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NORTH TEXAS FARM & RANCH

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Iransitioning to fall

Welcome to the September issue of North Texas Farm and Ranch magazine.

I am sure we have all had our fill of scorching weather and are looking forward to the cooler temperatures fall brings.

Rayford Pullen helps transition us into fall in Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch, while Tony Dean finishes up his four part series on stocking rates this month. I am thankful he took on the responsibility of sharing the importance of stocking rates and the difference it can make to our cattle and our business.

This month's issue places a lot of focus on the younger generation. Krista Lucas brings us an update of high school rodeo events from the past few months.

Lacey Norris explains the values she and her husband,

Logan, a college rodeo coach, attempt to instill in their athletes, but they are lessons we can all use a reminder of. Phillip Kitts gets in on the action too, discussing the fast pace at which youth rodeo is growing.

Barry Whitworth, DVM and area food/animal quality and health specialist, joins our wonderful group of contributors. His first topic is biosecurity, the development and implementation of management procedures to reduce or prevent unwanted threats from entering a herd or flock.

Bobby Dove graces the cover this issue. As a person who cannot even draw a stick figure, I am in awe of someone with such talent. From western jewelry and accessories to enchanting paintings, this artist can do it all. Read more on his love of art and how he has combined his passion of creating jewelry and painting into a successful career, all inspired by the western world. Above is an example of his extraordinary work.

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Wishing you all the best this September.

Dani Blackburn, editor

ON THE COVER

Native artist Bobby Dove stands with his painting, "Breaking Loose," oil on canvas, 36x48, at his gallery in Wichita Falls. Dove is an award-winning artist for his western painting and custom jewelry designs and creations. Dove is inspired by cowboys and the western way of life, which come alive in his paintings and his work. The artist has created pieces for the likes of Leann Rimes, ZZ Top and Coca-Cola, and has been the official artist for local events like the Hotter 'N Hell and the Ranch Roundup. Read more in this month's profile on this phenomenal artist. (Photo by Dani Blackburn)

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good biosecurity plan.

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OUTDOORSPage 66Stocking Rate, Volume 4

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Tony Dean finishes up a four part series: "Stocking Rate - Should I Be That Concerned?" For the last segment, he asks the question, if stocking rate is so important, why don't we spend more time talking about it?

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PROFILE Bobby Dove

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Bobby Dove, award-winning artist from Wichita Falls, makes custom jewelry and paintings inspired by the western way of life. His love for art and the cowboy culture comes alive in his incredible work.





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Youth talent was on display at the 2019 American Paint Horse Association Youth World Championship Show June 24 to July 7 in Fort Worth, Texas. Exhibitors included Kendel Fellegy of Sadler, Texas, who was featured in the October 2017 issue of NTFR magazine. Kendel is the grandaughter of Ronnie and Shirley Montgomery and the daughter of Chris and Dawn Fellegy. She and her horse, One Graceful Krymsun, earned reserve champion in youth showmanship in the 13 and under division against 18 competitors from all across the United States and Canada. (Photos courtesy Montgomery and Fellegy families)

CORRECTION

In the August issue of NTFR magazine, a story on Clay County stated the size of Lake Arrowhead as 524 acres, but the true size of the lake is 14,969 acres, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife. We apologize for this error.

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🧢 FARM & RANCH

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH

By Rayford Pullen | rcpullen@yahoo.com

Rall is in the air or at least it will officially begin in September when the daylight hours and the night time hours are pretty close to the same. The first official day of fall is Sept. 22 and that is usually when we notice a significant cool down, eight or 10 degrees, from the dog days of summer.

We are now 90 days away from the first day of winter and thus thinking about our plans regarding supplemental feed and hay. We have been very blessed this year to be heading into winter with abundant standing forage, which we utilize as our winter hay source from our native grasses, mostly little blue stem and switch grass. Whatever your plans regarding winter time supplementation, use a sharp pencil as we struggle to make the economics work in our favor.

Spring born calves will be going to town in the next couple of months and since we only get to sell them once, we certainly need to optimize our potential returns any way we can. If you are not selling at least a pot load of calves, 50,000 pounds or so, you'll have to basically take what the markets has to offer. Coming led sales, where different producers' calves are sold together as pot load lots, have been a popular option for those weaning and selling less than 50 to 60 or so head.

The cattle business is a huge business, with harvesting facilities processing around 4,800 head per day, which breaks down to 300 head per hour or five head per minute. (Do the math and see how long you can keep them busy on one day.) As cattle arrive at feeding facilities in truck load lots, even though your cattle have had all the vaccinations and such,



Whatever your plans regarding winter time supplementation, use a sharp pencil as we struggle to make the economics work in our favor. (Photo by Rayford Pullen)

when they are loaded onto a truck with 40 or so other cattle, your cattle have now lost their identity. When they arrive at the feeding facility, they are treated as though they have never had anything done to them because they cannot tell which ones have and which ones haven't.

While I still think it is a good idea to at least give all calves at least one vaccination for the virus complex, just know that by doing this, your cattle will be less likely to get sick during the feeding process. This will result in less need for antibiotics, which is a good thing for our business and a concern we have heard from our customer base. While none of us are large enough to have a big positive impact on the cattle industry, we are all large enough to have a negative impact. So just do the right thing regarding withdrawal times for the medicines we use and make injection sites where the least amount of tissue damage is done. If you're not sure about all this, just search on your computer for Beef Quality Assurance, and you will find the methods used to limit injection site lesions.

Speaking of managing for optimum profitability, weaning time is an excellent time to see if your cows have rebred this spring and summer. As noted in last month's article, there is little room for error if you want to keep your head above water financially. If you have a cow that did not breed back this year with the wonderful weather and forage we had available, you need to get her off your payroll. She is an unproductive employee that still gets the same benefits as those toting the note. If you are a fairly low-cost operator, it will still take the profit from three or four cows just to cover the one cow's benefits (pasture, hay, vaccinations, feed, etc.) that did not breed back.

When we wean our calves this fall, we fence line wean if pos-

sible to lower stress and reduce morbidity. It seems to us that with the cows and calves able to see and touch each other through a fence, the weaning stress is greatly reduced. After three or four days, our calves will begin getting farther and farther away from the fence, and the cows and the calves will begin to drift their different ways and the bellering (I assume this is a real word) will quit, and everyone goes their happy way. If you are in the cattle business, you know what I'm talking about, admit it.

As always, keep out a free choice mineral, not a trace mineral block, vaccinate your calves and cows properly, pregnancy test your cows and if your cows or calves need deworming, it is as easy as feeding a sack of cubes or putting out a block that contains the dewormers.

Just do your part to do things right. It's a wonderful time to be in the cattle business. $\widehat{\mathbb{W}}$



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FARM & RANCH

PHOTO BY ANNETTE BRIDGES

NTFR contributor Annette Bridges recently ventured overseas to visit the beautiful country of Scotland. While there, she snapped some photos of what agriculture looks like in the United Kingdom's northernmost country. Pictured are baby Cheviot Sheep. ®





PHOTO J DESCRIPTION BY LINDSEY MONK

Summer is ending, fall works are starting. Hay is in the stack yard and it's time to pre-condition calves.

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YELLOWSTONE TV SERIES: ARE YOU WATCHING?

RANCH, Rodeo & Randonness

By Pepper Stewart

f you have been hiding under a rock this is news to you, but if not then you're watching. Yellowstone burst onto the scene back in 2018 with mixed reviews at first, with some adult content and some rough language. If you are expecting a Heartland type show you're on the wrong channel.

There were a few inaccuracies that eventually worked themselves out over the course of filming. Most viewers missed them but those in the day to day western lifestyle picked up on it pretty quick. I turned the show off after the first 10 minutes when the 'wild stallion' was backed out of the trailer with a halter on.

I missed the whole first season, but couldn't get past the hype. I did what most of us old timers do and ordered the season one DVD and binge watched the whole season in a day.

My observation after the first season was this show is pretty good, kinda like a soap opera based on a cattle ranch reminiscent of the 80s show Dallas with a more western involvement. Well into the second season the show has drawn in a massive following with dominating numbers with more than five million an episode.

Kevin Costner is no stranger to good westerns and has produced or been part of plenty blockbuster shows and looks like he has another one.



Yellowstone, starring Kevin Costner, burst onto the scene in 2018. (Photo courtesy Paramount Network)

Yellowstone has grabbed the viewers and brought them in to the family drama mixed in big business greed.

Yellowstone is a hit with no plans of slowing down as it has been renewed for a third season while still in the middle of season two. This show is a hit across the board, and we will have to sit back and see how far the story line can go. There are a few massive Facebook fan groups. I have found it interesting to see how the fans react to each episode and what they pick up on.

I recently had the opportunity to visit with cast member Forrie Smith who plays Lloyd on Yellowstone. Smith is the real deal ranching and rodeo cowboy, yes there is a difference. He has worked as a stunt man on many major films as well as a western television consultant.

For those who pick up on the little western inaccuracies that have to slip by due to time constraints, Smith explained it best: "Let's be proud that our culture and our heritage is the number one drama on cable television." Sit back and think about that, in today's time you have a western based drama breaking records and dominating the landscape.





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TRIANGLE T - NORTH DEAN RANCH \$1,600/Ac This ranch is a great cattle and hunting ranch. It's located in western Clay County, 15 minutes northeast of Wichita Falls. The ranch is primarily wooded with young and mature mesquites, quality native grasses, hardwoods located along the Wichita River which serves as the north boundary. The ranch is cross fenced into 9 pastures, it has 21 stock ponds, well-built metal livestock corrals with scales, brick ranch house, scale house with living quarters, public water and minerals available.



BELL SCOTT RIVER RANCH

\$2.100/Ac

The Bell Scott River ranch consist of 1,319.71 Acres with 1.5 miles of Red River Frontage. It is primarily heavily wooded river bottom with approximately 35% being farmland and improved Bermuda pastures. Improvements consist of a frame house, workshop, equipment shed, hay barn, 2 sets of corrals, fenced and cross fenced two water wells and electricity. Its located between Charlie and Byers with easy access from FM 171 to Airport Rd, to Raymond Evans Rd. This is a well rounded recreational property. An additional 320 acres of farmland is available.



MESOUITE HILL HUNTING RANCH

\$2,450/Ac

This is a prime turn-key hunting and fishing property located in Clay County, northwest of Petrolia. It primarily densely wooded with mesquite, scattered open areas and a heavily wooded creek bisecting the property. It has rolling elevation changes offering great views. There are 6 ponds, 3 of them were recently built with a max depth of 25 feet, 1 to 3 acres and were stocked with bass, catfish and crappie. There are 12 blind and feeder set ups that will convey with the property. Electricity is available.





CLAMPITT RIVER RANCH

\$1,895/Ac

This is a prime hunting property located minutes from Henrietta, consisting of 419 acres on both sides of Hwy 148. It has Wichita River Frontage across its entire north boundary, along with a large unnamed creek across the south portion. It's completely wooded with mesquite, pecans, oaks, hackberry and a few natural cleared areas. It is primarily level with the south portion being the highest in elevation, offering a few build sites. The entire boundary is fenced. Electricity and water appear available.

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DUCK BILL RIVER FARM

\$2,250/Ac

Nice farm with over 3 miles of Wichita river frontage. It's located in Wichita County 20 minutes west of Wichita Falls. It consists of about 350 acres of improved Bermuda and Klein grass fields with the ability to flood irrigate. The remainder is heavily wooded along the Wichita River and Antelope Creek. The entire boundary is fenced and the interior is cross fenced. It has public water and electricity. There is a Quonset barn with living quarters, hay barn and two sets of livestock corrals. This is a productive farm with lots of potential.

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LAND MARKET REPORT JULY 2019 RURAL LAND SALES

Use the properties of the still a strong demand for recreational land, but the supply is far short of what is needed. Many of the recreational tracts avail-

able are overpriced and are not getting the buyers' attention. Once again, proper pricing is everything.

COOKE COUN	ITY			SELL T	0	DAYS	ON		
AREA	ACRES	PRICE/A	ACRE	LIST P	RICE	MARK	ET		
Gainesville	12.54	\$9,968.	10	86.68%	6	311			
Valley View	11.093	\$18,750	0.02	93.75%	6	33			
Whitesboro	18	\$12,400)	100%		21			
Gainesville	29.001	\$8,423.	50	97.729	6	71			
Gainesville	32.96	\$8,571		94.17%	6	110			
DENTON COUNTY				SELL TO		DAYS ON			
AREA	ACRES		PRICE/ACRE		LIST PRICE		MARKET		
Krum	12	4	\$14,166.67		100%		0		
Justin	10.034	t ş	\$25,413.59		96.23%		31		
Aubrey	11.01	Ş	\$29,972.75		99.91%		648		
Denton	34.34	Ş	\$27,664.53		95.48%		153		
Sanger	201.79	93 \$	\$8,761.21		93.05%		58		
NOTE: There were also 5 total land transactions for July of 2018.									
MONTAGUE COUNTY				SELL TO			DAYS ON		
AREA	ACRES	PRICE/		LIST P		MAR	KET		
Bowie	13.04	\$7,208.	59	96.119	%	109			
Bowie	32.85	\$4,000		95.249	%	54			
Bowie	34	\$6,000		96%		3			
Forestburg	35	\$7,000		90.079	%	118			
Forestburg	511.78	\$4,250		78.369	%	237			
NOTE: There were 6 transactions for July 2018.									
WISE COUNT		SELL TO		DA	DAYS ON				

WISE COUNT	<u>Υ</u>		SELL TO	DAYS ON
AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	LIST PRICE	MARKET
Paradise	10	\$10,500	70.47%	74
Paradise	15.6	\$8,413.46	62.32%	0
Paradise	10.1	\$13,000	96.3%	32
Paradise	10.161	\$12,921.96	95.72%	8
Springtown	10.2	\$14,215.69	96.67%	56
Alvord	18.13	\$8,880.31	93.48%	56
Springtown	10	\$17,500	100%	1
Chico	24.9	\$7,100	94.68%	36
Poolville	14.23	\$13,176.39	96.15%	141
Paradise	10.1	\$18,564.36	137.51%	0
Paradise	10.1	\$19,801.98	146.68%	0
Decatur	12.9	\$19,379.84	83.36%	46

NOTE: There were only 7 land transactions for July of 2018.

FARM & RANCH



odeo fans and folks who follow the western sports have probably taken notice of the continued growth of youth focused events. As would be expected in a family-oriented sport, a lot of focus has been placed on the future. From small state youth organizations to junior high and high school rodeo associations, rodeo and western sports have many options for the young athlete. Add to this the continued development of upper level competitive groups like Little Britches, Miniature Bull Riders (MBR) and the recently renamed World Rough Stock Championship, the development of youth competition continues to reach bigger potential each passing year.

Unlike little league baseball or Pop-Warner football, the rodeo and western sports have a much bigger investment. In the traditional sports the reward comes with trophies and celebration, where in the western sports the reward adds in the additional benefit of a small payout. If you look closely at the

By Phillip Kitts

western sports' winning 'payout' it is obvious the financial reward is not comparable to the financial commitment.

Of course, the investment truly changes with the event in which a young athlete competes. A shinning example of this is a young person who competes in the rough stock events like mutton busting, bronc riding or bull/calf riding will be deeply invested in things like helmets, vests, chaps and spurs. Add to this the thousands of dollars parents spend in travel and hotel bills, and the amount a roughie spends to compete is impressive. On the other side of the coin, the timed event competitors, those who compete in team roping, tie down roping, barrel racing or other equine based competition have an even larger investment in their skill. Once you add up the cost of horses, trucks, trailers, feed and the long list of tack that it requires to compete, the numbers are simply baffling.

The reality is every time a young competitor steps in the

arena they have a shot at winning; yes, winning comes with a check that can be a significant amount of money. When the proverbial rubber meets the road, considering the amount of money these checks provide, a youngster would have to win every weekend for several years to see full repayment of what their parents invest.

So, what makes the western sports competitor and family so much different than your average little leaguer or youth athlete? The answer is not specific to one specific family, but the consensus is the same. It is about family; it is about both providing their children with a purpose and life lessons as well as giving their child an opportunity to succeed. This family-based way of thinking is just one portion of the equation that is so confusing to many outsides of this culture.

Recently at a Kansas Youth Rodeo with the Christian Youth Rodeo Association, our team was approached by an individual from the east coast who was completely new to rodeo and western sports. This person was simply stunned by how much effort and focus went into a youth event. They were quick to point out how much money these families invested in their youngsters and had a long list of questions in the hope of better understanding this phenomenon.

During the conversation and explanation of how youth rodeo works, it was truly emphasized about the life lessons portion of competing at the youth level. This topic sparked a massive amount of wondering and curiosity that was summed up with a quick question of "How does this teach them life lessons?"

We spent time talking the finer details of competing in western sports and how taking care of and respecting the same livestock provides a key to success and teaches responsibility. Understanding that judging is a subjective action and not all scores are going to go the way one wants, which teaches respect and that not everyone wins. One of the biggest lessons



comes at every rodeo. When you look behind the scenes, you will always see one competitor helping another, if it is pulling a bull rope or holding a horse, it never fails to see mutual support. This lesson of fair play and sportsmanship is unequaled.

It was during the conversation that the light bulb went off; not only are all of these concepts way outside the norm for the outsider but are probably seriously overlooked within the ranks of western sports.

It raises the question, how many parents and enthusiasts run from event to event or continue to search social media to see how this young person did at an event? How many times is a score or time celebrated? With all these efforts, how many times is the personal growth of a young athlete overlooked?

It is probably very true that none of these oversights are in-

tentional: the deep family roots of western sports come with an inherent different view and culture than other sports. This difference is probably very foreign to many but a way of life for a few.

It is true that just because a youngster competes in western sport and lives a western way of life does not mean they will not have stumbles and struggles in life.

The fact is, life will always have its ups and downs; however, if one were to just sit for a moment and think about how much is learned in and around the arena that conditions our western youth, it is obvious why the success rate in life is so high.

As the future of western sports grows and the investment in youth events develop, the world is going to continue to see how much this world has to offer. Not only will this be a competitive platform for youngsters to grow and display



The development of youth competition continues to reach bigger potential each passing year. (Photos by Phillip Kitts)

their talents, but the personal growth and lessons will continue. These lessons and growth will be traits that separate the life and culture of western sports from most all other sports in the world. $\overline{\mathbb{W}}$





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EQUINE AUCTIONS



By Barry Whitworth, DVM

Recent events such as African Swine Fever in China, Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea at the Oklahoma Youth Expo and Virulent Newcastle Disease in California have shown how vulnerable livestock operations and events are.

These and other diseases could have a devastating impact on livestock producers in the state. The best defense against these threats is a good biosecurity plan. If producers do not have a biosecurity protocol, they need to develop one and if they have one, they should review it.

What is biosecurity? "Bio" is life and "security" is protection. Biosecurity is the development and implementation of management procedures to reduce or prevent unwanted threats from entering a herd or flock. The protocol is designed to reduce or prevent the spread of these threats through the herd or flock if a pathogen does enter the herd or flock. Lastly, a biosecurity plan is designed to prevent the threat from infecting neighboring livestock operations.

Biosecurity is one of the best disease prevention methods available to livestock producers. It cost very little to implement, but it can be a challenge to maintain the program.

When reviewing the 2014-2015 Avian Influenza outbreak, failure to follow biosecurity protocol was the main reason given for the spread of the virus. To have any realistic chance of a biosecurity program being successful, all parties involved in the operation must be willing to fully participate. If one person fails to comply with the protocol, the program is doomed to fail.

Biosecurity can be broken down in to four basic areas which include traffic, isolation, sanitation, and husbandry. Livestock producers must attempt to control traffic on their operation. Livestock operations should have a perimeter buffer area. For ranches, this would be the perimeter fence. For poultry operation, this could be the fence that surrounds the poultry house. All entry points need to be clearly marked with "Do Not Enter" signs. Producers should not allow anyone to enter the area where animals are kept unless it is absolutely necessary. People may unknowingly carry dangerous organisms on their clothes or shoes.

If visitors are allowed on the premises, producers should make sure they wear clean clothes and shoes. Producers should provide disposal shoe covers and a place to wash hands and dip shoes before and after entering the farm. Any producer that visits another livestock operation should shower and change clothes and shoes before having contact with his or her own animals.

Owners must also attempt to discourage contact with other animals domestic and wild. Making sure the ranch is kept clean and free of brush will discourage wild animals. All feed should be kept in feed bins or storage containers to prevent attracting wild animals. Rodents and insects should be controlled. Cattle, and especially pregnant cows, should be discouraged from having nose to nose contact with neighboring cattle.

This can be accomplished by placing an electric wire inside the perimeter fence. Producers should discourage visitors from bringing their animals to the operation. These animals may carry a pathogen on their bodies or be sick and infect other animals.

Isolation is another practice that will aid in keeping a herd free from a preventable disease. Ideally, producers should maintain a closed herd. If this is not possible, animals should be purchased from a reputable seed stock producer. All new animals need to be tested for diseases and placed in quaran-**See BIOSECURITY page 24**

BIOSECURITY -

tine for a minimum of 30 days and observed for any signs of illness before being added to the herd. If producers are involved in showing livestock, show animals should be placed in quarantine upon returning from an exhibition.

Also, any animal that shows signs of illness needs to be isolated from the herd. When animals are in quarantine, they should be fed after all other chores have been completed to prevent exposure to other animals. Producers do not want to bring home diseases or borrow diseases from their neighbors.

Sanitation should be a top priority in all operations. All food and water troughs should be kept cleaned. Lots, pens, barns and cages should be kept free of manure build up. If equipment such as a frontend loader is used for dual purposes such as manure management and feeding, it needs to be cleaned and disinfected between jobs.

Avoid borrowing equipment from neighbors. If it is necessary to borrow some item, producers should clean and disinfect it before and after using it.

Feeding and haying areas should be moved regularly to prevent manure build up. Any feed spills should be cleaned immediately to avoid attracting wildlife. After traveling to shows, fairs or livestock auctions, trucks and trailers should be washed and disinfected. All show equipment needs to be cleaned and disinfected after being used. Maintaining a clean environment for your animals will go a long way in preventing diseases.

Animals that are provided with good care are more likely to remain healthy and resist infections. Animals need a good source of clean water.

Their nutritional needs should be met. They should be provided protection from harsh environmental conditions. It may sound unnecessary to mention, but all livestock owners should be familiar with normal animal behavior.

Any deviation from normal behavior should be investigated. They should know the warning signs of an infection. Most importantly, they should report any unusually large numbers of sick or dead animals to their veterinarian, or state veterinarian.

Livestock producers that would like more information about biosecurity may want to read APHIS fact sheet Biosecurity: Protecting Your Livestock and Poultry at www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal health/content/printable version/fs bio sec 07.pdf. For a detailed biosecurity plan for poultry producers go to healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov or check out Oklahoma State University fact sheet Small Flock Biosecurity for Prevention of Avian Influenza ANSI-8301 at the local county Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service office.





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High school rodeo athletes from all over the country stay busy during the summer months. School may be out, but that does not mean rodeo slows down. The rodeo trail heats up for freshman to senior aged kids attending the International Finals Youth Rodeo and National High School Rodeo Association Finals.

These large-scale events are conducted in back-to-back weeks in July. Many students attend both events, and it is something to look forward to every summer. The IFYR ran July 7-12.

The world's richest youth rodeo is every year in Shawnee, Okla. With a total of 11 performances, rodeo events are run simultaneously in three arenas. Each arena is next to the other for easy to watch rodeo action. There are two performances daily, and it is run like a professional event. The IFYR consists of two rounds and a short go on the final day. Past champions include rodeo greats like Justin McDaniel, Jackie Jatzlau, Jet and Cord McCoy and Mike Outhier.

In the barrel racing, Wister, Okla., cowgirl Patricia Walden finished with a time of 49.318 seconds on three runs to win the event championship. With a second place finish in the short go, winning \$1,743, she was able to secure the top spot. The pole bending championship went to Reagan Davis of Alto, Texas. She ran a 19.881 in the short go to win the round and a total of more than \$4,000. Davis also was the reserve pole bending champion at the National High School Finals.

Kansas cowgirl Tia Wallace roped three calves in 2.9, 2.1 and 3.2 seconds to come out on top in By Krista Lucas



the breakaway roping. She earned \$5,479 for her week in Shawnee. Heather McLaughlin, Bunnell, Fla., was the goat tying champion. She won the first round and placed third in the short go, with times of 7.0 and 7.7 seconds respectively.

In the calf roping, Trevor Hale of Perryton, Texas, split the first round win and won the short go outright to finish first in the average. He finished 20th in the National High School Finals average. Steer wrestler Winsten McGraw of Gill, Colo., won the championship and more than \$2,000. Mcgraw also finished 13th at nationals. Team ropers Stran Morris and Jessen James, both of Oklahoma, roped three head in 22.3 seconds to win the average.

In the rough stock events, Timothy Troyer of Columbia, Ky., won the saddle bronc championship. Troyer won the first go and placed third in the second go and short go. Hunter Ramsey, El Dorado, Ark., won the bareback riding average and \$2,378. Bull rider Potter Maverick of Waxahachie, Texas, rode his first two bulls and bucked off his final bull, but was still able to walk away with the championship.

The IFYR is an impressive youth event with top-notch competition. There are competitors from nearly every state, and it shows how tough the future of rodeo will be. After the IFYR, many headed north for another full week of rodeo July 14-20. Texas and Oklahoma sent a tough group of kids up to Rock Springs, Wyo., for the National High School Finals. To qualify, student athletes had to finish in the top four in their respective events at the state high school finals. Texas is one of the toughest states to qualify, as the state is broken up into 10 regions. The top 10 in each event from each region go on to state, and from there on to nationals.

The 2019 barrel racing champion was Macee McAllister of St. George, Utah, and the pole bending champion was another Utah cowgirl, Kenna Coronado. Utah also took first place in the breakaway roping, with Dallie Bastian roping three calves in 7.11 seconds. Oklahoma cowgirl, Taitum Thomas, brought home the goat tying championship with a time of 23.43 seconds on three head.

Standout calf roper Shad Mayfield of Clovis, N.M., won the national championship with a time of 25.37 seconds on three head. Mayfield is having a great year. The 18-year-old cowboy has recently turned professional and is currently ranked 14th in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association standings. He has a chance at winning the Rookie of the Year title and making the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo later this year.

The steer wrestling national title went to Colorado cowboy Jace Logan, and Kason Davis and Bryce Graves of Mississippi took home the team roping national championship.

Colorado was almost as successful as Utah with Keenan Hayes winning the bareback riding championship as well. Utah also took home the saddle bronc championship with Clayson Hutchings riding for 212 points total. Oklahoma struck again in the bull riding when Caden Bunch of Tahlequah won the average with 148 points.

At the IFYR and National High School Finals, the competition was stiff. Texas and Oklahoma both finished in the top five of the team standings. There is no question the future of rodeo is in good hands.



Easy Does It

n the small Texas town of Reno, between Azle and LSpringtown, lives a sevenyear-old sorrel mare named Easy. Well, actually, Easy is her barn name. Her registered name is Fly Away Gal. She is by a stud called Superflyforawhiteguy whose parents are Dash For Perks and a Strawfly Special mare and out of a granddaughter of Dash For Cash. She stands just 15.1 hands but is built pretty stout, weighing in at 1,100 pounds. Easy is the first string barrel racing horse of Kathy Muehlen.

At this point it would be good to give a little background information on Kathy. Born and raised in Lima, Wis., she made her way to Texas as quickly as she could. She earned a business degree in Rapid City, S.D., and competed in college rodeo for the school there, but as soon as she graduated at the tender age of 21, she headed south to Texas and has never looked back.

Her desire was to get to a warmer climate and a place where there was a lot more rodeo and barrel racing activity, and it lasted year round. She told me she actually stopped here to visit friends and was headed on to Arizona to visit a friend from back home who had also moved south. Well, she never made it to Arizona. Once here in Texas she loved it so much she never left.

Back to the focus of the "Equine Superstars and Everyday Heroes" article, Easy. Kathy said she only realized in the last year or so what a nice barrel horse Easy was because when Easy was just four or five years old, Kathy had so much



Kathy and Easy breezing to a win in the 1D at Henrietta Cowboy Church Barrel Race. (Photo courtesy Kathy Muehlen)

trouble with her hips she really couldn't ride the mare to her potential. After having hip replacement surgery on both hips, she's recovered and she and Easy have become a force with which to be dealt. Kathy said once she could ride without pain, she realized how good the mare was and how fast she could run and turn. They have been winning at all levels of barrel racing ever since. They run consistently in the 1D in smaller barrel races and at some of the big ones, but sometimes run in the 2D at the really large races where the wolves of the sport all gather. For example, the pair just won first in the 1D at the Two Sisters Memorial barrel race honoring Tammy Jo Kroes and Wendy Wilson conducted by Henrietta Cowboy Church in Henrietta, Texas.

They were first at Dublin Cowboy Church barrel race, placed at Taylor, and won the Senior 2D at the Summer Splash in Hamilton. All these wins were this summer.

I asked how Kathy maintained the mare and was told that she eats

EQUINE

Strategy and has free choice pasture. Her shoer is Joe Yoder, and she runs in straight plates. Her vet is Dr. Frank Fluitt at Weatherford. After all this information about this winning team, we haven't addressed the reason the mare is called Easy. As I was grilling Kathy about her mare, I asked things like how is she to haul, to ride, to live with, to handle, to shoe, and no matter what I asked, the answer was always just... easy.

"She is so very laid back and easy to ride and get along with," Kathy stated, "that it became her name." This newly formed, winning team should be around for many years to come. Kathy has lovingly dubbed Easy her "old lady horse," but I think anyone would love to get to ride her no matter what age you might be. Expect to see this pair in the winner's circle for a long time to come because...Easy does it. 🕅



Run out picture of Kathy Muehlen on Easy at a Revolution Barrel Race in Duncan, Okla. (Photo courtesy Kathy Muehlen)



Flexural Limb Deformities

Imost every horse person has heard of contracted tendons in a horse but flexural limb deformities (FLD) are a little more complicated than just tight tendons. There are different locations or joints involved with FLD and different age groups of horses that experience these types of deformities. Treatment options between these groups or types of FLD are quite different so understanding these types of deformities is important in picking the correct treatment plan.

Congenital Flexural Limb Deformities

Congenital FLD are deformities that are diagnosed at birth of a newborn foal. These deformities can affect the carpus, fetlock or the coffin joint. The most common area for a foal to have a FLD is in the carpus. It is not clear what causes these deformities in newborn foals, but uterine malposition of the foal is often blamed. In newborn children with club feet it is thought that lack of fetal activity leads to abnormalities in their limbs.

Other causes that have been suspected to cause FLD are genetic causes, toxins that the mare ingested during pregnancy, illness in the mare and poor nutrition. Regardless of the cause of the FLD in foals these problems need to be addressed as quickly as possible in order to fully correct the FLD without complications.

Medical Treatment Options

Newborn foals with FLD should be examined by a veterinarian to determine the best treatment plan and to monitor progress to determine if the treatment plan is working or needs to be changed. Foals that can stand and nurse without assistance rarely require treatment unless the FLD gets worse. These mild cases are usually confined to a stall and then allowed to have small amounts of daily exercise to allow the limbs to strengthen without over tiring the foal to the point of causing more harm. The goal of controlled exercise is to allow slow relaxation of the flexor tendons along with strengthening of the extensor tendons to overtime to correct the FLD. Within a short period of time the foal becomes stronger and is able to straighten and relax into their limbs to a point of normal conformation.

Some more moderate to severe cases will



require treatment with a drug called oxytetracycline given slowly intravenously in IV fluids to help relax the tendons. Sometimes this treatment alone is successful to straighten foals limbs, but it works better in combination with splinting of the limbs. There is some risk of kidney injury with using oxytetraycyline in foals so it must be administered by a veterinarian and is recommended that it is administered with IV fluids to minimize possible renal injury. Splinting a foal also comes with its own risks. Foals' skin is very delicate and proper splint placement with good padding is paramount to prevent complications from splints. Foals that require splints must absolutely be kept in a stall while in splints and must be closely monitored in case problems do arise. Foals in limb splints can require assistance to stand so they can nurse as well.

Corrective shoeing has been employed to help correct some FLD in the lower limb. There are commercially available shoes that are glued on to the foal's feet, but these can be difficult to keep on. Sometimes custom-made shoes out of aluminum plate or toe extensions out of acrylic material can be used to help with

FLD in foals.

Pain management in foals also is helpful in correcting these FLD. It is often painful while stretching the soft tissues out with splints or corrective shoeing so it is often these foals are administered NSAIDs to help with the pain and inflammation associated with this process.

Surgical Treatment Options -

It is very rare for foals to require surgical intervention for the treatment of FLD. Surgical options are reserved for cases that fail to respond to the medical treatment options and those that are extremely affected. Occasionally some foals with severe deformities to require surgical treatment where check ligaments and tendons are transected to help correct the FLD.

Acquired FLD

These are FLD that occur in older horses later in life and are developed after birth usually between the ages of four months to two years of age. There are many causes of acquired FLD but the most common causes are fast growing animals and horses with a painful limb. Genetically selected, fast growing horses, for example, halter horses, often develop acquire FLD. These horses also are on a high plain of nutrition as well to help them grow rapidly. This rapid growth can lead to bone and tendon growth disparity that leads to a FLD. Horses in pain experience what is called pain withdrawal reflex that leads to decreased weight bearing on the painful limb and also an altered stance. Causes can be OCD, infection, physitis, acute trauma or fracture. Acquired FLD often affects the coffin joint (distal interphalangeal joint) and the fetlock (metacarpophalangeal joint).

Medical Treatment Options

Medical treatment options are not as successful in older horses compared to foals, but they can work in some cases. In cases of rapidly growing horses decreasing daily calorie intake and pain management for the associated physitis can help correct these causes of acquired FLD. Corrective shoeing changes in cases of FLD of the fetlock joint can help horses that are struggling to stay extended in the fetlock joint or those that are popping forward or knuckling forward in the ankle joint. Some cases that are mild will respond well to controlled exercise as well.

Surgical Treatment Options

Many times it is necessary to use surgical treatment in cases with acquired FLD. This often requires the transection or cutting of a check ligament depending on the location of the deformity. These check ligaments are attached to either the deep digital flexor tendon or the superficial digital flexor tendon, respectfully. In cases of club feet, which is a FLD of the coffin joint, the inferior check ligament of the deep digital flexor tendon is cut to release from the back of the cannon bone. This allows the musculotendinous unit to elongated and allow correction of the club foot. With cases of FLD of the fetlock joint the superior check ligament of the superficial digital flexor tendon is cut to allow elongation of the superficial digital flexor tendon and its muscle, causing relaxation and setting back on the ankle or fetlock joint. In these cases sometimes splinting and other medical treatment is necessary to achieve the desired success.

Flexural limb deformities are a very treatable issue with really successful outcomes in a variety of horses ranging from newborns to even adults. It is recommended that if there



Many times it is necessary to use surgical treatment in cases with acquired FLD. (Courtesy photo)

are notable flexural limb deformities in your newborn to have your veterinarian examine them as soon as possible to get a head start on a treatment plan and head off any possible complications that can occur. When it comes to treating juvenile or young adult horses with flexural limb deformities there are still several options available depending on the degree of FLD, but often surgery is the best approach to getting the best results. R



Tater Jordan is on his way to the Junior National Finals Rodeo

ater Jordan, 13-year-old Dean resident, will be on his way to Las Vegas in December for the Junior National Finals Rodeo. He qualified to compete in the tie-down roping by winning the Joe Beaver Junior Roping Championship in the 12 and under division.

Since February, Jordan has been on a winning streak when he took top honors in the tie-down at the Patriot at John Justin Arena in Fort Worth. Competing against 65 other youngsters, he turned in the fastest time to win a rope can and won the average to capture a buckle and \$1.350.

Easter weekend at Joe Beaver's roping in Alvarado, he beat the times of 80 other ropers to win a saddle, bits, other prizes and \$1,480.

At the Barry Burk Junior Roping Championship in Ardmore, Okla., Memorial Weekend, Jordan won a saddle, rope can, jeans, hat and \$1,250, had the fastest run and came out on top of 65 other junior ropers.

"I like Barry Burk's roping best because it was a tough roping, and it made me rope better to win it," Jordan shared.

Qualifying for the Texas Junior High Rodeo Finals in Gonzales in late May, he finished in the top four in ribbon roping to earn a trip to Huron, S.D., for the National Junior High Rodeo Finals in June. He and partner Emily Ward won the second go and gold go-round buckles. More than 120 ribbon ropers competed there. Jordan began his rodeo career at age five riding sheep in the MRCA. He won his first buckle as All-Around at Texoma Cowboy Church in



Tater Jordan makes his winning run at the Patriot. (Photo courtesy Jeff Jordan)

Wichita Falls, competing in sheep riding, mini-barebacks and bull riding at age five. He moved on to tie-down, break-away and ribbon roping and even tried saddle bronc riding. The bronc riding resulted in a badly broken leg at the 2018 Finals in Gonzales. After two surgeries and six months recuperating, he was back to roping.

"My leg aches a little bit every once in a while, but that's about all," he said. It certainly hasn't affected his roping.

What made him want to rope and ride broncs?

"Ever since I was little, I've

helped my dad do ranch work, build fence and doctor yearlings. It's just what I like to do. When we go to rodeos, that's our vacation," he laughed.

Tragedy struck in 2016 when an electrical short caused their home to burn. They lost everything, including Tater's trophy saddles, buckles, prizes and pictures. With the help of a benefit team roping put on by Ross and Amy Coleman and through the generosity of friends and neighbors, they rebuilt and were soon on the road again.

Gary Ledford is one of two

people Jordan credits with being his best advisors and inspirations.

"I go to Gary Ledford's arena in Comanche, Okla., to practice every Tuesday. He helps me get better," he related. Ledford is a nine-time National Finals Rodeo qualifier in tie-down roping.

The other is his single-parent dad, Jeff.

"Dad has an arena, buys calves for practice and does all the driving," laughed the 13-year old.

What are Dad's feelings about his young cowboy?

See JORDAN page 35



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LIFESTYLE

Jordan

"I know he really wants to rope and win. As long as he wants to work hard at it, I'm willing to put out the effort to take him. He works out, ties the dummy and practices every chance he gets. He's not sitting on the couch watching television or playing video games," Jeff assured.

This fall will be the second year the eighth grader has been homeschooled, using a computer-based program. "I like it because I get up early, have my lessons done by noon and then practice or go to work with Dad," he said. The two are very close.

"We look out for each other," he continued.

Being a good roper requires both physical and mental preparedness.

"Mentally, I talk to myself, try not to get worked up and just stay focused," Jordan explained.

His main horse is a 14-yearold sorrel named Relapse that his dad bought as a yearling and trained for his son. His backup horse is eight-year-old bay named Skeeter.

Mature beyond his years, Jordan has grown up learning manners, discipline and responsibility. He shakes hands like a man, says "yes, Ma'am" and "no, Sir" and looks you in the eye when he talks. The way his birthday fell, March 8, he was able to finish this year in the 12 and under division, but next year he will be the youngest in the 15 and under division, but he's not worried.

"I'm not doing this just to play around," Jordan said. "I work at it to get better to beat the others."

Already having won 13 saddles and dozens of buckles, there are sure to be more wins in the years to come. As for future plans, "I want to keep roping and win a scholarship to Texas Tech and rope on their rodeo team," Jordan said.



Tater Jordan with his gold buckle and check from the Patriot.



Barry Burk, Tater Jordan and Gary Ledford at the Barry Burk Championship Junior Roping. (Photos courtesy Jeff Jordan)



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Parmesan Squash Chips

Servings: 6-8 Time: 1 hour

Ingredients FOR THE CHIPS

4 yellow squash, cut into rounds
1/4 c. olive oil
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
Pinch red pepper flakes
1 c. panko
1 c. shredded Parmesan
2 tbsp. Freshly chopped parsley
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
FOR THE DIPPING SAUCE

c. sour cream
 tbsp. lemon juice
 tbsp. freshly chopped parsley
 Kosher salt
 Freshly ground black pepper

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400° and line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a large bowl toss together squash and olive oil. Season generously with salt, pepper, and red pepper flakes.

2. In a shallow bowl mix together panko, parmesan, and parsley. One at a time, dip squash into panko mixture, pressing to coat then place on prepared baking sheet.

3. Bake until golden and crispy, 30 minutes, flipping halfway through. Meanwhile make dipping sauce: In a small bowl, stir together sour cream, lemon juice, and parsley. Season with salt and pepper. Serve chips with dipping sauce.



WHEN A CITY GIRL By Annette Bridges goes country

hat do you wish you could tell your motherin-law?

My husband's dear mom passed away more than 20 years ago, but my-oh-my, how I wish she would have sought out some relationship advice on how to get along with this city girl.

Perhaps I can share something now that will help country moms better understand us city girls.

Give us a break. We can't help that we have never before eaten sweet potatoes and collard greens.

When we say we have never eaten something you've prepared for dinner and are excited to try it, please don't take offense. We are not being disrespectful. It's called honesty and sincerity. When we say we are excited to try something we've never had before, we really are.

You will not learn how we feel about what you've cooked by staring at us while we eat and watching how quickly we take in each bite.

If we can't clean our plates, this does not mean we didn't like your cooking. It may mean we don't eat as much as your son does. Perhaps it would be best to allow us to serve our own plates so not to waste any of your delicious food.

Your daughter-in-law may very well be quite different from you. It also is likely she wasn't raised the same way you raised your son. These facts did not stop your son from falling in love with her. He accepts her for who she is, and you need to do the same.

Don't try to change her into who you would like her to be.



Annette Bridges has grown to love the land gifted to her and her husband by her in-laws. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)

Instead, be interested in learning more about the woman who adores your son.

It may be that your daughterin-law is having a difficult time adjusting to this strange new world where she is living. It may be that she could use encouragement and reassurance and even compliments as she does her best to learn and acclimate to her surroundings.

Only give advice when she asks for it, and she will ask. She probably wants to ask but may feel intimidated by your critical eyes and wrong assumptions that stop her.

It would be kind and helpful to be a mother-in-law who is approachable and loves unconditionally rather than a mother-in-law whose manners and actions causes her daughter-in-law to believe and fear she will never measure up to your expectations and standards.

What if you could both learn from each other? Perhaps this city girl has insights and experiences that might surprise you. That might even be of interest and helpful to you.

I've spent the past 38 years living next door to my in-law's house. My father-in-law passed away nine years ago so it has just been my husband and me on the ranch for almost a decade now. To be very honest with y'all, I still struggle with feeling a sense of ownership of the world where I live, and I believe my challenge stems back to never feeling fully welcomed and accepted by my dear mother-in-law.

So what do I wish I could tell my mother-in-law today?

I love your son as much or even more today than I did when we first met. You raised a good man, and I thank you for that. I do think I've succeeded at learning to cook your son's favorite foods. At least he says so. We still use all of your beloved recipes for holiday dinners. I thank you for sharing them with me. I've grown to love living on this land you gifted to us. I wish you could have lived longer so we could have become better friends. I think it would make you happy to see me driving the little red tractor or me sitting beside your son riding in the Ranger to check on the cows.

I still don't have your interest in gardening though, and that's okay. I didn't have to become exactly like you to love living in the country.





ROPERTIES

2010 - 2018

BROKERAGES



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An original painting by Bobby Dove, "Sunset Ridge," oil on canvas, 30X40. (Photo courtesy Bobby and Kay Dove)

or generations, cowboys have inspired determination, passion, hard work and respect. These characteristics make up what Bobby Dove calls the 'real cowboy' and they serve as his muse as he brings the western way to life through his custom paintings and jewelry.

"There is a difference in a cowboy and a real cowboy, and you can tell the real ones. They are dirty, they work hard and they are good at what they do," said Dove. "They are all different and have a brand of their own, and of course they love horses. That is where I get my inspiration to paint."

Dove's love for art appeared early on in his childhood. Born and raised in Wichita Falls, he was one of four children to John and Lillian Dove and the only boy.

"I had to fight my sisters off to claim my territory because they were always three against one, and usually the women win," laughed Dove.

He describes his childhood as ideal, with many good times in a neighborhood full of other children. He attended grade school at Queen of Peace, and it was there his love and talent for art emerged when he took first place in a contest that required students to carve a picture on a bar of soap during his first-grade year.

By the time Dove entered Rider High School, he had an inkling his future would be in art. His art teachers played a vital role in his development as an artist, including his high school teacher, Mrs. Kinzer. See DOVE page 42

Continued from page 41



After graduation, Dove attended Midwestern State University where he had the opportunity to study under another great art teacher, Tom Crossnoe.

"He was a really good oil painter and made jewelry, too," recalled Dove. "I don't know if I got that from him or what; I may have found out he made jewelry and in some kind of way that got me going."

Dove put himself through college by selling his original artwork, including many portraits purchased by his art teachers, showing proof they believed in their student.

"It got me through college and helped my confidence, which is always a plus," said Dove.

During his college years the artist was recruited by Kruger Jewelers, a large, familyowned jewelry store in Wichita Falls with locations in Fort Worth, Austin and Abilene. They encouraged Dove to attend the largest jewelry school in the country, Paris Jewelry Institute, and promised to hire him when he graduated. The young artist seized the opportunity to make a weekly paycheck while still fulfilling his creative tendencies.

"I thought that would be my ticket to making a living and doing art. The other way was just a starving artist type thing: you never knew when you were going to sell one. When I got in the jewelry business, I got a check every week, and that is what I was looking for, something solid," explained Dove.

The Kruger family kept their promise and hired Dove, who went on to work for the company for several years.

"The Kruger family was really good to me. They took me under their wing, and I studied under some really good jewelers who were seasoned and finished. I was just outside of school and I was advanced in my jewelry designing. That was something Kruger really didn't do; they just sold finished jewelry. They wanted to get into more of the designing part of it," said Dove.

When the Kruger stores were retired, Dove was working at their Fort Worth store on Camp Bowie Boulevard.

"It was a really nice store, and when they retired I went on my own and did a lot of work for galleries and custom work. One gallery I



Bobby Dove and his wife, Kay. The two make a good team, with Bobby creating and Kay taking care of the business side of things. (Photo courtesy Bobby and Kay Dove)

really liked was Latch String. I did well there, and they helped introduce me to a lot of big ranchers and oil field people in Fort Worth," recalled Dove.

The artist returned to his beloved hometown of Wichita Falls when he met and married his wife, Kay, where they began their own jewelry business. Dove had some customers left over from his time with Kruger who helped them out, but it wasn't easy stepping out on their own.

"We had just one case with three or four rings in there and that was about it. We were just starting off, and it was a week to week paycheck. It was tough to get away from Kruger where you had that nest egg, but it was nice moving back to Wichita Falls where I grew up," said Dove. "I still had all my family here, Kay moved from her family where she grew up in Fort Worth, but we were going back and forth all the time. It wasn't that far away."

Today, the store has grown tremendously with a place on Parker Square and cases full of Dove's custom jewelry and western accessory designs. His pieces have earned him first place on six different occasions at the annual Cowboy True event in the jewelry custom **See DOVE page 44**

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Continued from page 42

design and buckle design category.

Dove's talent has been recognized by loyal customers in the western world, including those from the Circle Bar, Pitchfork, 6666 Ranch, along with several other of the larger ranches in the area who repeatedly come to the custom jeweler for birthdays, anniversaries and other special events.

The couple keeps the business running smoothly with teamwork as Bobby creates and Kay takes care of the business side.

"She is the salesperson and the bill payer. I am the jewelry designer, repairman and also sweep the floors," laughed Dove.

Kay Dove also obtained her certification in grading diamonds.

The success of the jewelry store allowed Dove to pick his passion for painting back up, another art form where he has seen much accomplishment even after putting his talent for painting aside for a while.

"The painting was put on hold when we

were starting up; I didn't have a lot of time to do it," said Dove.

Not only were the Doves busy starting their own business, they also were fixing up a house they had purchased.

Today, the couple resides in their home on seven acres outside of Wichita Falls with their three "furry kids" and seven horses. Their ranch also is home to Dove's painting studio.

"The jewelry frees me up to paint and my painting helps my jewelry business. It kind of went hand in hand," explained Dove.

Not only did Dove pick up a paint brush again, he became well acquainted with the western lifestyle after starting to team rope and team sort.

He explained he lucked out with a great horse from the 6666 Ranch, where it had been trained in gathering cattle and opening gates.

"She is out of Seven From Heaven, a nice breed, good mind and easy to train. I really lucked out. I had babies and showed them and everything, but that's a different deal than riding them. It is a whole lot more fun," said Dove.

Between his team roping and the business he runs, Dove has immersed himself in the western world with the people he respects the most.

"Cowboys are not really afraid of a whole lot of anything, and they work hard all day in the hot sun. I love the cowboy way of thinking: they still have religion, they still have the basics," said Dove.

While the cowboys and landscapes of North Texas inspire, it is the horses that often play the starring role in his dramatic impressionist paintings.

The creatures inspire him so much, his studio faces his arena and barn so he can easily use his horses for models.

It is there he creates his western-themed paintings, working to make each creation a portrayal of the western way of life with realism that makes the mind wander to the place or event in the painting.

"I definitely feel blessed I get to wake up every morning and make jewelry and paint and pretty much whatever I want to do," said Dove.

Looking back, Dove said the moment he realized he could also see success with his paintings was when country singer LeAnn Rimes purchased one of his pieces.

"Her dad bought it from me, and they were coming into town. She signed an autographed picture of her and paid me, and that was just when she was getting really big," recalled Dove.

The artist also has done pieces for Dennis Conner, ZZ Top, Coca Cola, Texas Motor Speedway, Ocean Spray, as well as being the official artist for the PGA at the Colonial Golf Tournament.

Local work for the community he loves also has been important for Dove, including being the artist for Hotter 'N Hell for 20 years and the Ranch Roundup, an event in August showcasing historic ranches, the hard work of true cowboys and every facet of ranch life.

On the jewelry side, Dove had the opportunity to create a buckle for President Donald Trump, who sent him a letter and autographed picture.

"In the letter he thanked me and said he really enjoys his belt buckle. I saw him on television the other day and he had it on. I feel blessed I can do those things; it is nice," said Dove.

For a look at the Dove Gallery and to view some of Dove's custom artwork, visit www.lonesomedovegallery.com.

"I like Wichita Falls. I thought about moving to Santa Fe, but I don't know anyone there, and this has always been my home," said Dove. "I am just going to stay here, I do well here, and we have our little ranch outside Wichita. We just plug right along. It's a good life." **(**



Bobby Dove with his team roping horse, Cedar. (Photo courtesy Bobby and Kay Dove)



Bobby Dove creates a custom piece of jewelry. His talent has been recognized by many loyal customers in the western world, and earned him first place, six times at Cowboy True. (Photo by Dani Blackburn)



A sterling silver and 14-karat yellow gold custom spur necklace, custom made by Bobby Dove. The necklace earned him first place at Cowboy True. (Photo courtesy Bobby and Kay Dove)

JESSES JENER

Happy September. It's time to start thinking about fall even if the temperatures are still on the toasty side. I have some great transitional pieces to get you through until it's time for sweater weather. Long light weight dusters with embroidery are a must for every closet, great to wear year round and easy to change up the look by what you pair with it. These red bell bottom jeans are sure to make a statement any where you go and are so cute paired with the Appaloosa tee. Find all this and more at www.jessesjewelz.com.

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LIFESTYLE

BEHIND FIE CHUTES By Lacey Corbett By Lacey Corbett

College Rodeo 101

S chool is in session and college campuses all over are bursting at the seams. Here in Las Cruces, N.M., we are unloading practice stock and watering arenas in preparation for fall rodeo team practices. This means early mornings spent roping calves and late evenings in the bucking pen. In between, students show up to class in dirty jeans because they just spent the afternoon bull dogging steers.

Most people are surprised when I explain I'm married to a rodeo team coach because it's not your traditional college sport. However, we are always proud to say that our team is made up of extremely talented student athletes. Whether they realize it or not, the life skills college rodeo provides are setting them up not only for success in the arena but success in life.

Maybe you're a new college student entering your region's first rodeos, living in a new place and figuring out who you are and who you want to be. Maybe you're a senior or graduate student and you'd like to go out with a bang or approach your last year with a clean slate. Regardless of where you may be in your college rodeo journey, there are a few tools Coach Corbett and I would like



Rodec

NMSU rodeo team members work on fundamentals in the practice arena. This month Lacey Corbett discusses the life tools college students can use to set them up for success. (Photo courtesy of NMSU Rodeo).

to pass along to help set you up for success.

One thing we stress to incoming freshman is that it's called "college rodeo" and not "rodeo college." We expect our student athletes to be students first and athletes second. One of the biggest hurdles that students face is that of time management. Most of them have just flown the coop for the very first time in their lives. With all the newfound freedom, it's easy to let time slip by. No longer is there someone telling you what to do and when to do it.

When you realize we all have the same 24 hours in a day, time

management becomes even more important. There are classes to show up for, tests to study for, practices to attend, horses to care for and often jobs to get to. Learning to master your time effectively and efficiently at an early stage will help you juggle all aspects **See RODEO page 53**



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LIFESTYLE

Rodeo

of your life. You will learn how to delegate priorities, and you will see progress as you learn to be the master of your time.

College is a time for learning and growth, so we expect our students to experience learning curves every now and then. Growth happens outside of one's comfort zone. We also believe that part of growing is knowing when it's time to seek help as well as accepting criticism. Whether it be in the classroom or arena, a sign of maturity is seeking advice and then using the criticism in a constructive manner.

We often let our pride get in the way or view asking for help as a sign of weakness. That couldn't be further from the truth. Two heads are better than one, so take advantage of other's knowledge. Surround yourself with people who can help you grow and whose advice you respect. Seeking assistance sooner rather than later can help to ensure success.

I saw a quote by Mark Twain the other day that said, "The secret of getting ahead is getting started." We don't expect every student to be 88 points on their first college rodeo bull or to fill the short go with barrel racers wearing NMSU Rodeo vests.

What we do expect is for our students to show up, and to show up with a winning attitude. By simply showing up with the right attitude, you also are surrounding yourself by others with the same mindset. Showing up gets the momentum rolling. Show up to practice and show up to class. I promise you, the students who excel are the ones who are always where they should be.

One of the main reasons students struggle in their academics is because they simply didn't show up to class. Buckles aren't won at the rodeos; they are won in the practice pen. Exams aren't aced the night before; they're aced in the hours of studying. Showing up may mean getting a tutor or a hundred perfect loops thrown at the roping dummy. Whatever it looks like for you, show up with the right attitude, and you'll be surprised at the progress you make.

Would have, could have, should have. It's

so easy to look back on my college rodeo days and wonder how much more I could have accomplished if I'd only put these three lessons to work. However, the great news is that these lessons don't just apply to college students. I see daily opportunities to apply these to my adult life. I know that if I don't manage my time wisely, I'll spend three hours scrolling social media and supper won't get on the table and I'll lose my children in piles of dirty laundry. When those wild children and laundry piles get out of hand, I know I can be a better version of myself if I ask for help.

Lastly, I've seen major differences in my life when I show up versus when I choose not to. You can apply the "show up" approach to your marriage, parenting and even your spiritual life. Show up with a willing attitude and be prepared to learn. The college days mark some of the most memorable times of a young adult's life, but they also lay the foundation for the rest of it. Hopefully these tools can help you pave the way.





owdy Texas Music Fans.

Country Music Hall of Famer and Grand Ole Opry member Ray Price undoubtedly left his mark on country music. His sound and Texas Dance Hall shuffle beat is still evident in Honky Tonks and Dance Halls throughout the country to this day.

Ray's hits and crossover country songs such as "Release Me," "Crazy Arms," "Heartaches by the Number" and "For the Good Times" all remain as Texas Country Music standards in our industry.

"For The Good Times," a tribute to Ray Price, is a new and exciting tribute show to the music of Ray Price. Its debut to a sold out crowd last month brought back the many memories of this country music icon. The really great news is that this show may be coming to a North Texas city near you.

Creator Sam Houston has combined the finest singers and musicians (along with former members of Ray Prices' band, The Cherokee Cowboys).

Vocalists include Billy Matta, Kristi Kalin and myself, Dave Al-exander.

If you're yearning for original straight up true Country Music, I urge you to see this show, "For The Good Times," a tribute to Ray Price. Happy trails.....

Dave's upcoming shows:

September 6 CASA, Gainesville, TX September 7 Stockyard Steakhouse, Gladewater, TX September 27 Ray Price Tribute, Arlington Music Theater, Arlington, TX

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Larry Lemons: A Texas State of Mind

JULY 4 - SEPT. 22 • DUNCAN, OK

Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, 1000 Chisholm Trail Parkway, Duncan, OK 73533. Texas awardwinning artist, Larry Lemons, is painting new works for this exhibit at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center. This new work, and many pieces of his current collection will be available to purchase. Bold colors, big subjects and humor are signatures of Lemons' work. Lemons, with wife Donna, stay busy with their Texas Trails Art Gallery in Nocona, Texas. www. onthechisholmtrail.com.

Understanding Irrigation Systems & Technology for Pecans

AUG. 27 • ARDMORE, OK

Noble Research Institute Kruse Auditorium, Entry 5, 2510 Sam Noble Pkwy. Ardmore, OK. 9 a.m. to noon. This course will allow you to gain a better understanding of different irrigation systems and the technologies that you can use to develop irrigation scheduling. No registration fee. Registration closes Aug. 20. www.noble.org/ events.

Antique Tractor and Farm Machinery Show

AUG. 31 - SEPT. 1 • GAINESVILLE

2228 FM 1199, Gainesville, TX 76250. Join us for the 34th annual Antique Tractor and Farm Machinery Show. Events include water threshing, hay baling, small engine displays, tractor races, tractor parade, and more. Show starts at 11 a.m each day, and gates open at 9 a.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, and children under 12 get in free. Call **940-665-6823** or **940-736-4541**.

Weatherford First Monday Trade Days

AUG. 30-SEPT. 1 • WEATHERFORD

Fort Worth Hwy and Santa Fe Dr., Weatherford, TX. Event will be Aug. 30-Sept. 1. The 155 yearold tradition is one of the oldest open-air markets in the state of Texas. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. all days. ci.weatherford. tx.us/883/First-Monday-Trade-Days

So You Want to Grow Pecans

SEPT. 3 • ARDMORE, OK

Noble Research Institute Kruse Auditorium, Entry 5. 2510 Sam Noble Pkwy., Ardmore, OK. 73401. Pecan culture presents unique management challenges not to mention the need for specialized equipment. Join Noble Research Institute horticulturists as they review the various production and management practices required for successful pecan production. Registration closes Aug. 27. Visit **www.noble.org/events.**

Debunking Deer Myths Pt. 1

SEPT. 5 • GRAPEVINE,

Bass Pro Shops in Grapevine, Second Floor Balcony, 2501 Bass Pro Dr., Grapevine, TX, 76051. Noble Research Institute and Bass Pro Shops has teamed up to bring land managers, hunters and deer enthusiasts a two-part series that provides a comprehensive understanding of deer management principles. Wildlife biologists will lead the discussions and answer your questions on deer management from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. No registration fee. Registration closes Aug. 29. For more information and to register for this upcoming Noble Research Institute event visit www.noble.org/events.



East Texas Fall Frenzy Horse Sale

OCT. 11 • LUFKIN, TX

George H. Henderson, Jr. Expo Center, 1200 Ellen Trout Dr., Lufkin, TX 75904. East Texas Fall Frenzy Horse Sale in Lufkin, presented by Premier Equine Auction. Oct. 11 sale schedule will include roping, reiner and barrel horse demo, cutters will be shown on cattle or mechanical cow while selling, Premier Riding Horse Session selling ropers, reiners, cutters, sorters, penners and pleasure horses. Consginment fee is \$250 (includes cattle charge), eight percent commission, no PO fee. Oct. 12 sale schedule includes Premier Mixed Session, consignment fee is \$150, eight percent commission, no PO fee. No hidden fees or charges. Auctioneers Steve Friskup and Wade Shaw, licensed and bonded. Consignment deadline Sept. 5. 337-494-1333, PremierEquineAuctions.com.

Texoma Gives

SEPT. 12 • TEXOMA

This day of giving provides critical funding for area nonprofits, giving thousands of donors in a 24-county area a chance to raise funds for local needs. **texomagives.org.**

Superior Livestock Labor Day Sale

SEPT. 11-12 • FORT WORTH

Fort Worth, Texas. Superior Livestock Auction Labor Day Sale. "Raising them is your job, selling them is ours. Marketing cattle for over 30 years." Consignment deadline is Aug. 26. Work with a local representative, market to a nationwide buyer base and guaranteed payment. Visit www. superiorlivestock.com or call 800-422-2117 for more information.

2nd Annual Valley View Wine Walk

SEPT. 14 • VALLEY VIEW

Valley View Square, Valley View, Texas, 76272. Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Wine Walk on the square in Valley View Sept. 14. The event will feature eight North Texas wineries and dueling pianos. The Valley View Wine Walk begins at 5 p.m. and the dueling pianos by Fun Pianos starts at 7:30 p.m. The perfect date night for 21 and up. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door and pianos only \$20. Purchase tickets at **www.** valleyviewchamber.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Heritage Park 1st Annual Cork & Brew Steak Fest

SEPT. 14 • MUENSTER

Heritage Park Event Center, 301 N. Ash Street. Muenster. Texas 76252. Come out for the Heritage Park First Annual Cork and Brew Steak Fest in Muenster, Texas. The event begins at 2:30 p.m. at the Heritage Park Event Center. Catch the Dirty River Boys 10:30 p.m. to midnight, Grady Spencer and The Work, 8 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., and Giovannie and The Hired Guns 6-7:30 p.m. Trees Marie will be 3-4 p.m. and The Bois D'Arcs, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Steak dinner served to the public from 5:30 - 7 p.m. The event includes food trucks, children's area, wineries, breweries, RV camping. For steak cook off and sign up for the competition, visit www.steakcookoffs.com. Call 940-759-5299 or email heritagepark@ntin.net.

Demonstration Pecan Orchard Floor Management

SEPT. 17 • MADILL, OK

Noble Research Institute Mc-Millan Road, 14797 McMillan Road, Madill, OK 73446. Demonstration Pecan Orchard Floor Management, 1-4 p.m.. No registration fee. Registration closes on Sept. 10. Visit www.noble. org/events.

88th Annual Clay County Pioneer Reunion

SEPT. 19-21 • HENRIETTA

Tex Richard Arena, Henrietta, Texas. Gear up for the annual Clay County Pioneer Reunion filled with parades, rodeo and much more, Sept. 19-21.

Young County First Responders BBQ Lunch and Concert

SEPT. 28 • OLNEY

HDH Pavilion, 841 Hwy. 114 E., Olney, Texas 76374. You are invited to come eat and support the Young County First Responders at the barbecue lunch from noon to 2 p.m. at the HDH Pavilion in Olney on Sept. 28. The lunch is provided by the Young County Serving Our Servants, Inc. (YC-SOS) non profit. Donations will be accepted. All proceeds go to aid the Young County First Responder in the event of death or injury in the line of duty. Tickets will be available at the event or by e-mailing youngcountysos@ gmail.com. Tickets are \$10 per adult and \$7 per child, 10 and under. Don't miss the Chris Shackelford Band and Jake Hooker and The Outsiders Band benefit concert at the same location, HDH Pavilion, from 7-10 p.m. The benefit will raise proceeds to provide a communication tower for Young County responders. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$40 per person. Email youngcountysos@ gmail.com.

Paradise Main Street Festival

SEPT. 28• PARADISE

Paradise, TX. Gear up for the annual Paradise Main Street Festival. Free to the public. Enjoy vendors, food trucks, live entertainment, exhibits, kiddy train and bounce house, auctions and raffles, vintage camping trailers, quilt show, baking contest and much, much more. Fun for the entire family. Proceeds from donations, sponsors and vendor booths benefit the Paradise Veteran's Memorial Park and the Paradise Museum. Contact paradisemainstreetfestival@ gmail.com or call 940-859-3691 for more information. Visit www. paradisehistoricalsociety.net.

Managing Weather-Related Risk for Specialty Crops

OCT. 1• ARDMORE, OK

Noble Research Institute Kruse Aduitorium, 2510 Sam Noble Pkwy., Ardmore, OK 73401. Managing Weather-Related Risk for Specialty Crops, 6:30-8:30 p.m. No registration fee. Registration closes on Sept. 24. Visit www. noble.org/events.

Sarah Rodefeld Exhibit

OCT. 1- JAN. 6 • DUNCAN, OK

Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, 1000 Chisholm Trail Parkway, Duncan, OK 73533. Whether it's a pair of deer in the woods of Oklahoma, or the delicate points of a snowflake in Wisconsin, Maud photographer Sarah Rodefeld is patient and steady as she aims her lens. Her finished work is proof of her patience. "Designed by Nature" featuring the wildlife and landscape photography of Rodefeld will exhibiti Oct. 1-Jan. 6 at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center. www.onthechisholmtrail. com.

BFA World Select Barrel Horse Sale Catalog

OCT. 1 • GUTHRIE, OK

Lazy E Arena, 9600 Lazy E Drive, Guthrie, OK 73044. Consign now for the BFA World Select Barrel Horse Sale, catalog deadline Oct. 1. Prospects from all incentive programs accepted. Live webcast of sale and demonstration provided by 321 Auction Video. Demo at 7 p.m. on Nov. 29, sale at 6 p.m. on Nov. 21. Held during the Barrel Futurities of America World Championship. Call Gary Lohman at **405-226-0630**, email **Lohmanranch@aol.com** or visit **westernheritagesales.com.**

Weatherford First Monday Trade Days

OCT. 4-6• WEATHERFORD

Fort Worth Hwy and Santa Fe Dr., Weatherford, TX. Event will be oct. 4-6. Open the weekend before the first Monday of each month The 155 year-old tradition is one of the oldest open-air markets in the state of Texas. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. all days. Visit **ci.weatherford. tx.us/883/First-Monday-Trade-Days or call 817-598-4359.**







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DINO TRACKS DISCOVERED

S omeday, Springtown, "where country meets living," may give Glen Rose, the Dinosaur Capital of Texas, a run for its money, considering a treasure of dinosaur tracks found a couple years ago.

A mother-daughter combo searching for arrowheads in Walnut Creek noticed the tracks, which eventually became visible after much erosion and at a time when water flow dwindled, exposing dry ground.

They were "discovered or rediscovered, depending who you talk to," said Marcia Garcia with Springtown's Chamber of Commerce., but this time around, officials evaluated and proclaimed the three-toed prints official.

According to the city of Springtown, Dr. Thomas Adams, curator of paleontology and geology at San Antonio's Witte Museum, traveled to Springtown in the summer of 2017 and verified the tracks.

A uniqueness about these dino prints, currently preserved in rock formation and dating back millions of years, is the impressions range in size, depicting various ages from juvenile to subadult and adult all together, possibly a family.

The site is accessible from Springtown's park off Martin Street from Hilltop Drive, across a walking bridge and briefly to the right when entering from the area between the baseball field and playground near Cartwright Pavilion, a stone's throw from the police station. If coming from behind the elementary school, trek left before the bridge.

Sunscreen, bug spray, water when it's hot and good walking shoes are recommended.

The more people know about the find, the more they go.

The small city of Springtown, situated where East Highway 199 and West Highway 199 meet, between Azle and Jacksboro, north on Farm Road 51 from Weatherford, and south of Paradise and Boyd, surprisingly offers much, including the annual Wild West Festival, featuring gunfight reenactments downtown and rodeo, drawing close to 10,000 people each September, according to the Chamber.

However, the dinosaur tracks discovered could be a game changer for the city. $\widehat{\mathbb{W}}$

By Mandi Dietz



The uniqueness of the dino prints found in Walnut Creek in Springtown is the impressions range in size, depicting various ages from juvenile to subadult and adult all together, possibly a family. (Photo courtesy Mandi Dietz)





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By Dani Blackburn

hether you are a native or got here as fast as you could, those in the Lone Star State are a proud bunch when it comes to the unique traits of their home state.

The Texas borders are far and wide, offering everything from deep rivers to mountain tops, with a long, rich heritage, giving Texans plenty to brag about. A few fun facts about Texas: The flag has three colors, red represents courage, white represents liberty and blue represents loyalty. The oldest law enforcement agency in the United States is the great Texas Rangers. Texas has more farmland than any other state and there are more than 14 million cattle living within its borders.

These are just a few of the interesting facts about this very diverse state. With such variety, can you truly know everything that makes up the culture of the Lone Star State? Whether you're new or lived here a while, take the quiz below for bragging rights to Texas knowledge. Give yourself one point for each correct answer and tally the score at the end. Good luck.

Questions:

- 1. What is the state nickname?
- 2. What is the state slogan?
- 3. What is the state song? Extra bragging rights if you can sing it.
- 4. What is the state folk dance?
- 5. What is the state sport?
- 6. What is the state flower?
- 7. What is the state tree?
- 8. What is the state soil?
- 9. What is the state grass?
- 10. What is the state plant?
- 11. What is the state vegetable?
- 12. What is the state bird?
- 13. What is the state insect?
- 14. What is the state mammal (small)?
- 15. What is the state mammal (large)?
- 16. What is the state fish?
- 17. What is the state reptile?
- 18. What is the state dish?
- 19. What is the state snack?
- 20. What is the state domino game?

See answers on page 64





TEXAS TRIVIA

Answers:

1. This is an easy one, and there might even be a hint in the title. Texas is known as the "Lone Star State" as a nod to its history of individualism and independence. Texas fought to gain independence from Mexico from 1835 to 1836, and the win meant a new flag for Texas. The new flag and the flags following all include one lone star for its past, even after the state joined the Union on Dec. 29, 1845.

2. Texans are known as living up to the "Friendliest State" and is similar to the state motto of "Friendship." Southern manners and genuine charm are a part of everyday life, where "yes, ma'am" and "no, sir" are common parts of conversation, doors are still held open and strangers treat you like a long-lost friend.

3. When the notes to "Texas, Our Texas" are heard, you can guarantee every Texan within its radius will be singing its lyrics. Composed by William J. Marsh of Fort Worth with lyrics written by Marsh and Gladys Yoakum Wright, it was adopted as the official song by the Legislature in 1929. "Texas, Our Texas! All hail the mighty State! Texas, Our Texas! So wonderful so great!"

4. The state folk dance is a Texas favorite – the square dance. This folk-dance traces its roots back to the English country dance and French ballroom dance, brought here by settlers. The dance is for four couples positioned in a square, one couple on each side, facing the middle. The dance is easy to learn and lots of fun.

5. What better way to pay tribute to Texas' western heritage than making rodeo the state sport? There's nothing more Texan than gathering to watch as cowboys and cowgirls compete in tie-down roping, team roping, steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding, bareback bronc riding, bull riding and barrel racing.

6. The bluebonnet is a well-recognized symbol of Texas. Its beauty graces us during springtime. Bluebonnet is the name given to purple-flowered species of the genus Lupinus, named for its petals that resemble the bonnet worn by pioneer women to shade their faces from the sun. The state flower can be found along the highways after Lady Bird Johnson encouraged its planting as part of a highway beautification project.



The state plant is the prickly pear cactus.

7. The state tree is the pecan, whose product also is the state nut. A species of hickory, the pecan tree is native to the southern United States and northern Mexico and typically grows 66 to 131 feet in height. Texans love to create delicious edibles from the pecan, including favorites like pecan pie and candycoated pecans.

8. This is a little more of a difficult one, but as a part of farming and ranching, must be mentioned. The state soil is Houston black, used for cotton, corn, small grain, grain sorghum and forage grasses. The soil can be found on more than 1.5 million acres of the Texas Blackland Prairies.

9. Sideoats grama, bouteloua curtipendula, holds the title as the state grass of the Lone Star State. I took a clip from the expert, Tony Dean, and his August 2018 profile on the state grass. "It was recommended for the honor of the state grass in 1971 by the Texas Council of Chapters of the Soil Conservation Society of America and the Texas Section of the American Society of Range Management and was officially adopted by Senate Concurrent Resolution 31 in 1971. Resolution 31 states, in part, that "Although there are many desirable forage species native to the state, one variety, Sideoats grama, occurs on a greater diversity of soils than any other grass; on rangelands of West Texas it is the backbone of the ranching industry." Sideoats grama is a deeply rooted summer perennial bunchgrass. It is a mid-grass in height, reaching from eight inches to 36 inches, depending upon variety and growing conditions. As a mid-grass, it does not produce the total pounds of forage the tall grasses produce, but the quality of the forage is very

good. Sideoats grama produces high quality, nutritious forage that is relished by all classes of livestock.

10. The state plant is a fun one – the prickly pear cactus. The state plant is a representation of Texas itself – beautiful, yet rugged. Its fruits, referred to as tuna, are edible, eaten by the Native Americans for years, and the cacti itself is eaten in many parts of the world. The plant can live in regions with mild winters and long dry spells, followed by hot summers, making it perfect to thrive in Texas.

11. The Texas sweet onion was named the state vegetable in 1997, fitting today as onions have become the leading vegetable crop in the state. The Texas onion is very sweet with little pyruvate.

12. The beautiful vocalist, the mockingbird, was named the state bird in 1927 because, according to the Texas legislature, the mockingbird "is found in all parts of the State, in winter and in summer, in the city and in the country, on the prairie and in the woods and hills...is a singer of distinctive type, a fighter for the protection of his home, falling, if need be, in its defense, like any true Texan." The mockingbird can sing up to 200 songs, including those of other birds and sounds from insects and amphibia.

13. The state insect is the beautiful Monarch butterfly. The only species of butterfly that does not hibernate, but instead migrates with the changing seasons, it may be the most familiar butterfly in North America. Many recognize its black, orange and white pattern as it floats through the air.

14. The small state mammal of Texas is the most common armadillo – the nine banded, or long-nosed armadillo. The medium-sized mammal is a solitary, mainly nocturnal animal. It can be found anywhere from rainforests to grasslands and eats mostly ants, termites and other small invertebrates. Many find it a pest as it can be known to cause mild damage to root systems and even steal eggs, but many like to hunt the armadillo for its meat. While not quite as grand as the red fox of Mississippi or the gray whale of California, the Texas small mammal is an original, not named by any other state.

15. House Concurrent Resolution No. 178 named an official small state mammal and an

official large state mammal after votes from elementary school children were equally divided between the armadillo and the great Texas longhorn. The Texas longhorn became the official large state mammal of Texas on June 16, 1995. This breed of cattle is known for its long horns, which extend more than 70 inches from tip to tip for bulls and 100 inches tip to tip for steers. A Texas longhorn living in Alabama recently made the rounds on social media after he unseated a steer from Texas as the Texas longhorn with the longest horns on a living steer, while also holding the record for the largest horn spread on a steer ever. Sevenyear-old Poncho Via's rack measured more than 10 feet and seven inches long, more than twice the width of a grand piano and wider than the Statue of Liberty's face. Guinness Book of World Records confirmed the record on May 8.

16. A rare species claims the title as the state fish. The Guadalupe bass is prevalent in the state of Texas, restricted to creeks and rivers, including its namesake, the Guadalupe River. It is not a true bass, but a member of the sunfish family, similar to largemouth bass,



The state dish is chili.

smallmouth bass and spotted bass. It is small, usually only 12 inches long for a male fish, but powerful.

17. The Texas state reptile is the Texas horned lizard, often called a horned toad or horned frog, but it is neither. There are 14 species of horned lizards, but the Texas horned lizard is the largest. While the lizard can seem scary in appearance with its horned body and blunt snout, it is an extremely gentle reptile that flattens or freezes, attempting to camouflage itself when it feels it is in danger.

18. What would be a better fit as the Texas state dish than chili? Texans love their chili, and the spicier, the better. Texans claim the

dish originated in the Lone Star State, although New Mexicans disagree. The legislature deemed it the state dish in 1977, claiming it was "in recognition of the fact that the only real 'bowl of red' is that prepared by Texans."

19. Texans also love their Tex-Mex food, and paid homage to that in 2003 when tortilla chips and salsa were named the official snack of Texas.

20. The final answer to this Texas trivia is Texas 42. Domino games are a beloved pastime for those in the Lone Star State. This tricktaking game is played with a set of double six dominoes. Tournaments are found statewide and a popular event in annual festivities.

What's your score?

20 - 15: You are a true Texan with full bragging rights.

14 – 10: Not completely hopeless, but you better brush up on your Texas knowledge.

9-5: Well, that's a tad embarrassing, but hopefully this quiz helped you learn some things about your home state.

4-0: Let's give you the benefit of a doubt that you just moved here and never speak of this again. (i)





Stocking Rate - Should I Be That Concerned? Volume 4 - Theodore Roosevelt

This month, Tony Dean wraps up a four part series on Stocking Rate - Should I Be That Concerned? Read below to find out more on why it is such an important issue for a rancher.'

OUTDOORS

After the death of his first wife, Theodore Roosevelt traveled to the western frontier, eventually establishing his own ranch in the Dakota Territory. During the period of 1884 to 1886, he recorded his experiences in the ranching business and in hunting the bountiful game, both of which he thoroughly enjoyed. He was just as fascinated with the cowboys, ranchers and others he met in his life on the range.

Roosevelt was a naturalist at heart and left us with important observations. In his book "Ranch Life and the Hunting Trail," he wrote, "Overstocking is the great danger threatening the stock raising industry on the plains." And he added, "Overstocking may cause little or no harm for two or three years, but sooner or later there comes a winter which means ruin to the ranches that have too many cattle on them. It is just a matter of time."

Grazing management is not a new idea. More than a hundred years ago, this naturalist, politician and finally President warned us lack of good grazing management was threatening our grazing resources. Time has proven him right.



Using a reasonable stocking rate can result in a cow herd with minimal health issues because cattle have access to adequate amount and quality of forage. These commercial Angus cows are on the Clayton Ranch in southern Jack County. (Courtesy photo)

A challenging decision, but one we can make.

If stocking rate is such an important issue for a rancher, why don't we spend more time talking about it and searching for a good answer?

In the past three editions of North Texas Farm and Ranch we have been discussing the importance of a rancher being able and willing to set a correct stocking rate on his land. Deciding on the number of acres to allow for each grazing animal is one of the most important and far reaching management decisions he will make. The decision will have both long term and short term effects on the land, the ranch's profitability and quite possibly the survival of the ranching operation itself.

If stocking rate is such an important issue for a rancher, why don't we spend more time talking about it and searching for a good answer? It is probably one of the least discussed topics in the ranching business, whether we are at the sale barn, coffee shop or anywhere else where ranchers rub shoulders. I believe this lack of attention has to do with an unwritten rule in the ranching industry in the Southwest, that being you never ask a rancher how many acres he has or how many cattle he runs. Those are two very private questions. It is bad manners to bring them up, and we respect each other's privacy.

So when we are presented facts and evidence that finding a correct stocking rate is an important job for every rancher, we tend to just smile and try to avoid the issue. This is the easiest thing to do, and, besides, we are uncomfortable discussing it, even if we are doing it right.

Despite undisputed evidence that continued overgrazing can be devastating to a ranching family and their land, in most cases, we try to ignore the facts and look the other way. Even though we may realize it is happening and live with it every day, the adjustments necessary to correct the problem pushes us too far past our comfort level. The overgrazing goes on and on.

James Clear wrote that, "Silence is death for any idea. An idea that is never spoken or written down dies with the person who conceives it. Ideas can only be remembered when they are repeated. They can only be believed when they are repeated." These articles on stocking rate have been written in the hope that someone in need who reads North Texas Farm and Ranch will find something in the words that will change his heart and mind, and cause him to take a closer look at what is happening to his ranch and his family.

It is a challenge to arrive at an annual stocking rate that is high enough to reach financial goals but low enough to sustain or improve rangeland health. The rancher who can find that balance is a true conservationist, and we have a few of them as neighbors across North Texas. The Texas later on.

If we keep hurting the land year after year, the value and productivity of each acre continues to decline. This decline often includes an increase in invasive brush, which just adds to the cost

It is a challenge to arrive at an annual stocking rate that is high enough to reach financial goals but low enough to sustain or improve rangeland health.

Grazing Land Coalition, TxGLC, has implemented a program called the "Art of Grazing" to recognize producers who have achieved this goal and to provide a forum to share their ideas.

In the long term, whether we want to discuss it or not, running too many cattle is just not sustainable due to the damage eventually occurring to pastures. This affects not only those of us in business now, but those that will come of correcting the problem. You may give up short-term profits if you decide to reduce numbers to correct overgrazing, but the long term benefits are extremely important and must always be considered.

We must make smart decisions.

As we examine our operations from a grazing standpoint, we need to be as smart as possible in making a decision. We should be out on the land, looking closely at the grasses, learning about our soils and their capabilities, watching the cattle and keeping good records in order to make informed judgements.

OUTDOORS

Damage to rangeland due to overgrazing does not normally happen in one year, and recovery from this damage can take more than a year. However, every journey begins with a first step. We begin this endeavor by first adjusting the stocking rate to fit the land. This is a giant step for most of us, but it signals the beginning of the healing process. As the land responds and you can see the results, you will agree it was the smart thing to do.

You should be proud of well managed pastures just like you are proud of good cattle. Both require a lot of effort, but will serve you and your family well in the long run.

See GRAZING page 69







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Continued from page 67

OUTDOORS



Our responsibilities include caring for our livestock.

Many responsibilities go along with this job of ranching, and one that will always be present is the job of taking care of our livestock. If we are in tune with our grazing animals, they will tell us a lot about our grazing management. For instance, we have discussed the fact a lower-than-normal conception rate can be tied to a low average body condition in cattle. Body condition issues can be caused by overgrazing.

Another key that our cattle can give us to our grazing management is their daily grazing habits. Dr. Ron Gill, Professor and Extension Livestock Specialists, said that, under good grazing conditions, cattle like to have two daily grazing periods, the first being early in the day until about mid-morning, then beginning again in late afternoon. The period in between is used as a rest time.

When we find our livestock are grazing almost all day, they may be telling us the pastures are too short and they are having to work too hard to find enough daily forage. In some cases, this could be an overgrazing issue.

AgriLife Extension has published Bulletin L-5476, a "Photo Guide to Forage Supplies on Texas Rangelands," to help give us a visual idea of what different pounds per acre of forage looks like. Many other publications, along with help from specialists in the field, are available from Texas AgriLife Extension.

Our friends and neighbors can help.

A lot of good information to help you make management decisions also can be obtained from personnel with the Texas Grazing Land Coalition (TxGLC), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), university natural resource departments, The You should be proud of well managed pastures just like you are proud of good cattle. Both require a lot of effort, but will serve you and your family well in the long run.

Noble Research Institute and others. These specialists can assist you with good maps, soils information, monitoring techniques, plant identification and many other subjects. Their assistance is free and totally voluntary. They can be a tool to help you with information, but you will ultimately make the decisions. Ranchers also can access Google Earth and the Web Soil Survey, available on the internet free of charge, to learn more about the land.

If someone you know, like, and trust believes in an idea, you are more likely to give it merit, weight or consideration. If you could know Ken Clayton, rancher from Jack County, he would be one of those friends you would want to trust. He is not only a good rancher and conservationist, but a dependable friend.

Ken Clayton has been ranching in Jack County as long as he can remember, working first with his father, Cy Clayton, then for many years with his brother, Kirk. He now manages the family ranch, with some help from his children, and is well known for his steady hand in guiding the ranching operation and for his passion for taking care of his grazing land and his commercial Angus cattle.

"Ranchers make decisions every day, but for me, getting my stocking rate right is one of the most important things I do," said Clayton. "If you don't take care of the resources you have, you won't last in the busi-



Ken Clayton is a rancher from Bryson, Texas, and has been running cattle all his life. "Getting my stocking rate right is one of the most important things I do," he said. "If you don't take care of the resources you have, you won't last in the business and you certainly won't be profitable."

If we are in tune with our grazing animals, they will tell us a lot about our grazing management.

ness and you certainly won't be profitable," he said.

Clayton says he has minimal animal health problems due to the availability of good forage for his livestock. "We think we are cattle raisers, but we are actually grass raisers," he said. "My dad went through the drought of the 1950s. He instilled in my brother and me that we must always graze our grass properly and be preparing for the next drought because it's our responsibility to take care of the land."

The Decision Is Ours

Managing Texas grazing lands is an exciting and rewarding job for those of us fortunate enough to be involved. Since almost all of the land in Texas is privately owned, the decision of whether or not we will be good stewards is totally up to us as today's managers. What happens on the land is a direct reflection of what is truly in the heart and mind of ranchers themselves.

Perhaps our greatest obligation is to those we love. There are many generations of Texans to follow: some of them are our kids and grandkids. The management decisions we make today not only influence our lives, but also the lives of tomorrow's managers. We wouldn't want to burden our future ranchers with degraded grazing lands that make it difficult if not impossible to make a living because we refused to do our part.



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A Coon Hound He's Not

n elementary school, one Friday each month the entire school would assemble in the auditorium to watch a movie.

We watched all sorts of movies, about wildlife adventures or some other inspiring plot that we could all relate to in some way. I was in fifth grade and it was the last movie of the year before school let out for the summer.

We all sat down and got quiet as the lights dimmed and the flickering light of the projector lit up the screen.

The movie that day was "Where the Red Fern Grows," a great movie about a young man who worked hard to achieve a goal, his dream of getting a pair of hunting dogs.

I remember being captivated with the dogs and coon hunting. It looked like fun and I wanted to do it in a bad way. I went home to talk to my dad about it, I wanted a coon dog so bad.

He and I talked about it; he shared his personal stories of hunting that only made me want to go coon hunting even more.

He never made any promises, only assured me that some day when I was old enough and ready, I would get to go and maybe even with my own dog. The years passed on and I had all but given up on going coon hunting much less getting a coon hound.

It was a cool fall evening, just about 6 p.m. or so when dad would usually arrive home from work. I was in the front yard stacking firewood, doing my chores like I was supposed to when I could hear a car coming up the drive. As he came to a stop, I saw a dog in the back seat going crazy in excitement. It was a blue tick hound dog.

It was at that moment the dreams of having a coon dog and going coon hunting flooded my memories.

I could hardly contain my excitement as I ran to the car as my dad opened the back door to let the dog out. A big, beautiful Blue Tick hound baled out of the back seat to greet me. Man, it was awesome.

Dad said he just wandered up at work one day and after a few weeks he adopted him. He wasn't sure what he was trained to do, but he was smart and had some training. He told me with enough work I could teach him to be a coon dog. I named him Pedy; I was so excited I could hardly wait to start teaching him to be a coon dog. Problem was, I didn't know how to even start to do that.

The next day was a Saturday, and I woke up just in time to see my dad head out the door.

After a quick breakfast, my little brother and I headed outside to get Pedy to start training him up.

We had Pedy on a leash as we walked to back of the property near the creek. He was so excited, shaking and yelping in excitement. I kneeled down with collar in hand and turned him loose.



As a child, Andy Anderson had given up on his wish of getting a coon dog, when one day his dad pulled up in the car with a dog in the back seat, going crazy in excitement. It was a blue tick hound dog. (Courtesy photo)

Pedy took off. He was running straight across the field as fast as he could go.... and he kept going. Pedy disappeared down the hill into the tall grass. My brother and I took off after him calling his name, but he was gone.

We looked all day but couldn't find him. I was upset and hated to tell my dad, but it is what it is, Pedy was gone.

All of us kids were on the side

of the house later that afternoon when all of a sudden, my brother yelled out, "There goes that dog of yours." I looked to see my brother pointing across the pasture to a field across the creek.

There he went. Pedy was still running as fast as he could, cutting across that field as if he were on fire. Pedy disappeared into the tree line as my brother said "he sure is a stupid dog." We all erupted in laughter.

Dad arrived home and after telling him what happened he said well maybe he will come back this evening to eat. We didn't see Pedy for several days, we just assumed he was gone.

A group of friends came over to shoot rifles. We gathered up just behind the house to shoot our 22's at cans and such.

One of our friends brought a 410 shotgun to shoot. He let loose with that shot gun and as he was reloading it, my brother yelled

out "here comes that stupid dog of yours!" I looked down range to see Pedy hauling the mail.

He was running hard and fast straight to us, as if he were excited to have found his way back home. I rushed out to great him, but just as I bent down ready to grab hold of him he shot right by me, past my bother and our friends, down past the house scattering the cats and making them run for cover. He continued down the drive and out of sight.

My brother and friends busted out laughing and almost in unison all said "he sure is a stupid dog." The neighbors around the area reported seeing a dog running like hell through fields and pastures from time to time; but could never be caught.

I gave up on hunting coons with dogs, just hunted them with spot lights and traps. I wonder if that crazy dog ever found what he was running after. (§)







GARDEN GU

By Norman Winter | Horticulturist, Author, Speaker

North Texas Gardeners Need 24-Karaf Gold for the cool season garden

Etain Viola Lemon Ball Sedum and Ogon Sweet Flag. (Photo courtesy Norman Winter)

The cool season landscape is a real joy after a blazing August has departed, and the cooler September temperatures signal cool season planting time is rapidly approaching to the North Texas gardener. Pansies, violas, dianthus, heuchera are just a few of the plants giving us the promise of riotous color. To me, however, it is the addition of gold or chartreuse that makes the cool season container or flower bed.

Mixed containers or landscape entrances that feature the pockets of gold or chartreuse, if you will, are the ones that seem to have everyone mesmerized. It is the chains of gold from Goldilocks lysimachia, the Louisiana Super Plant Lemon Ball sedum, and the looking good-enough-to-eat Golden Lemon thyme that offer 24-karat gold of riveting color.

Goldilocks lysimachia, or Creeping Jenny, is magical as during the summer it exhibits true lime green in the sun. You just can't get enough as it hangs downward from baskets, window boxes and as spiller plants in mixed containers.

In the winter, however, once it is exposed to the South's frosty nights, it really does look like it is a chain that has been carved of gold. Plant it with violet colored pansies and the look becomes like nature's sapphires on a gold chain.

Goldilocks is a perennial in zones 3-10, really meaning that no matter where you live in the United States you have a season where it will be stunning. How stunning you might wonder: well it won the 'Knock Your Socks Off' designation multiple times in the University of Georgia Plant Trials. It only gets a couple of inches tall but has a groundcover spreading ability.

Golden Lemon thyme is a little bit of a mystery plant. One has to wonder why doesn't everyone grow this plant.

It fills the role as a spiller plant as well, though it is more of a gently tumbling off the edge or rim of the container. It needs sun to get its golden color and is cold hardy from zones 4-10 and reaches about six inches tall with a spread of 18-inches.

As you are planting it, you will notice the culinary fragrance or aroma of the leaves that **See GOLD page 74**

GOLD

OUTDOORS

quickly tell you this also will be one for the kitchen. Golden Lemon thyme is heavenly in rock gardens or along stone paths. Keep your eyes open for the variety Archer's Gold.

Lemon Ball Sedum won the Mississippi Medallion Award in 2018 and Louisiana Super Plant Award in 2019. It is cold hardy from zones 7-10, meaning much of the South will find it a terrific perennial for mixed containers, rock gardens or along paths. It exudes a lush lime green that will turn gold in the winter. It also loads up with uncountable yellow flowers. Its foliage and soft needle-like texture, however, will have your eyes fixated. You can expect it to reach about six inches tall with a potential spread of three feet over the years.

Goldilocks lysimachia, Golden Lemon thyme and Lemon Ball sedum are the ultimate finishing touches to North Texas's cool season containers, baskets or landscape beds. Make sure you include them. Follow me on Facebook @NormanWinterTheGardenGuy.



Golden Lemon thyme is both beautiful and edible. (Photo courtesy Norman Winter)





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AUCTION

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BAMMANN HAY & TRUCKING INC. - Aubrey, TX. Alfalfa and alfalfa grass mix in large and small squares. Available by bale or semi load. Denton County award-winning grass hay in small squares and round bales. Call Brian at **217-737-7737**. tfc

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03-02p

PARTING SHOT



The Drifters....

Mimicking their body language with each step their caballos took. They were to travel towards the sky from the bottom of a Texas valley after checking on a tired yearling who wasn't steady with his feet. These magnificent animals shuffled up a wall of sand, wild, like the wind. I stepped aside, standing barefoot in the grit of it all. At a ridge I reigned, as they were coming hard hedging over the hill. I quickly followed, sinking into the ground with each step. The sky break showed off two shadows riding towards a pasture that led to summer wildflowers and yearlings. Working hours without rest, they rode forever, chasing the herd. Shirts soaked with sweat and beaded faces, they spoke the language of the horse. (Photo and description by Jelly Cocanougher) 🕅

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DUBLIN

TAKE A STEP BACK IN TIME Huge, gorgeous Live Oak trees A little bit of History with limestone rock structure, built in 1800's. Was a stop for the Stage Coach back in the day. A huge rock systern & windmill adds to the character of this property from the era Wildlife in abundance, good grasses for grazing....etc. So much ambiance!

Debbie Moran-\$450,000

NOCONA, TX

Income Producing Property. This unique Western Village sits on the highest point in Montage County, it boasts a Fudge Factory, Boutique and Trading Post. 2 br, 2 bath barndominium 84x36, with 4-12 stalls with auto water and feed room. Separate guest cottage with bathroom. Tiny home, 4 RV park hook ups, 2 water wells, 2 ponds, 3 septic's. All under 2 years old. Seller is highly motivated.

Bobby Norris- \$289,500

CLEBURNE

This beautiful custom-built 4 bed, 4 bath home features an elevated view on over 20 manicured acres. Gated entry off a dead-end road guarantees privacy. Just outside Cleburne and 10 minutes to Chisholm Trail Pkwy. The custom features of this designer home will capture your eye. From the stone interior to the custom flooring and counters. Ample room for a growing family. **Bobby Norris-**

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LIPAN

This amazing 150-acre property is a horse trainer's dream. An incredible 3 bedroom two and half bath home with vaulted tongue-and-groove ceilings, a floor-to-ceiling stone fire place and 60 ft. sunroom. Excellent fencing and plenty of water with 7 tanks on the property Full training facility with plenty of room for cattle. Barn has a two-story apartment, 11 stalls and 2 stud stalls, hay storage, tack room and wash rack.

Bobby Norris - \$1,595,000

POOLVILLE, TX

Fantastic view and location to build you a home on. Total 17 acres (7 acre tract & 10 acres tract) each tract has a well. The 10 acres has well, septic, 3 carport, very clean 2016-38 foot travel trailer with 2 slid-outs. Also a John Deere model 4555 tractor can be bought separate. Need to look at the property.





WEATHERFORD

Freshly remodeled 3 bedroom 2 bath home on 5 acs, just 11 minutes from the square in Weatherford. New paint inside and out. Lots of natural light. Large kitchen and spacious living room. Master bedroom with walk-in closet and en suite bath. Mudroom with laundry and hard surface floors throughout. All of this on 5 acs to enjoy as you please. Gabe Webster-\$280,000

