena work to make the show go on.

"We estimated attendance to be nearly 1,500 people, one of the largest, if not the biggest crowd we've ever hosted," Reyer said.

"The event went great, everything went very smooth, bigger crowd than last year, great weather, arena in great shape even after rains," added his wife Lana Reyer.

Helping make that possible, Reyer appreciatively credited, was advance ticket sales by FFA chapters in the area.

A total of 24 bull riders, including two former champions of the Flint Hills Bull Blowout Derek Brumitt of Plainville and Cody Hunsperger of Yates Center, were entered in this year's competition. Their draws in the bull riding this year bested their proven outstanding abilities

"Since there were no qualified rides in 24 outs, we drew 15 cowboys to get a try on another bull. Ty Boor made his winning ride on his second out of the evening," Reyer informed.



Another winning bull as Kenny Upton hits the ground off Flint Hills Genetics' bucking bull Delta at the Flint Hills Bull Blowout in Strong City.

The winner's payback check included entry fee money and the \$1,000 bonus incentive given by the sponsors.

A regular champion in Central Plains Rodeo Association sanctioned rodeos, Boor also received a trophy buckle to wear verifying his championship bull ride at Strong City. It was given by Brad Miller of Jim's Cowboy Shop at Emporia.

While the evening kicked off with a Booster Club community athletics fundraiser barbecue, two special youth features attracted considerable excitement for the entrants as well as their family and the entire evening crowd.

More than 70 children, 10 years and under, were in the chicken scramble, and Reyer assured, contrary to some years when the chickens escaped, all were caught and back into their travel cage. "It's a lot of fun," Reyer reflected.

Thirty youngsters, six and under, crawled on, often with assistance, to compete in the Mutton Busting, actually attempting to ride the big ewes brought in by Brad Morgan. A crisp 10 dollar bill went to Lahna Passmore of Cottonwood Falls as the high scoring wooly rider.

Padre Says:

"Listening is almost like a 'magic pill' that is virtually guaranteed to produce good results in relationships."

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