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Historic ranch provides agritourism opportunities

By Donna Sullivan,
Editor

Nestled in the Flint Hills, overlooking the Kansas River valley is the Lazy T Ranch, an agritourism venture of Ron Wilson, his wife Chris and their four children. Along with breathtaking scenery, the ranch near Zandale is rich in history.

In 1855 Enoch Persons ventured by train from his home in New Hampshire to Leavenworth. From there he traveled in an ox cart to the Kansas River valley near Manhattan where he homesteaded what is now the Lazy T Ranch. According to the abstract, the original grantor of the land was President Abraham Lincoln. He married Rebecca Coulson in 1862 and together they and their descendents worked to build their farm. The original house, barn and livestock corrals were hand-built from Flint Hills stone. The barn still stands, and along with a granary, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The original stone house crumbled and was replaced with a wood frame farmhouse in 1923. Five generations of the Persons family called the ranch home.

In 1958 three Manhattan-area businessmen purchased the ranch, christening it the Lazy T. A decade later, the Wilson family became the proud owners, and since then three generations of their family have lived there.

Ron and Chris moved their family to the ranch eleven years ago and built a brick house where the origi-

nal stone house once stood.

Living on the ranch was one thing – developing it into an agritourism business was another.

“I was working in rural development for K-State and out working for communities across Kansas and encouraging them to think about their assets and build on the assets they have and strengthen their economies,” Ron Wilson explained. “And you know, we don’t have oceans and we don’t have mountains, so what do we have? Well, we have agriculture.” He encouraged communities to consider agritourism and attract visitors to see what a wheat harvest is like, or whatever else they might have to offer. “Meanwhile, we moved back to the family ranch and the thought came to me that maybe I should practice what I preach,” Wilson continued. Their kids were all in 4-H, and after going with the more traditional farm animal projects, their oldest daughter became interested in llamas. Soon a dairy heifer and dairy goats joined the operation, along with show pigs in the summer, their horses and small cow herd and miscellaneous cats and dogs, and Wilson made the observation that they had their own petting zoo right there on the ranch. Throw in a hayrack ride and a bonfire, and they had the makings of an agritourism business, so they started opening the ranch to visitors on evenings and weekends. Before long they were holding events and festivals including an Oktoberfest and



The Wilson family, Chris, Liz, Stephen, James, Joanna, and Ron, open their Lazy T Ranch to visitors who are excited to pet the animals and enjoy the beautiful Flint Hills scenery. The children are the third generation of the Wilson family to call the ranch home.

Courtesy photo

Christmas celebration complete with reindeer. Then, despite initial hesitation and resistance on their parts, another element was added: weddings.

“I had a lady say to me, ‘This is a pretty setting. Would you ever consider having weddings out here?’ And I said no,” Wilson described. “But about the tenth time somebody says that, you say, ‘Okay, God, I’m getting the message here. Or the market is telling us that there is demand, there’s interest.’ So they hosted the first of what would be many weddings up in their north pasture. They turned the old wood frame farmhouse

into a guest house, which is available for the bridal party to stay in the night before the wedding. It can also be rented as a bed and breakfast. While the weddings have begun to dominate their business, they still open the ranch to groups, clubs or businesses, as well as to families for reunions.

Chris, who served as the Kansas deputy secretary of agriculture from 2011-2012, and is a licensed attorney as well as the owner of Flint Hills Real Estate and Auction, manages the agritourism side of the ranch. She has a program called Little Ranch Hands where kids can go from station to station,

gathering eggs, pretending to milk cows and other activities. They earn “market bucks” which they can spend in the gift shop. “The idea is to help them understand that it’s a market economy and the interaction and dynamics of a marketplace,” Wilson said. One of the items they can buy is homemade fudge, which Chris makes using her mother’s recipe. She has also purchased a machine for making stuffed animals. “My wife is a genius and quite the entrepreneur,” he said.

The Wilsons went through the process of registering as an agritourism enterprise with the state, and strongly recommends that

anyone considering starting an agritourism business do the same. They also encourage taking any trainings that are offered. “You need to work with your county, work with your neighbors and plan the bigger picture,” he said. “Agritourism can be really demanding. But it can be a great way to diversify your sources of income and meet a lot of really nice people.”

The interaction with the animals is one of the things Wilson said people really enjoy. “Our animals are so friendly and personable – I have this lamb that thinks it’s a person – that they’ll come around and literally eat right out of your hand and for some kids that is just an amazing experience.” He’s had other guests that were excited that eggs they had gathered the day before were served to them for breakfast. A common scenario for them is grandparents who will bring their grandchildren to see and develop an understanding that food doesn’t just come from the grocery store.

“I absolutely believe that agritourism opens doors to a better understanding of agriculture,” Wilson said. “It builds the relationships. It’s not the perfect solution and you’re not there to lecture people. I can learn, too. I need to learn and communication is a two-way street. But it does build relationships and it opens doors. And I think it opens eyes.”

You can learn more about the Lazy T Ranch at www.lazytranchadventures.com or phone 785-537-9727.

Kansas Guidebook 2 shares 4,500 places to visit around the state

Co-authors Marci Penner and WenDee Rowe spent four years traveling to every

one of the 626 incorporated cities in Kansas in addition to visiting several hundred spots in the country. The result is *The Kansas Guidebook 2 for Explorers*, a project of the Inman-based Kansas Sampler Foundation.

The 480-page, coil-bound book weighs over two pounds and is chock-full of information that will keep Kansas road trip enthusiasts busy for quite a long time. Along with 4,500 entries that provide descriptions, directions, hours, and contact information, there are

also more than 1,600 color pictures. Rowe says, “Many people will be interested in the 843 restaurants, cafes, drive-ins, and soda fountains.”

The book is designed to help achieve the mission of the Kansas Sampler Foundation which is to preserve and sustain rural culture. Penner says, “Though the book reads like a travel guide, it’s intended to help people get to know the state and learn about towns of every size.” Among the diverse entries, guidebook users will

find historic bridges, beautiful statues, specialty shops, quirky sites, little known points-of-interest, cemetery finds, and backroad scenic drives statewide. Rowe said, “There really is something for everyone whether you are looking for outdoor sites or ways to get to know a town. The more a person interacts with the locals the more special a road trip can become.”

To find retail stores that carry the book or to order online, go to kansassampler.org.



Marci Penner & WenDee Rowe
The Kansas Guidebook 2
for explorers



This week Grass & Grain presents our Kansas Day Trip edition. Inside you will find articles and advertising for many attractions around the state.

Kansas has plenty to see and do, and we hope you will take time to explore our wonderful state this summer.



Safe summer fun

By John Schlageck,
Kansas Farm Bureau

Kids will now toss their schoolbooks and pencils in the far corners of their rooms, don their Magellan garb and embark on a summer course of outdoor exploration.

For many rural children, railroads, dumps, junkyards, abandoned properties and ponds make exciting places to explore. It is up to parents to decide where suitable adventure sites may be found.

Each year, hundreds of railroad trespassers are killed and injured, according to the National Safety Council. Children who crawl under or pass around lowered gates, walk the tracks, cross trestles, take shortcuts across railroad property,

hop trains, climb in, on or around railroad cars run a tremendous risk.

This spring take the time to warn your children of these dangers. Instruct them to obey warning devices and insist they never cross a railroad track until they have looked both ways and are sure it is safe.

Never assume children will act like responsible, mature adults. Advise them often because they forget.

Kids will be kids. For most, life is an adventure. Anything and anywhere is fair game for exploration.

When I was a boy growing up in northwestern Kansas, there was always something magnetic about a junkyard. We had an abandoned dump within easy walking distance.

We dug and sifted through the trash at the site for hours, collecting little treasures to add to our growing collections. Sometimes these “keepers” as we called them consisted of rusted iron spikes, neat-shaped bottles, broken wrenches and tools, discarded containers and other cast-offs.

While we weren't aware of it or didn't care, the risk of injury was always present. Wasps, snakes, rats, spiders and other creatures scrambled and slithered to move out of the way of our excavation projects. Broken glass and boards with rusty nails threatened to cut or puncture our small feet. I will never forget the pain and tears of stepping on a nail.

Dumps also feature trucks, bulldozers and other heavy equipment. It's difficult for operators to see children scooting among the debris. Such equipment can easily crush kids. Warn your children to stay away.

Dark deserted buildings

– including barns and abandoned farmhouses – often have the reputation of being haunted. Such structures were always considered another adventure when I was a youngster.

Big kids often dare little kids to go in. I remember accepting the challenge and brushing my way through cobwebs and crawling around rodent holes and fleeing mice. Although I survived, I wouldn't advise any child of mine to do the same.

As a youth, my dad always warned me again and again about swimming ponds. I guess the repetition paid off because I never swam in such pools of water until I was in high school and an “okay” swimmer.

Remember to tell your children about such ponds. They are deep. You can be into water up to your knees the first couple of steps and the next – over your head.

There are no lifeguards. Fencing off ponds may help. Warning signs also may serve as a deterrent, but kids always find a way into the water.

Warn children about such potential hazards. Then warn them again. Saving one child's life is worth the effort. Many times it takes more than once for them to grasp your warnings.

Lead by example and remember that as a parent you have been entrusted with safeguarding your children's wellbeing. Summertime is a special time for kids. Having a child is indeed a treasure. Take care of, cherish and nurture this wonderful gift.

John Schlageck is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. Born and raised on a diversified farm in northwestern Kansas, his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.



Prairie Ponderings

By Donna Sullivan

I was about sixteen and working as a waitress at the T-Bird Restaurant in Chapman. You might remember driving by it on I-70 years ago – it had the word ‘eat’ spelled out in gigantic letters on the front of the building to attract motorists. Most people didn't even know it was called the T-Bird – they knew it only as the EAT restaurant. The wonderful woman that ran it started many of Chapman's youth off on their work careers. It may have been our first job, but she knew it wouldn't be our last, so she did all she could to teach us well.

It was in that restaurant one summer night that a traveler sat down at one of my tables. We knew our locals, and he wasn't one of them. Immediately he commenced to complaining about our state – the heat, the humidity, the lack of scenery. You know – mountains and stuff. But his comment that caused my subsequent bad attitude and probably cost me my tip that night was... “Kansas is most definitely the armpit of the United States!”

I was glad to not have been holding a pot of hot coffee – well, kind of glad and kind of not – because I have been known to slosh, drip or even spill things when caught off-guard, shocked or highly irritated. At that moment I was all three. My ability to go from a sweet, perky pony-tailed girl to a snarky, dark-eyed brooding she-beast suddenly manifested itself. He may have received the worst customer service of my young career... and like I said, there went my tip.

I may have been young, but I had a deep appreciation for Kansas, and that has only grown through the years. I've traveled to other states and enjoyed them immensely, but I'm always ready to come home to rolling prairie and the most beautiful sunsets I've seen anywhere.

I love our small towns and the colorful characters that call them home. I love the entrepreneurial spirit that causes people to start new businesses and pour everything they've got into them. I love our wide open spaces, wildflowers and big blue skies.

This week *Grass & Grain* brings you our Kansas Day Trip edition. We know that those of you in agriculture might only be able to string together a day or two to get away for a little vacation. But that's okay, there's a lot to see and do within our borders.

To those who don't call the Sunflower State home I would just say, fly over us if you want to, drive through real fast on your way to the mountains if that's your pleasure. But don't insult us. I'm sure there are plenty of other coffee-pot wielding young waitresses out there who would take it very personally.



I am a true believer in the idea that God sends us messages. I am also very confident that many times I do not get the message even when it is obvious. However, there are times when even someone as clueless as I am gets the message. Today was one of those days.

We are still planting soybeans and while we are not late getting them in the ground, time is becoming an issue. Rain has caused us many delays and the forecast was for more rain in the upcoming week. We had finally gotten back into the field and we were pushing hard. Two more days and all the crop would be in the ground.

I woke up this morning and watched the weather. The chance of rain was diminished and we should be good until later in the afternoon or even that night. We could be down to just a few acres if we got a good solid day of planting in. I was focused on spending the day out in the field putting in more acres of beans.

The state FFA convention was starting that same morning and Tatum was getting ready. At breakfast, she reminded me that I could attend the awards ceremony in the evening. Please allow me a proud Dad moment. Tatum's Rock Creek FFA livestock judging team won the state contest. An accomplishment that makes an old livestock judge and coach like me very, very proud. In any case, her team was being recognized and she really wanted me to be at the ceremony.

I wanted to be there just as bad but it was planting time and the farm must come first even if it means missing important things. I finished chores, looked up at the sky and it had just a few wispy clouds but nothing threatening. When I got to Dad's he had decided to start with a five-acre field so we would not get caught in a bigger field when the rain came. I laughed at him and told him the forecast said no rain until evening. He pointed to the western horizon and told me he thought it was going to rain.

I helped him service the planter and the tractor and filled it with just enough seed to plant five acres, then I went into town on a parts run, all the while wondering why he was so worried about the rain when clearly it was not supposed to. I pulled up to the intersection to get on the highway and

looked west and sure enough, dark clouds were on the western horizon.

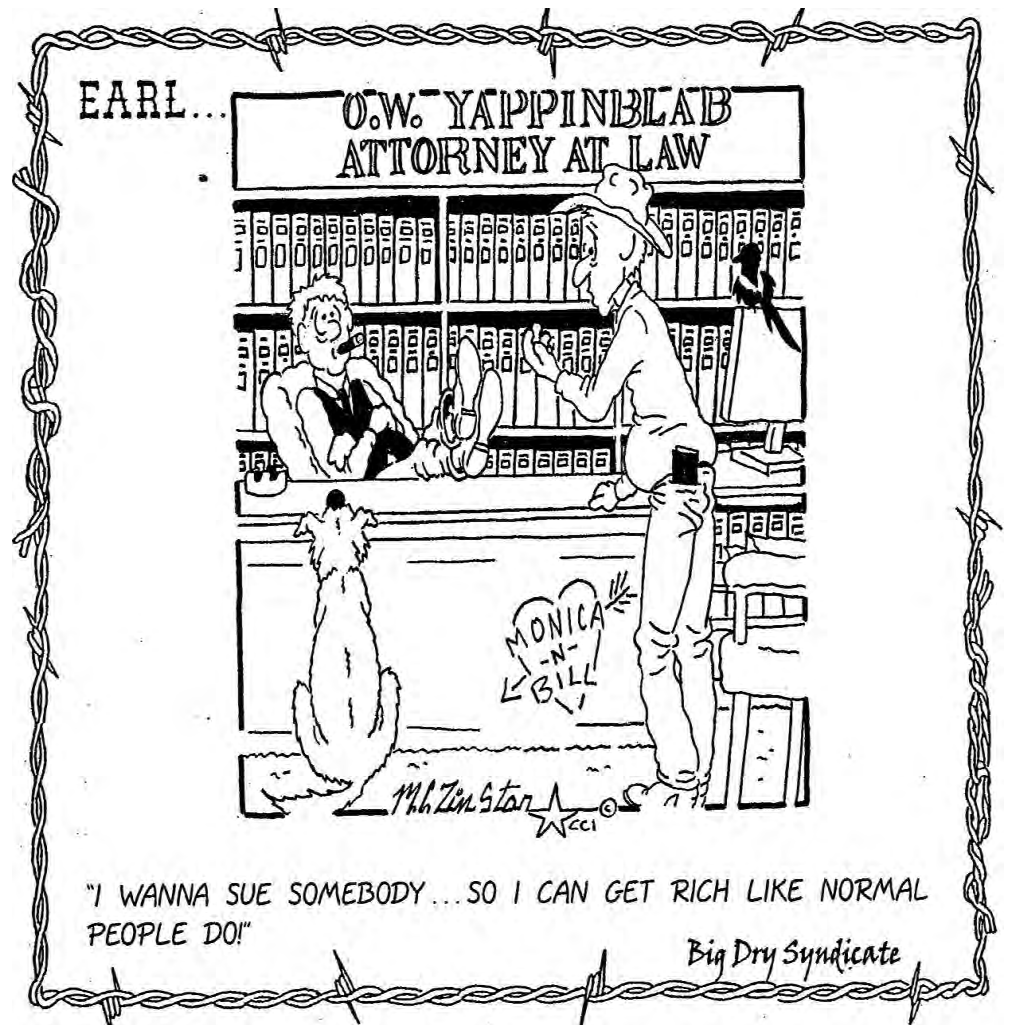
Being the modern farmer, I whipped out my smart phone and checked the radar. A thunderstorm had popped up around Manhattan but it appeared to be headed straight south. It should miss us but just barely. Talk about good luck. I went on into town and sat at the parts counter while the long list I had brought in got filled. Just for fun I checked my radar. The storm had spread out a little bit but still was south and west of our farm.

Parts in hand, I started back out to where Dad was planting. When I turned west I thought to myself that it sure had gotten darker and looked kind of ominous. When I got to the field I checked and it still looked like it was going to miss us but it was going to be closer than I thought. However, there was blue sky to the north. We were safe.

I checked in with Dad and he told me he was going to keep planting. He did not want to get rained out. I explained to him that it was not going to, but he told me he was going to keep going and we would put the part on in the shop while it was raining. I made the two-mile trip back to his house and the shop to unload and wait for him. As I pulled into the driveway Tatum texted me to see if I was coming. I reported back to her that it was still dry and we were still planting. That is when I heard the thunder.

A small black thunderhead had built up right over our farm and proceeded to dump enough rain in about fifteen minutes to wipe out the day. Just then Dad pulled in and parked the tractor in the shed and asked me to check my radar again.

Three things occurred to me. First, being at the awards ceremony for my daughter was probably one of the most important things I could do. We were not behind and life would go on and this was the only time I would ever get to see her be recognized as being on a state champion livestock judging team. Second, I realized that maybe Dad was a little more in tune with the weather than my so-called smart phone and forecaster. Finally, the light came on and I realized that God sends subtle messages at first, but for us dense ones he will call down the thunder and lightning.



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Eisenhower Presidential Museum in Abilene to undergo renovation

Thanks to commitments from generous donors, the Eisenhower Foundation, in partnership with the Eisenhower Presidential Library, is pleased to announce some very exciting news regarding the renovation plans for the Eisenhower Presidential Museum. They will soon begin the second of three stages, the Design Phase. During this 16-month period, the Museum Redesign Steering Committee will work with the exhibit firm, The PRD Group, to design exhibits that tell Ike's story through his own words. This will be the first time since the Museum was dedicated in 1954 that it will have a comprehensive storyline that fully describes the unparalleled accomplishments of the man from Abilene, Dwight

D. Eisenhower.

The new exhibits will create a world-class teaching museum, complementing the lessons students learn in IKEducation. The Eisenhower Foundation is currently in the early stages of a major fundraising campaign — Dwight D. Eisenhower: A Legacy of Leadership — to continue securing the funding that will make it possible to move into the third and final stage, the Implementation Phase. They have been very encouraged by the support received so far as they move closer to the goal of reopening the new Eisenhower Presidential Museum by the 75th anniversary of D-Day, June

6, 2019.

The sketch of The Heart of America exhibit at the right tells the story of Ike's childhood growing up in rural America. His early years instilled in him a strong commitment and determination to lead a purposeful life. Featured in this area of the Museum will be a replica of Ike's modest bedroom that he shared with his brothers while interactive touch screens provide access to documents and photos that tell the story of his formative years in Abilene.

The renovation concept was approved by the Architect of the United States in 2015.



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Dorothy J. Lehman, Abilene, Wins Weekly G&G Recipe Contest

Winner Dorothy J. Lehman, Abilene: "Delicious. Good for any meal."

CINNAMON VANILLA BAKED FRENCH TOAST
 15-ounce loaf French bread

- 8 eggs
- 2 cups milk (or swap for 2 cups almond milk)
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Place bread cubes in greased casserole dish. Whisk eggs, milk, brown sugar, vanilla and cinnamon. Pour over bread cubes. Lightly press down to allow bread to absorb mixture or gently stir it. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Topping:

- 2/3 cup brown sugar
- 2/3 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened

Combine and sprinkle over top before baking. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 to 55 minutes.

Claire Martin, Salina:
FOCACCIA ROLLS
 3 cups flour
 1 package quick-rise yeast
 1 tablespoon rosemary (fresh) or 1 teaspoon dried
 1 tablespoon sugar
 1 teaspoon kosher salt
 1 1/2 cups very warm water (120-130 degrees)
 2 tablespoons olive oil

Topping:
 1 teaspoon dried thyme
 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
 3 tablespoons olive oil

Combine flour, yeast, sugar and salt and rosemary. Beat in water and oil for 1 minute. Divided dough evenly (about 2 tablespoons each) between 18 greased muffin cups. Let rise 30 minutes. Stir remaining seasonings and oil in a small saucepan on low heat until fragrant. Let cool. Spoon over rolls. Bake at 375 degrees for 25 minutes or until golden brown.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:

ORANGE BRAISED CARROTS WITH RAISINS
 1 pound small or medium

carrots, scrubbed, peeled & halved (if large)
 3/4 cup fresh orange juice
 1/3 cup golden raisins
 (1) 3-inch stick cinnamon
 1 tablespoon butter
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1 tablespoon dill weed, chopped

In a large skillet combine carrots, orange juice, raisins, cinnamon, butter, 1/2 cup water and salt. Bring to boiling over high heat then reduce to medium. Turning carrots occasionally cook 15 minutes or until almost all liquid has evaporated and carrots are glazed and just tender. Transfer to a serving dish. Top with dill.

Lydia J. Miller, Westphalia:

WHOLE WHEAT CRACKERS
 2 cups whole wheat flour
 1 cup white flour
 1 tablespoons sugar
 1 1/4 teaspoons baking soda
 1 teaspoon salt
 1 cup buttermilk
 1/4 cup oil
 3 tablespoons melted butter
 Mix all together and roll

out on cookie sheet. Cut in squares and brush with melted butter. Bake 8 to 10 minutes at 350 degrees.

Mary Rogers, Topeka:
ORANGE GLAZED BACON
 8 strips bacon (not thick kind)

2 tablespoons warm water
 1 tablespoon sugar
 1/4 cup orange marmalade
 In a bowl microwave marmalade until just melted; stir in 2 tablespoons warm water. On parchment-lined baking sheet brush bacon with marmalade and sprinkle with sugar. Bake at 400 degrees turning sheet halfway through until bacon is crispy, about 20 minutes.

Lucille Wohler, Clay Center:

EASY CASSEROLE
 3 tablespoons shortening
 1 chopped medium onion
 1 pound hamburger
 1 can cream-style corn
 3 cups mashed potatoes

Place the shortening and chopped onion in a skillet; cook until tender. Add hamburger and cook over medium heat stirring to break up meat. Cook until browned. Drain. Put in greased casserole and add cream-style corn and spread over entire mixture. Add mashed potatoes and spread over top. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Eating Healthy Mexican Food

By Cindy Williams, Agent Meadowlark

Extension District Food and Nutrition, FNP

Mexican food is a favorite with many people, but a lot of Mexican food is fried with lard and topped with cheese, so it's loaded with saturated fat. It can be high in sodium too. But when you know what to choose, Mexican food can be fresh, tasty and more healthful.

Here are a few tips when eating out:

*Tell your server not to bring fried tortilla chips to the table.

*Ask for low-fat sour cream or use salsa to add flavor.

*Veracruz or other tomato-based sauces are better than cream or cheese sauces.

*If you order a taco salad, don't eat the fried shell.

Instead of ... Try ...

Flour tortillas — Corn Tortillas

Nachos — Grilled shrimp

Carnitas (fried beef or pork) — Grilled fish or chicken breast

Refried beans — Frijoles a la charra

Full fat sour cream and cheese — Salsa, Pico de Gallo, cilantro, Jalapeno peppers

Quesadillas — Chicken fajitas

Chalupas or tacos — Taco salad or fajita salad (don't eat the tortilla shell and ask for low-fat sour cream)

Flautas or burritos — Chicken or beef enchiladas with red sauce or salsa

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Send us your favorite recipe. It may be a main dish, left-over, salad, side dish, dessert, or what-have-you.

1. Check your recipe carefully to make certain all ingredients are accurate and instructions are clear.
2. Be sure your name, address and phone number are on the entry. Please include a street address with your recipe entries. A post office box number is not sufficient for prize delivery. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.
3. Send it to: Woman's Page Editor, Grass & Grain, Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505.
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By Ashleigh Hett

I've tried making croutons before, but they never turned out quite right. They were always oily and soft. Thankfully though, after some trial and error I think we've figured it out!

One of the most important factors is the oven. Before when I made them, I would just brown them in a skillet with lots of butter ... I mean, butter makes everything better, so why not croutons? Turns out (much to my surprise!) there is such a thing as too much butter! What you need for these is more of a "dry heat." And I have just the trick! You dry them in the oven and then get them golden and crispy on the stove ... It works like magic! Give the recipe below a whirl and then let me know what you think!

Homemade Croutons

- You'll need (for a small batch like mine):
- 3 slices of bread (you can experiment with different kinds of bread!)
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- Freshly cracked black pepper
- A pinch of salt



Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and then shut it off. Grab your bread slices and place them on top of one another.

Chop the bread into roughly 1-inch chunks and



then place them in a cast iron skillet and in the oven for 10 minutes. When you pull them out, you'll feel they're already drying out nicely.



Pull it out and add the butter, garlic, salt and pepper. Stir constantly over medium heat on the stovetop and keep stirring until it reaches the color and crispness you want. Then place the skillet back in the oven for about 5 minutes longer to finish drying out any little bit of moisture.



Pull out and enjoy with a nice salad!

Ashleigh is a freelance writer and blogger for her website, Prairie Gal Cookin' (www.prairiegalcookin.com). She shares everything from step-by-step recipes and easy DIY projects, to local history, stories, and photography from out on the farm in Kansas. Follow PGC online or like it on Facebook for more recipes and ramblings! To work with Ashleigh, contact her at prairiegalcookin@gmail.com

National Festival of Breads mixes family fun, baking and BBQ

By Brooke Haas, Kansas Wheat Communications Intern

Do you love to bake, or just love bread in general? Would you like to hone your baking and barbecue skills? Looking for a fun activity for the kids on a summer Saturday? Then the National Festival of Breads is just the event for you.

This fun, family-friendly festival will be held on Saturday, June 17, at the Hilton Garden Inn, 410 South 3rd Street, Manhattan. Additional events will be held across the blocked-off street at the Blue Earth Plaza.

Admission is free with the donation of a canned or nonperishable food item. These donations will be given to the Flint Hills Breadbasket.

To start the day off, there is an Enrich Your Life 5K at 7:30 a.m., and at 8:15 a.m. the 1 mile fun run begins. The Festival opens to the public at 8:30 a.m., and bread-baking contestants will begin preparing their winning bread recipes. The eight finalists for National Festival of Breads were chosen from entries that came from all across the United States.

Baking demonstrations will be going on throughout the day, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Torie Cox, food stylist with Time Inc., will demonstrate her "Cinnamon Swirl Brioche Loaf" all done by hand! Cookbook author and physician Jeff Hertzberg will present his "The New Artisan Bread In Five Minutes a Day: Mixing dough for refrigerator storage and basic loaf shaping" at 9:30 a.m. Hertzberg will show us how to mix basic doughs and shaping techniques. At 10:30 a.m., Paula Gray, Manager for Bake for Goods Kids Program, will demonstrate her

"Bake for Good: Get Rolling with King Arthur Flour!" She will also show us some basic yeast dough tips and how to shape dinner rolls. Jeff Hertzberg will give a second presentation at 12:30 p.m., titled "Artisan Pizza and Flatbread In Five Minutes a Day: Pizza and flatbreads, the fastest breads in the world." He will demonstrate the versatility of the flatbread. At 1:30 p.m., Sharon Davis, Family & Consumer Sciences educator with the Home Baking Association, will demonstrate her "Be a Smart Snack Baker!" She will teach us how to be healthy smart snackers.

From bread to barbecue, the Festival has it all. In the barbecue tent, Rod Gray of Pellet Envy will demonstrate how he cooks his delicious barbecue that he pours his heart and soul into. He will give three presentations, at 10:00 a.m., noon and 2:00 p.m.

In between barbecue demonstrations, the Festival boasts live music from the Past Blasters.

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Festival of Breads has to offer are wheat weaving demonstrations, bread samples, trade show of vendors, Mr. and Mrs. Slice, a kids area that will have hands-on pancake making, and demonstrations from the Backyard Kitchen.

The Festival wraps up at 3:00 p.m., when the finalists deliver their winning breads to the judges. An announcement of the National Festival of Breads Champi-

on will be made later in the evening via the website, nationalfestivalofbreads.com and Facebook pages (@nationalfestivalofbreads).

So come on out and join us at the Hilton Garden Inn, 410 South 3rd Street, Manhattan, Kansas for fresh bread, barbecue, demonstrations, live music and much much more! We hope to see you at the National Festival of Breads. We're positive you'll love it.

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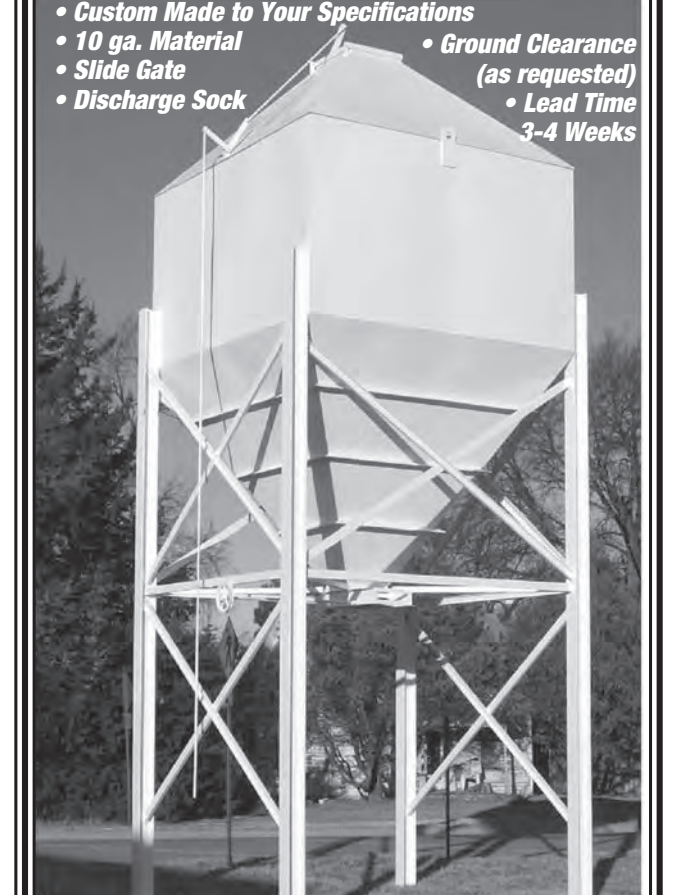
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Evel Knievel Museum opens in Topeka

Among the many exciting attractions that Kansas has to offer, visitors to northeast Kansas can add a new museum to their must-see list of experiences – The Evel Knievel Museum at Historic Harley Davidson in Topeka. The museum held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, May 26.

The \$5 million, 13,000 sq. ft. museum features Evel's

motorcycles, leathers and helmets, his fully restored Mack truck dubbed "Big Red" and his personal and never-before-seen memorabilia. The two-story museum also features several interactive experiences including a virtual reality 4-D motorcycle jump, "Broken Bones" interactive with Evel's actual X-rays, "Plan Your Jump" challenge,

"Engine and Suspension" interactive and a "Snake River Experience Room" featuring Knievel's actual X2 Skycycle.

The museum was made possible, in part, by an \$88,000 Attraction Development Grant from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP). The program works to assist the develop-

ment of sustainable, market-driven travel experiences in Kansas that will attract visitors and create long-lasting economic benefits from the creation of jobs, capital investment, revenue and visitation.

During its two-week soft opening, forty-six percent of the museum's visitors were from out of state, including 13 states and four foreign countries, so the museum is quickly becoming a destination.

"We are tremendously

excited to have the Evel Knievel Museum join the large number of amazing attractions in Kansas," said Linda Craghead, KDWP assistant secretary for Parks and Tourism. "We congratulate Historic Harley Davidson and all the dedicated people and organizations that helped make the museum possible, and we're proud that the state could play a role in bringing it to Topeka."

The Evel Knievel Museum at Historic Harley Da-

vidson is located at 2047 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS 66612. For information, call 785-215-6205, or visit www.EvelKnievelMuseum.org.

A grand opening celebration will be held June 30 and July 1. Tickets for the grand opening are limited and can be purchased online at www.eventbrite.com.

For information about Attraction Development Grants visit TravelKs.com and click on "Travel Industry," and then "Grants."

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Grass & Grain employee Kevin has been traveling around the backroads and small towns taking pictures for our Facebook page. Here are a few of his favorite places. Check out Grass & Grain Facebook for many more, updated daily.

New Cheney Marina now open

The Cheney Marina is now open for business, thanks to a quick response from Rep. Ron Estes' office in Washington. The marina building, which sits in Cheney State Park on Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) land, has been renovated and was poised to open. However, negotiations on the new contract involving the BOR, the Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) and the concessionaires weren't complete. Cheney State Park is open and ready for campers, boaters, anglers and hikers, but having the marina open was still in question just days before one of the biggest outdoor weekends of the summer.

Working with Rep. Estes' office and BOR officials



in Washington and Tulsa, KDWPT staff were able to secure a temporary contract, allowing the marina to be open Memorial Day weekend while the long-term agreement continues to be perfected.

The Cheney Marina currently has food, drinks, ice

and other camping and outdoor necessities and will eventually be a full-service marina, providing boat slips and gas pumps. There are dozens of outdoor activities waiting at Cheney State Park, so make plans to come out, enjoy the outdoors and visit the new marina.

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Swedish Genealogy at Old Mill Museum
11:00 a.m. Kubb Registration (play begins at noon)
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Old Mill Heritage Square

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7:00 p.m. Evening Ceremony
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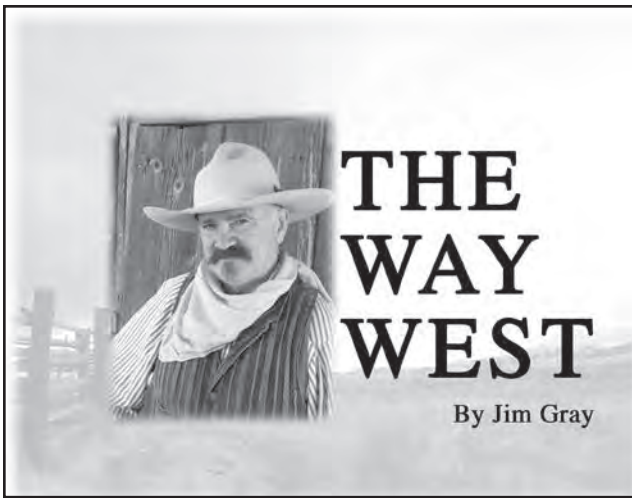
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A Dangerous Sport

Emporia, Kansas was all abuzz Friday morning June 2, 1871. At 9 p.m. the previous evening Dr. Morris, Lyon County Coroner, was summoned to the banks of the Cottonwood River southeast of town to hold an inquest over the body of a murdered man. Dr. Morris traveled to a popular campground about three quarters of a mile below Soden's Mill.

W. T. Soden established the Emporia Water Mills, more familiarly known as Soden's Mill, on the Cottonwood River immediately

south of Emporia in 1860. The mill could produce two hundred bushels of flour a day. The old main building was hand-built with timbers showing the scars of the craftsman's axe, hewed from trees that had once graced the banks of the Cottonwood River.

Soden's Mill was a landmark that drew pioneers for miles in all directions, turning the produce of their fields into the flour that sustained their lives on the land. Often traveling a great distance for the service provided, campgrounds evolved near the mill. Travelers passing through the territory were drawn to the campsite "on their way to their future homes."

Three-quarters of a mile down river, at a campground

southeast of Soden's Mill, Dr. Morris found the body of a young Texas drover, his life's blood as cold as a stone. Though the report of the killing quickly spread through Emporia, citizens had to wait a week to learn the particulars from the June 9th edition of the *Emporia News*.

Eighteen-year-old William Yeiser of Rockport, Texas had hired on with a trail outfit headed for Abilene. Jackson West, Yeiser's boss, had contracted with the owners of the cattle to take charge of the cattle and drive them to the Kansas railroad. At Red River, Yeiser ran afoul of West. The trouble was not stated, but it was serious enough to cause Yeiser to change outfits. From Red River Yeiser rode with an outfit bossed by J. N. Hudlestone.

The trail herd had recently reached Abilene and after a short while Hudlestone and his men started home, by way of Emporia. At about five o'clock on the afternoon of June 1st they crossed over to the campground on the south side of the Cottonwood River. The cook and one of the drovers returned to Emporia for the evening, leaving the remaining four in camp. The boys were lounging around in camp contemplating an evening without the cook. Supper wasn't going to fix itself they concluded, and

began to get organized to make their supper.

Pat Lambert took the lead on things asking Yeiser to get a bucket of water. It was a lazy afternoon and Yeiser's leisurely pace was mildly annoying to Buck Harris. Harris urged Yeiser to hurry, which brought a response from Yeiser that he would go when he pleased. Harris "playfully kicked" at Yeiser and without explanation Yeiser "immediately drew his revolver and fired at Harris." The feeling was still playful as Harris mirrored Yeiser's actions with a shot from his own pistol. Each man fired once more, as the playfulness escalated toward argument. Hudlestone and the other drover stepped in to stop the shooting before it got out of hand, but the damage was already done.

Yeiser turned to walk along the river bank and unexpectedly collapsed. Harris must have known his last shot had not gone astray. In a flash, he had thrown a saddle on his horse and wasted little time getting ready to ride. He asked Pat Lambert for some money to carry him through to Texas. Lambert refused. Hudlestone told him to hold up, but Harris would only wait if the boss would give him some money for his escape from Kansas lawmen. When the money was not forthcoming Harris rode out of camp. Hudlestone called to him to come back. The last he was seen he was racing away at full speed.

From the description of the wound Yeiser must have turned away as Harris fired the second shot. Dr. Morris found that the lead ball struck Yeiser "in the fleshy part of Yeiser's arm, near the shoulder". It then entered the side of his body just above his heart. The ball then failed to exit his body "and lodged in the right side under the skin." The next morning Yeiser "was decently buried" at Emporia.

Somewhere in Texas, a mother was waiting for a son who would never return. And somewhere, another son will never forget the dangerous sport of gunplay and death on The Way West.

The Cowboy, Jim Gray is author of the book *Desperate Seed: Ellsworth Kansas on the Violent Frontier; Executive Director of the National Drovers Hall of Fame. Contact Kansas Cowboy, P.O. Box 62, Ellsworth, KS 67439. Phone 785-531-2058 or kansascowboy@kans.com.*



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GUNS SELL AT 1:00 PM
GUNS & RELATED ITEMS: Browning BPS 12ga shotgun, pump new in the box with Pioneer Seed Logo; Remington with Browning patent, MD 1100 12ga shot gun, made in 1911; Remington Md. 1100 12ga. shot gun, engraved cylinder, auto, vented rib; Remington Md 1100 20ga., 28ga & 410 shotguns, auto, vented ribs, all new in the box; Remington Md 1100 12ga shotgun, pump; Browning Md. Light 12ga shotgun, auto, vented rib, new in the box; Winchester Md 12 12ga shotgun, pump; Winchester Md 101 12ga shotgun, over & under; Winchester Md 50 20ga shotgun, auto; Winchester Md 97 12ga shotgun, pump, outside hammers; Mossberg Revelation 12ga shotgun, pump with rifle slug & common barrels; Charles Daly Field Hunter VR-MC 12ga shotgun, pump; Savage Md 245/D410 410-22 over & under; Russian 12ga shotgun, single shot; Remington Md 700 DDL

22-50 rifle with Bushnell scope; Heritage Rough Rider .22 cal revolver; Marlin Md 60 22 cal rifle, auto, new in the box; Winchester Md 22A 22cal rifle, pump; large selection of shot gun shells of all gauges other ammo; numerous vintage shotgun shell boxes; Stack-On gun cabinet; reloaders & supplies; nice selection of fishing poles and tackle.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES: Kansas barb wire wall hanger; JD windmill 4ft.; JD memorabilia of all kinds, license plates, waste baskets, stained glass 7810 tractor, figurines, playing cards, trays, lunch boxes; M Farnall die cast tractor; Pioneer Seed memorabilia, semi, pickup etc.; silver-plate flatware; misc. glassware; stoneware; Kansas Wildlife Habitat print; dolls; numerous quilts; fishing lamp oak kitchen clock; Indian Monument & Chief painting; Matt Dillon painting; brass school bell; pop bottles; beer holiday steins; Jack Daniels glasses, tin & small butane

lighter; numerous decanters; locomotive phone; various primitives; Pyrex mixing bowl set.

FURNITURE & MISC: glass curio cabinet; Victorian style sofa; oak dining table & chairs; oak library table; chrome kitchen table & chairs 1950's; Broyhill coffee table & end tables; glass top coffee table & end table; 3 bookcases, new; maple quilt rack; maple dresser & mirror; walnut serving cart; oak tile top dining table & 4 chairs, nice; end tables; lamps; Sanyo 50" HD TV; walnut glass top table; maples drawer chest with wishbone mirror; 2 king size beds; oak commode; walnut dresser & mirror; walnut china hutch; treadle sewing machine in cabinet; maple bedroom set, full size bed, dresser & mirror; maple desk ceiling fan; 4 sets of wooden bi-folding doors; stainless steel double kitchen sink; antique pedestal bathroom sink; nice selection of kitchen items.

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NAA Auctioneer

AUCTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 10 — 10:00 AM
Auction will be held in the Community Center on the South side of the square in JEWELL, KANSAS

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES
12 quilts; 2 large crazy quilts; quilt top; assortment linens, hankies; assortment crocheted linens; embroidered & crocheted fancy pillowcases; tea towels; Cameo jewelry collection; Rosary collection; prayer books some German; Religious Christmas mangers, scapulars, religious cards & other items; assortment figurines; WWII ration tokens & stamps; Valentines; WWII Japanese fans; collection ink pens; watches; Petalware & Monax dishes; Moonstone dishes; pink, yellow, clear & green depression; iridescent tumblers; assortment clear glass; glass candle holders; red clear cut crystal; Staffordshire dishes; Pfaltzgraff dishes; Corning ware; assortment other glass; Sunbonnet lamps; standing crosses; tokens; keys; telephone stand; hair curlers; Currier & Ives American & Norman Rockwell "The Fall of America" books; assortment of other items.

MARTINA YOUNGER
items; new Swiss army watch; Budweiser picture; Chevrolet ice bucket; Chevrolet Catalina glasses; assortment of car related advertising; car pictures; Walker muffler door mat, signs; Walker 15 gal barrel; Coop 5 gal can; Quaker State oil cans; car books; Lucas oil sign; Moog sign; muscle car pictures, ads & books; Holley carb book; 200+ automotive catalogs; NADA auto appraisal books (85, 86, 87, 97); Richardson Implement pamphlet's; Tony Stuart stand up; Richard Petty DVD; advertising car cups; automotive hats; pens; games; new kitchen items; outdoor water fountains; new bathroom sink; Corning ware; large assortment of other good collectibles.

JAY TAYLOR
We will be selling from both collections. There are many very nice collectibles. Check our web site for pictures at www.thummelauction.com.
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AROUND KANSAS



Dr. Jake and I headed to Denver a couple of weeks ago for the annual gathering of the Order of Indian Wars. It is a gathering of brilliant historians and just downright interesting folks. It is "old-home" weekend for many of us. August historians John Monnett, Greg Michno, Jerry Greene – all of whom have huge Kansas connections – share insights and sell books.

We brought home a pile of them. Newly released from University of Oklahoma Press, *Powder River: Disastrous Opening of the Great Sioux War* by Paul Hedren. Paul lives in Omaha and is re-

tired from the National Park Service.

When Paul was researching the Great Sioux War, he found the reports of Assistant Surgeon Curtis E. Munn invaluable.

Paul called Munn's reports both "precise and vivid." The resulting book is itself precise and vivid.

The most famous event of 1876, of course, is the annihilation Custer's Command at the Little Bighorn in June. But that battle on the greasy grass was but one incident of the warfare engulfing the northern plains.

The accounts are riveting, more so because of Dr.

Munn's contribution, both on the field and in recording the events. Paul shared one incident that occurred in March, following a fight and arduous travel. The "beleaguered column" reached Fort Reno, Wyoming, where men and horses were fed and warmed. Munn had been telling his wounded soldiers they would be properly tended, encouraging them through the miserable journey. The good doctor was livid to find the hospital was only a wet tent, with no stove and one cot. He went to work and within a short time procured stoves and tents and saw to it his men were comfortable.

Just the sort of doctor we would all hope to have.

Dr. Munn, a Harvard grad,

served in the Civil War and was "a pioneer doctor" in Kansas. He was the bacteriologist for the State Board of Health, a lecturer on hygiene and sanitation at the state university, and a lecturer on bacteriology at the Kansas State Medical College.

His son, Lynn, became a respected doctor in Topeka as well, and it was Lynn's wife, Lillie Gordon Munn, who is responsible for the Munn Memorial at the entrance to Gage Park. The Munns, both doctors and their wives, rest in Historic Topeka Cemetery.

For more of Dr. Munn's accounts of the Indian Wars, find the book, *Powder River*, in all the usual outlets.

Deb Goodrich is the co-host of *Around Kansas*, soon

to be a midday feature on Cox Cable 22 in addition to its early Wednesday morning time slot. Contact her at author.debgoodrich@gmail.com.

AUCTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 10 — 10:00 AM

Located at Bob's Auction House • From HERINGTON, KS 4-way stop of 56 & 77 Hwys., go East on 56, 7 miles through Delavan, KS to 2500 Road; go North 1/2 mile. Park in yard.

STARTING AT 10 AM: 2 TRAILERS FULL OF TOOLS & COLLECTIBLES, PRIMITIVES, FISHING & HUNTING, PICTURES, OLD FURNITURE & GLASSWARE & MISC.

See last week's *Grass & Grain* for listings & Click on ksallink.com

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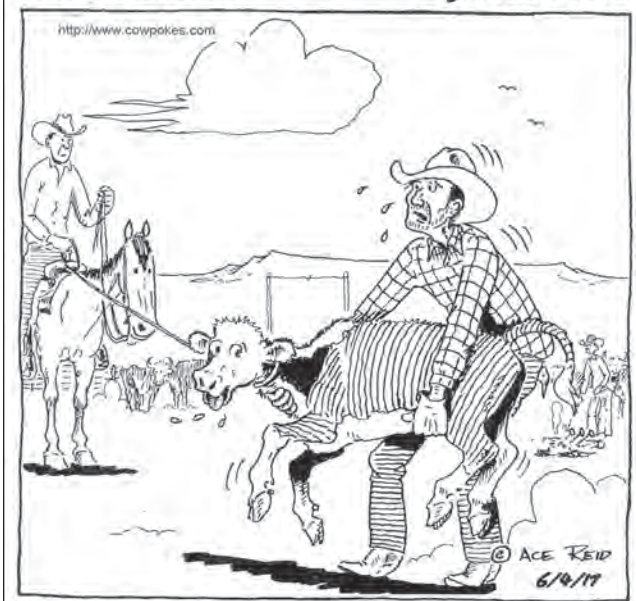
Don't miss *Red Steagall, Sons of the Pioneers, Michael Martin Murphey, Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show & more!*

- Saturday morning "Saddle Up, Let's Ride" parade
- An authentic longhorn cattle drive
- Free Buckaroos camp with stick horse races, rose a steer and more!
- Cowboy poets, storytellers, and Western music
- Chisholm Trail Auto Classic along Texas Street
- Be photoed with a Longhorn
- Blacksmiths, silversmiths & historical artisans
- Native American educational exhibition
- Buffalo soldiers, cavalry & arena-style demonstrations
- A re-enactment of the first rail shipment of longhorns
- Have a true Cowboy meal at the Chuckwagon breakfast
- Visit the Bull's Head Saloon and try your hand at Texas Hold 'Em
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- Learn more @ [ChisholmTRT.com!](http://ChisholmTRT.com)

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SURPLUS AUCTION

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2017 — 1:00 PM
LOCATED: 2274 6th Road — BLUE RAPIDS, KANSAS
(Valley Heights JR/SR High School)

SURPLUS ITEMS
2001 Dodge Caravan 7-passenger minivan (216K mi); 2004 Arctic Cat 4x4 4-wheeler, needs starter drive; **Shop Tools:** Delta DC-380 planer; Delta Dust Collector on 4-wheel cart; Powermatic #45 lathe; Rockwell 10" unisaw w/stand; Powermatic belt sander w/metal stand; Craftsman 10" 2.75HP radial arm saw w/stand; small jointer on wood stand; 2 floor-style drill presses; Dremel scroll saw; floor-style band saw, needs work; metal shop vac; **Technology:** 50+ Apple iPad 2 & iPad3 tablets; 20+ Asus TF101 tablets; 15+ Dell Inspiron #1525 laptops; 30+ Dell Optiplex #760 computers; Brother #4100 fax machine w/toner; printers; misc. technology parts; Hewlett Packard drafting blueprint machine; **Office Furniture:** Library index card 30-drawer cabinet; 12-drawer metal organizer; 2- & 4-drawer filing cabinets; metal bookshelves; dbl-sided 4-shelf metal unit; numerous metal & wood desks; 2 cloth office chairs; variety of chairs; 10+ 8' folding tables; 10+ trapezoid tables; 2x4' rectangular tables; 6 drafting tables; few science lab tables; 2 computer tables & desks; 8+ metal AV carts; 5+ metal AV cabinets; metal AV port. shelf unit; metal storage cabinets; 10' 6-cube shelf unit; few wood & plastic 10 cubby-hole cabinets; 8 room dividers; 16-person fold-up lunch table; dry eraser board cabinet; 5+ projectors; 3 TVs; office water cooler; 7 Elna table-top sewing machines; 3 Potter's wheels; piano; Nobles vacuum; Nobles shampooer; backpack vacuum; Pacific floor scrubber, bad charger; 6 round gym lights; Pop-a-Shot basketball game; 4' & 6' chain link fence rolls; 2 gates; metal door; mail box; wood paper cutter; numerous books & pull-down maps; elec. exercise bike; 16 purple curtains (34x62"); other items. See websites for pictures!
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PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 10 — 10:00 AM
201 D Street — WASHINGTON, KANSAS

Vaseline Glass Ornate Chandelier, Framed Pictures, Wall Mirrors, Antique carpet rocker, Several unique chairs, Hobnail vase, Old books, Unique statuary, Sheet music, Various old signs, Upright Piano, Chimney Cupboard, MANY OTHER COLLECTIBLE AND NEAT ITEMS
Personal Property: Drop leaf Table, Sewing Cabinet, Corner Tables, 2 Complete Bedroom Sets, Cedar Chest, Barrister Cases, Rugs, Roper Heavy Duty Washer, Kenmore Dryer, Misc hand tools, 5 gal. water cooler, Outdoor swing, Concrete planters, Furnace grate tables, Concrete frogs & turtles, Primitive wood benches, Galvanized stock tank, Ornate rocks, Galvanized tub, 10 gal. Crock — Pittsburg Pottery Company, Extension Ladder, Old Gas Cans, Wicker children's table, Pie table, Metal desk, 2 leather topped tables, Delicate lion chair, Davenport table, Wrought iron table, Safe, Numerous paintings and prints, Shelves, Food dehydrator, Assorted bird houses, Old records in 3 sizes, Braided rugs, Large sofa bed, Small sofa bed, Propane Burner, Garden hoses, Wheel barrow, Metal detector, Terra cotta pots, Lawn chairs, Rolls of wire fence, Various PVC pipe, Self-propelled lawn mower, Briggs & Stratton Repair Manual, Tomato cages, Nail Kegs, Misc. Baskets, Metal trunks, Shelving, Misc. Tools, Tool Boxes, Headlights, Organizers, Sun Dial, Punch Set, Step Stool, Step Ladder, Large stack of slate shingles, Faux Fireplace, Bird baths, Pole saw, bricks, small kitchen appliances, misc nails, nuts, bolts, screws, many more items undiscovered.

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TERMS: Cash or good check with photo ID. All items must be paid for before removing from premises. Not responsible for accidents or theft. Announcements made day of sale take precedence over printed material.

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Field is set for 2017 Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest finals in Manhattan

Cowboy poets from across Kansas and beyond will compete for the coveted trophy buckle at the finals of the 2017 Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest on June 9 at the Flint Hills Discovery Center. There is no charge

for admission and the public is invited to attend.

"We have an outstanding field of cowboy poets from three states," said poetry contest chair Ron Wilson of the Lazy T Ranch near Manhattan. "They have earned their way into the finals with excellent performances in our regional contests."

The finals will be held on Friday, June 9, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Discovery Center on the night before the Symphony in the Flint Hills. Celebrity judges include Chief Justice Lawton Nuss of the Kansas Supreme Court, Marie Martin from the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation, K-State provost

April Mason, Kansas Farm Bureau president Richard Felts, and Manhattan mayor Usha Reddi.

Contestants are as follows (towns in Kansas unless listed otherwise): Serious poem category: Terry Arnwine, Cherryvale; Betty Burlingham, Manhattan; John J. Cannon, Fredonia;

Tim Keane, Manhattan; Danny McCurry, Ash Grove, Missouri; Donna Penley, Haysville; Dennis Russell, Cimarron, New Mexico. Humorous poem category: Betty Burlingham, Manhattan; Tim Keane, Manhattan; Barbara Lilyhorn, Hutchinson; Danny McCurry, Ash Grove, Missouri; Dana Moodie, Neodesha; Donna Penley, Haysville; Dennis Russell, Cimarron, New Mexico; and Carl Stueve, Olpe.

State champions at the finals will receive the Saddlejack Bradrick Award, the coveted Governor's Buckle, discounts and gift certificates from leading western wear stores, and two tickets to the Symphony in the Flint Hills plus an opportunity to present their poems in the story circle after the symphony. In addition, the state winners will be invited to compete in the National Cowboy Poetry Rodeo. It is not necessary to go through the state contest to enter the national rodeo because anyone can enter the National Cowboy Poetry Rodeo directly, but the Kansas winners will have their entry fees paid by the Kansas contest.

For more information, go to www.cowboypoetrycontest.com.

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