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Stories of summer...

Hello OKFR readers, and welcome to the August issue of the Oklahoma Farm & Ranch magazine. Only a few months ago, we were hoping for a bit of sunshine, and now we hope for a slight, cool breeze or a big, dark cloud. We put together some great content for you to enjoy while beating the heat.

Speaking of summer, it is time to break out the grill. In just 45 minutes, you can have a taste of Hawaii by making Hawaiian Chicken and Beef Kabobs from Lacey's Pantry. Whether you make these for an outdoor party or for your family, these kabobs will be a hit.

Read about the latest events on Chain Ranch in "The Changing Harvest" in the Farm & Ranch section. This article covers the harvesting process at the Canton, Okla., ranch as well as the changes throughout the years.

Read about a horse named Spot in "He Was Just a Horse" in the Equine section. This touching article is about the life of a paint horse owned by the Haynes family. While he was not much on looks, he had a big heart and an amazing story.

This month is part two of the "History of the Horseshoe" series in the Equine section. This series features the National Museum of Horse Shoeing Tools and Hall of Honor in Sulphur, Okla. Part two covers certification, mid-century trends, history of the horse, Z-Bar shoe, current trends and different materials.

The August profile is former professional bronc rider and fifth-generation rancher, Justin Howard of Woodward, Okla. Read about this bronc rider in "The Lifestyle" in the Country Lifestyle section. Howard Ranch began with his great-great-grandfather staking his claim on a quarter section of land in 1904. Howard spent nearly two decades traveling the rodeo circuit, and his main focus today is expanding the family ranch.

Next, read the "Stafford Air and Space Museum" in the Attractions section. Located in Weatherford, Okla., this museum is a perfect place to take the family before summer ends. The museum displays artifacts, features speakers and offers different events throughout the year.

Finally, read about Krystal Kiss in "Keeping God and Music Front and Center" in the Attractions section. The Detroit native headed south to pursue her career in radio. Twelve years later, the wife and mother of two created The Red Dirt Kraze.

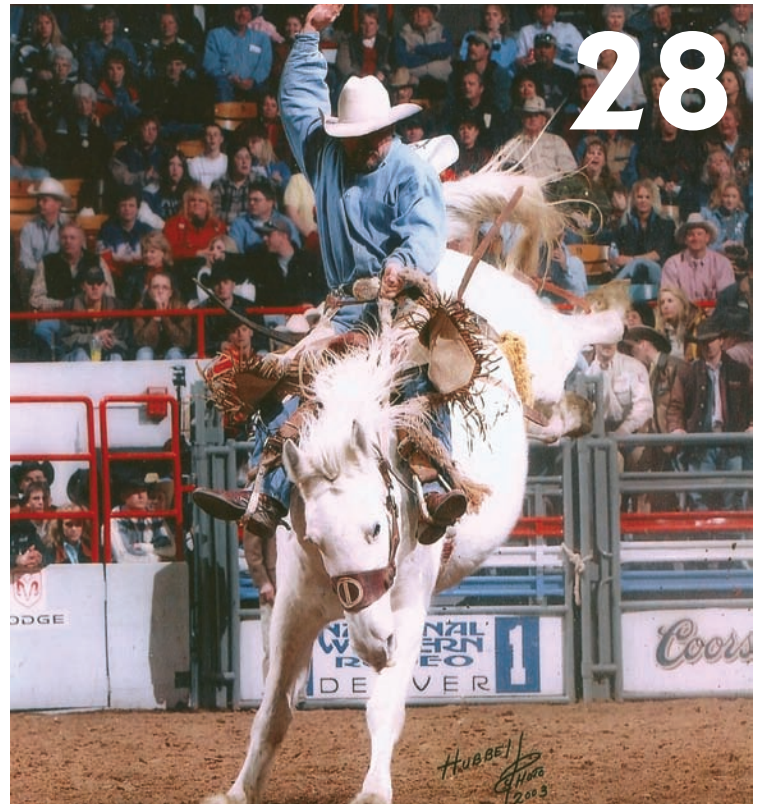
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Until next month,



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OKFR / socializing

ON THE COVER

Justin Howard's great-great-grandfather staked his claim on a quarter section of land located ten miles north of Woodward, Okla., in 1904. The fifth generation rancher began riding broncs in 1986 after attending the Sankey Rodeo School in Abbyville, Kan. He purchased his Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association permit in 1988 and pursued his career as a professional bronc rider. Nearly two decades later, he made his final ride where it all began. Today, Howard's main focus is managing and expanding the family ranch. (Photo by Laci Jones)

TWITTER FEED

-  **OKFR Magazine** @OKFRMagazine · Jul 5
Just because the Fourth of July may be over doesn't mean the celebration should end. Learn more at ow.ly/VhvA301WrBk! #ChristmasinJuly
-  **OKFR Magazine** @OKFRMagazine · Jul 1
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-  **OKFR Magazine** @OKFRMagazine · Jun 29
We can learn a lot through studying our history. Learn about the history of horseshoes at ow.ly/CrB301LrF! #HistoryofHorseshoes
-  **OKFR Magazine** @OKFRMagazine · Jun 28
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PRUSSIC ACID TOXICITY



As the temperature rises and the ground gets drier, plants in the sorghum family may become toxic. A common scenario for a veterinarian is to receive a call from a frantic rancher who says that his cows are “dropping like flies” or that he has found several dead cows after turning his cattle onto new pasture.

One question the veterinarian will probably ask is if the cattle have been grazing Johnson grass.

Hydrocyanic acid (HCN), which is also referred to as cyanide or prussic acid, is a toxin in these plants that causes problems.

The toxin is created when the harmless hydrocyanic glycosides in plants are stressed and break down. Once the hydrocyanic glycosides in the plants are damaged, they quickly convert to prussic acid which can kill an animal in

minutes when consumed.

When cattle ingest the plants high in hydrocyanic glycoside and break them down by chewing, the prussic acid is released in the rumen and absorbed into the blood stream.

Once in the circulatory system, the toxin prevents cells in the body from taking up oxygen. The blood becomes saturated with oxygen, which is why venous blood appears bright red.

The clinical signs are excitement, muscle tremors, increased respiration rate, excess salivation, staggering, convulsions and collapse. The cattle actually die of asphyxiation.

In plants, especially in the sorghum family, prussic acid is highest in the leaves of young plants with the upper leaves containing the highest amounts.

The amount of prussic acid increases when the plant is stressed

such as in drought situations or following a frost.

Fertilizing with large amounts of nitrogen can also increase potential for prussic acid toxicity as does nitrogen and phosphorus soil imbalances.

Certain sorghum families are more prone to prussic acid toxicity than others. For example, Johnson grass has a high potential for toxicity while pearl or foxtail millet are low.

When planting sorghums for grazing, producers may want to check the toxic potential of the particular variety.

When producers encounter animals displaying clinical signs of prussic acid toxicity, they should immediately remove all the animals that appear normal to a new pasture and contact their veterinarian.

The veterinarian will treat
See ACID on page 11



BY BARRY WHITWORTH

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PHOTO DETAILS

If producers encounter animals displaying prussic acid toxicity symptoms, all other animals that appear normal should be moved to a new pasture. (Photo by Laci Jones)

ACID

Continued from page 10

the sick animals with two drugs (sodium nitrite and sodium thio-sulfate) that reverse the toxicity. Treatment can result in a full recovery if initiated quickly.


Producers may want to take the following steps to prevent prussic acid toxicity:

- Never turn hungry cattle into a new pasture.
 - Take soil samples and fertilize accordingly.
 - Graze mature plants.
 - Wait until plants are cured before grazing after frost. Usually at least seven days
 - Rotate pastures to keep cattle from consuming lush regrowth
 - Place one or two cows in a pasture and observe for problems before turning in all the cattle.
- One last point: the drugs used to treat prussic acid toxicity can be difficult to obtain.

For this reason, producers should maintain a good relationship with their veterinarian. It is a good idea to contact him or her before grazing potential toxic plants to make sure that he or she will have the necessary drugs on hand to treat the cattle if a problem should arise.

Plants can be tested for prussic acid but it can be challenging. If not done properly, producers may get a false sense of security.

The best practice is to visit with your local veterinarian or local County Extension Educator before grazing forages that may contain prussic acid.

A fact sheet that contains information about prussic acid is available from Oklahoma State University. The fact sheet is titled "Prussic Acid Poisoning PSS-2904." 



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Ram continues as “King of the Hill” in the heavy-duty battleground with the introduction of the 2016 model Ram 2500 and 3500 Heavy Duty pickups. The capability leaders further build on a list of best-in-class claims.

Additionally, for two years running, the Ram 1500 leads pickup truck fuel economy with the exclusive 3.0 liter EcoDiesel V-6 engine, delivering 240 horsepower, 420 lb. ft. of torque and 29 miles per gallon (mpg).

“Ram maintains leadership in all three pickup segments offering best-in-class fuel efficiency, best-in-class towing, best-in-class power, best-in-class payload,” said Bob Hegbloom, president and CEO – Ram Truck Brand, FCA US. “Ram continues to break records in the most important consumer-driven titles of the pickup truck market and we’re not slowing down.”

Ram engineering and Cummins developed a new, hard-hitting fuel

delivery and turbo boost calibration for the 6.7 liter I-6 diesel that produces an additional 35 lb. ft. of torque. This improvement raises the bar from Ram’s current title at 865 lb. ft. of torque to 900 lb.-ft. of torque – a number never achieved in a mass produced vehicle. The previous heavy-duty towing title also belongs to the Ram 3500 at 30,000 pounds. The 2016 Ram 3500 brings that stat to 31,210 pounds, further distancing the closest rival by more than two tons.


To handle the increased towing capacity, Ram engineers beefed up the rear axle ring gear hardware from 12 to 16 bolts on all trucks equipped with the 11.8 inch axle. The additional hardened bolts and stronger material are used in the differential case to assure long-term durability.

The most payload available in a pickup is 7,390 pounds for a 6.4 liter equipped Ram 3500 model, more than 3.5 tons.

The 2016 Ram 2500 also con-

tinues its ¾-ton towing leadership with a dominating 17,980 pounds of capacity. Ram is the only automaker to back its entire pickup truck line and towing claims with SAE J2807 testing criteria.

“Ram has bookended its innovation leadership in the pickup segments and thoughtfully engineered better trucks, including our Ram 1500 with real world fuel economy approaching 30 mpg and the Ram 3500 with mind-boggling 31,210 pounds of towing capacity, even on the hottest day,” said Mike Cairns, director – Ram Truck Engineering, FCA US. “Our 2016 Ram Trucks own pertinent, functional titles while delivering award-winning interiors and exclusive features that entice customers.”

Since its launch as a stand-alone division in 2009, the Ram Truck Brand has steadily emerged as an industry leader with one goal: to build the best pickup trucks and commercial vehicles in the industry. 

By the Numbers

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Transmission: Six-speed automatic

RANCH RIGS & FARM FIXTURES

PHOTO DETAILS

Since its launch as a stand-alone division in 2009, the Ram Truck Brand has steadily emerged as an industry leader with one goal: to build the best pickup trucks and commercial vehicles in the industry.

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The *Changing* Harvest



I cannot believe how harvest has changed in my lifetime. I can remember when we started harvesting, we used an eight to 10-foot binder pulled by four head of mules. The binder cut the wheat, tied it in bundles and the bundles were then picked up and shocked with the butts of wheat on the ground and the heads in the air to keep the heads dry. We could always bind wheat about one week before we could combine it.

We started the combine, a 20-foot Rumley pulled by a Rumley tractor. It took one man to drive the tractor and one man on the combine, and we had no idea what an air conditioner was. The man on the combine raised and lowered the platform and started the combine. After we finished combining, we started the threshing machine, picking up the bundles that were shocked. This took 10 to 12 men, who stayed with us until the threshing was over. They brought their own bedrolls and ate three meals a day with us prepared by my mother and grandmother. They also took baths in the horse tank.

I can remember how my mother and grandmother fed all the guys. That was in the days before the

refrigerator. If they fixed chicken, the chickens were killed the morning the day of the dinner. If we had beef, the beef was killed and hung on the windmill or in a tree to keep it from spoiling. Looking at the pictures of the threshing crews back then—you do not see any fat men.

It took five or six bundle wagons to keep the threshing machine going. Two or three spike pitchers were in the field to help pick up the shocked wheat and put it in the bundle wagons to go to the threshing machines.

When we started out, we hauled the wheat in a wagon which held 50 to 60 bushels of wheat. Later, we hauled the wheat in a truck that held 150 to 200 bushels of wheat. Now, the truck we use can haul 1,000 to 1,100 bushels of wheat.

We have one combine with an air conditioner that can cut over 150 acres of wheat a day. Not only have our methods of harvesting changed, but the crops have also changed.

Back then, we had no idea what canola was or different varieties of wheat, and now we raise canola to rotate our crops.

We still have several combines

and try to cut our own wheat here and in Kansas. The price of a new combine is more than \$500,000, and the machines we still run have some age on them. As soon as we get this harvest finished, the combines are cleaned and put in the shed. Then later they are sent to be serviced and checked for the next harvest.

It's amazing how as soon as we get through cutting wheat, we prepare the ground for the next year's crop. We are not very smart, because every year is not a profitable one. We can break even or even lose money, but we still get ready to put in another crop as soon as the harvesting is done. Although, this year's crops were great.

One reason we raise a lot of wheat is for the wheat pasture we receive from it. If we are fortunate enough to have wheat pasture, we can wean our calves in October and November. We can put 150 to 250 pounds gain on a calf if the wheat pasture is good.

My granddad used to say if he could average a 15-bushel wheat crop, he could make money. But he did not know what fertilizer was and the chemicals we use to

produce a crop. Back then, all of his work was done with teams of mules, not a \$500,000 combine. I do not know what we would need to break even today, with all our expenses.

The Bible says in Genesis 8:22, "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

Until next time. 



BY RALPH CHAIN

PHOTO DETAILS

Some of the machines Chain Ranch still run today have some age on them. (Courtesy of Chain Ranch)



Nitrate Toxicity

The goal of any producer is to have high quality livestock, but this cannot be done without high quality forage crops. To prevent death among the herd, cattle producers should monitor their crops for plant toxicants, particularly nitrate toxicity.

Nitrate toxicity dates back to 1895 with corn-stalk poisoning. However, nitrate was not recognized as the main toxicant until the late 1930s. Forage sorghums, sudan grasses and Johnson grass have long been identified as potential sources for nitrate toxicity.

Like prussic acid poisoning, nitrate toxicity is potentially lethal to cattle.

Problems for nitrate toxicity and prussic acid poisoning occur during the same season, affect the same species and are triggered by the environmental conditions. However, there is little or no relationship between nitrate toxicity and prussic acid poisoning. They are often confused with each

other since environmental conditions and animal symptoms are somewhat similar. Like prussic acid, death from nitrate toxicity is caused by asphyxiation.

Nitrate toxicity is caused by the consumption of an excessive amount of nitrate or nitrite from grazing crops, hay silage, weeds, drinking water, fertilizer, etc. Nitrate itself is not toxic to the animal.

When ingested by a ruminant, it undergoes a chemical reduction to nitrite.

Nitrite is absorbed into the bloodstream where it oxidizes the iron of the hemoglobin. Methemoglobin is a modified red blood pigment produced by the oxidation that is incapable of transporting oxygen to various body tissues, which leads to asphyxiation.

Nitrate toxicity will exhibit a chocolate brown blood color.

The most likely signs of nitrate toxicity are difficult and painful

breathing, muscle tremors, weakness, low tolerance to exercise, incoordination, diarrhea, and frequent urination. Milk production may also be reduced.

Plant Factors in Nitrate Accumulation:

1. Plant species vary in their ability to accumulate nitrate.
2. Stalks are highest in nitrate content, followed by leaves and grain.
3. Immature plants or young plants have greater potential for accumulation.
4. Any weather condition that reduces plant growth (drought, cool, cloudy weather).
5. Excessive use of nitrogen fertilizer.
6. Acid soils and phosphorus deficient soils.

Preventing nitrate toxicity can be a challenge depending on environmental conditions. However, some steps can be followed to manage forages to prevent or See **NITRATE** on page 17



BY MARTY NEW

marty.new@okstate.edu

PHOTO DETAILS

Signs of nitrate toxicity are difficult and painful breathing, muscle tremors, weakness, low tolerance to exercise, incoordination, diarrhea, and frequent urination. (Photo by Laci Jones)

Nitrate

Continued from page 16

minimize losses associated with nitrate and prussic acid.

Managing Nitrate Toxicity:

1. Cattle in poor health with respiratory disease can be susceptible to nitrates.

2. Do not turn hungry cattle into the pasture. Fill cattle with a bulky hay (good quality grass hay) prior to turning in. Release cattle in the afternoon.

3. Slowly adapt cattle to nitrate. Blending high nitrate hay with grass hay or concentrates can reduce level.

Managing time spent initially grazing high nitrate fields can reduce and allow cattle an adjustment period.

4. Avoid grazing after a drought-ending rain.

5. Stock lightly to prevent selective grazing. Animals can choose lower nitrate leaves over


the stems.

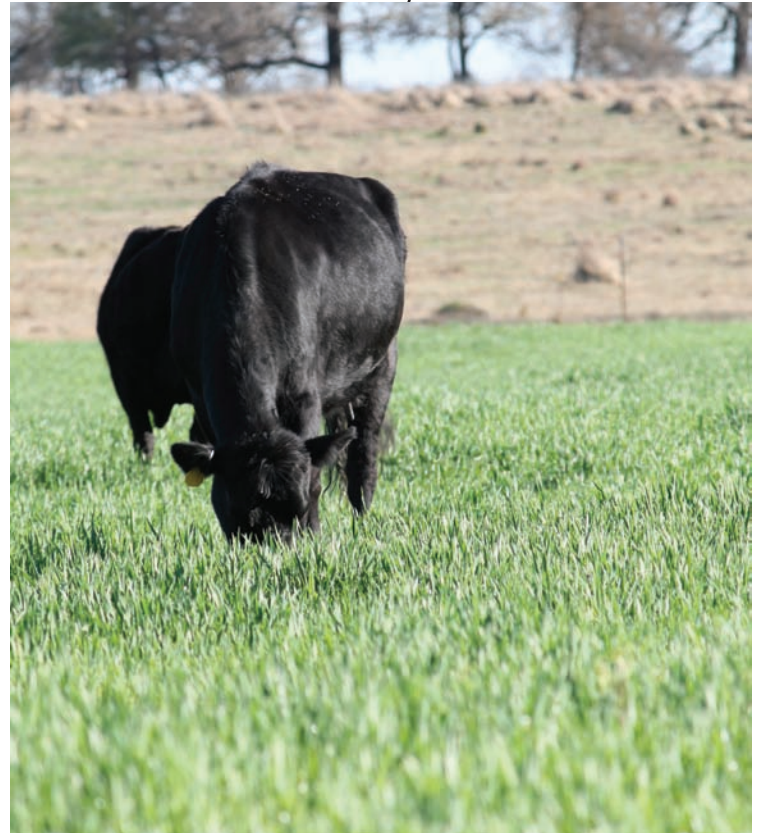
6. Provide fresh high quality drinking water in large quantities.

7. Manage nitrogen fertilizer applied during growing season.

8. Raise the cutter bar when harvesting the hay.

Nitrates are in greatest concentration in the lower stem. Raising the cutter bar may reduce the tonage, but cutting more tons of a toxic material has no particular value.

Visit with your local veterinarian or local County Extension Educator before grazing forages that may contain nitrate toxicity. For more information on nitrate toxicity management scenarios and studies, read the fact sheet titled "Nitrate Toxicity in Livestock PSS-2903" provided by Oklahoma State University. 



Nitrate toxicity is potentially lethal to cattle by asphyxiation. (Photo by Laci Jones)



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Lower respiratory tract disease in horses

The lower respiratory tract of a horse consists of the lungs and the small tubes running throughout the lungs (bronchi, bronchioles and alveoli). The lungs' primary function is to absorb oxygen from the inhaled air and expel carbon dioxide in the expelled air. The gas exchange takes place at the alveoli, which is located at the end of the small bronchioles.

The air that is inhaled is anything but sterile. It contains a large amount of bacteria, fungus, dirt, pollen and other miscellaneous contaminants that put the lungs at severe risk of developing inflammation and/or infection. In order to combat these high levels of contamination, the lungs are equipped with a very sophisticated and unique immune system that helps prevent inflammation and infection.

The immune system/protective mechanism starts in the upper respiratory tract (nasal passage and throat) which filters, humidifies and warms the inspired air. The entire lower respiratory tract is also covered with a thin, sticky layer of mucus which contaminates from the air stick to as the air travels from the nostril to the lungs.

Once the contaminants are stuck to the sticky mucus, they are expelled out of the airway via two mechanisms. In the upper and lower airway, coughing and sneezing will help expel any contaminate-laden mucus out of the nostrils or mouth. The trachea and bronchioles are lined by special type of cell with microscopic hair-like structures called cilia. The function of these cilia is to move mucus from the lungs up the trachea and into the throat (mucociliary escalator), which is then expelled by the horse coughing. The cilia move this mucus



toward the throat by waving in a systematic pattern. Allowing a horse to lower its head to the ground several times a day will also dramatically increase the efficiency of the mucociliary elevator. This increase in efficiency is secondary to gravity assisting with the movement of mucus towards the throat.

The final element of the lower airway immune system is the cellular defense mechanism, which is also located in the lining of the trachea and bronchioles. This cellular immune system's function is to attack and kill any bacteria, fungus or parasite that tries to enter the body and establish an infection. There are several types of cells that are involved in the cellular defense mechanism, but the most prevalent one is the neutrophil.

What does it mean when your local veterinarian tells you your

horse has pneumonia? The term pneumonia is a vague term used to describe inflammation within the lungs; however, most people, including veterinarians, use the term only when the horse has an infection in its lungs. Bacterial pneumonia would be the proper term for a horse with a bacterial infection in its lungs.

Other types of pneumonia include viral pneumonia, parasitic pneumonia and pleuropneumonia. Viral pneumonia is inflammation in the lungs secondary to a respiratory virus. A bacterial pneumonia will frequently develop following a viral pneumonia, secondary to the mucociliary elevator being damaged by the respiratory virus. Parasitic pneumonia is secondary to lung worms. Lung worms are commonly seen in horses that are housed with donkeys on the farm **See DISEASE on page 19**



**BY LAUREN LAMB,
DVM, MS**

PHOTO DETAILS

IV fluids are a type of supportive therapy that a horse may need when they have severe pneumonia. (Photo by Lauren Lamb)

Disease

that has a poor parasite prevention program. Last but not least is pleuropneumonia. Pleuropneumonia is the worst type of lower airway disease your horse can develop. When a horse has pleuropneumonia, the inflammation or infection spreads from the lungs to the pleural space. The pleural space is located between the lungs and the chest wall.

Clinical signs associated with pneumonia include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, nasal discharge, coughing, respiratory distress, increase respiratory rate (normal rate is 12 breathes per minute), increase respiratory effort (abdominal contraction with each breath), exercise intolerance and weight loss.

A veterinarian will usually use history, clinical signs, physical exam findings and blood work to diagnosis a horse with pneumonia. Chest ultrasound and radiographs, tracheal wash with bacterial culture can also assist a veterinarian in diagnosing pneumonia.

Several risk factors can increase the risk of you horse developing a pneumonia. We do not have time in this article to discuss each risk factor, so we will focus on the most common risk factor, which is transportation.

During transportation the lower airway of a horse experiences a much higher level of contamination compared to be turned out to pasture. A couple of reasons for this increase level of contamination is the poor ventilation inside of most trailers and the fact that most people tie their horse's head up and do not allow them to lower their heads for several hours while driving down the road.

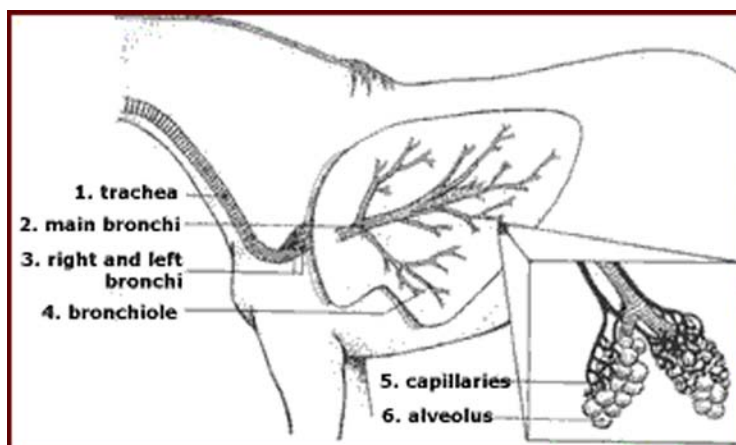
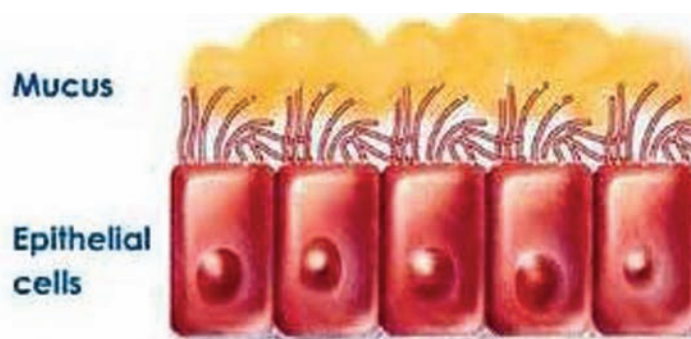
When traveling long distances, I recommend not tying your horse or tying them with a long lead so they can lower their heads and assist the mucociliary elevator in clearing the bacteria-laden mucus from the trachea and lungs. I

strongly discourage feeding horses hay while traveling and purchasing trailers with feeding mangers that do not allow horses to lower their heads while traveling.

There have been several studies looking at the effects of transportation on the internal environment of horses. In 1997, S. L. Radial, Ph.D., from the University of Sydney performed a study titled, "Effect of transportation on lower respiratory tract contamination and peripheral blood neutrophil function." In this study they looked at six horses that were transported by road for 12 hours. Fluid was collected from the trachea prior to and after transport. When comparing the two samples from each horse, the post transport samples had a significant increase in number of inflammatory cells and bacteria.

In this same study, Radial also collected blood from each horse to evaluate the function of neutrophils. Neutrophils are the predominate white cell that will migrate to the site of an infection and kill invading bacteria. With this study Radial found that neutrophils had a significantly reduced ability to migrate to the site of infection and kill any invading bacteria. In conclusion, Radial found that transportation significantly increases the bacterial load within the lower airway and also impedes the body's ability to fight off infection by suppressing the function of neutrophils.

Treatment of horses with bacterial pneumonia usually involves weeks to months of antibiotic therapy, supportive therapy, and anti-inflammatory therapy. If diagnosed early and treated aggressively, horse with pneumonia (bacterial, viral, etc.) have a good prognosis for a full recovery. Therapy can get very expensive and the duration of therapy can be quite long if your horse has an advanced stage of pneumonia. ☞




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He was just a horse

How many times have horse owners heard this from a non-horse owner? Yes, speaking for myself I truly get it, a human's life is more important than an animal's life. However, that does not stop the heartache and tears when a good horse has to be put down due to age, illness or poor health. To put it into perspective, have you ever lost a best friend? If so, you may just understand a little better this story of a one-of-a-kind horse named Spot.

It all started about 28 years ago when I received a call from my brother-in-law, Terry. He knew I was looking for a horse for my daughter who was 10 at the time.

"He is nothing special," Terry said.

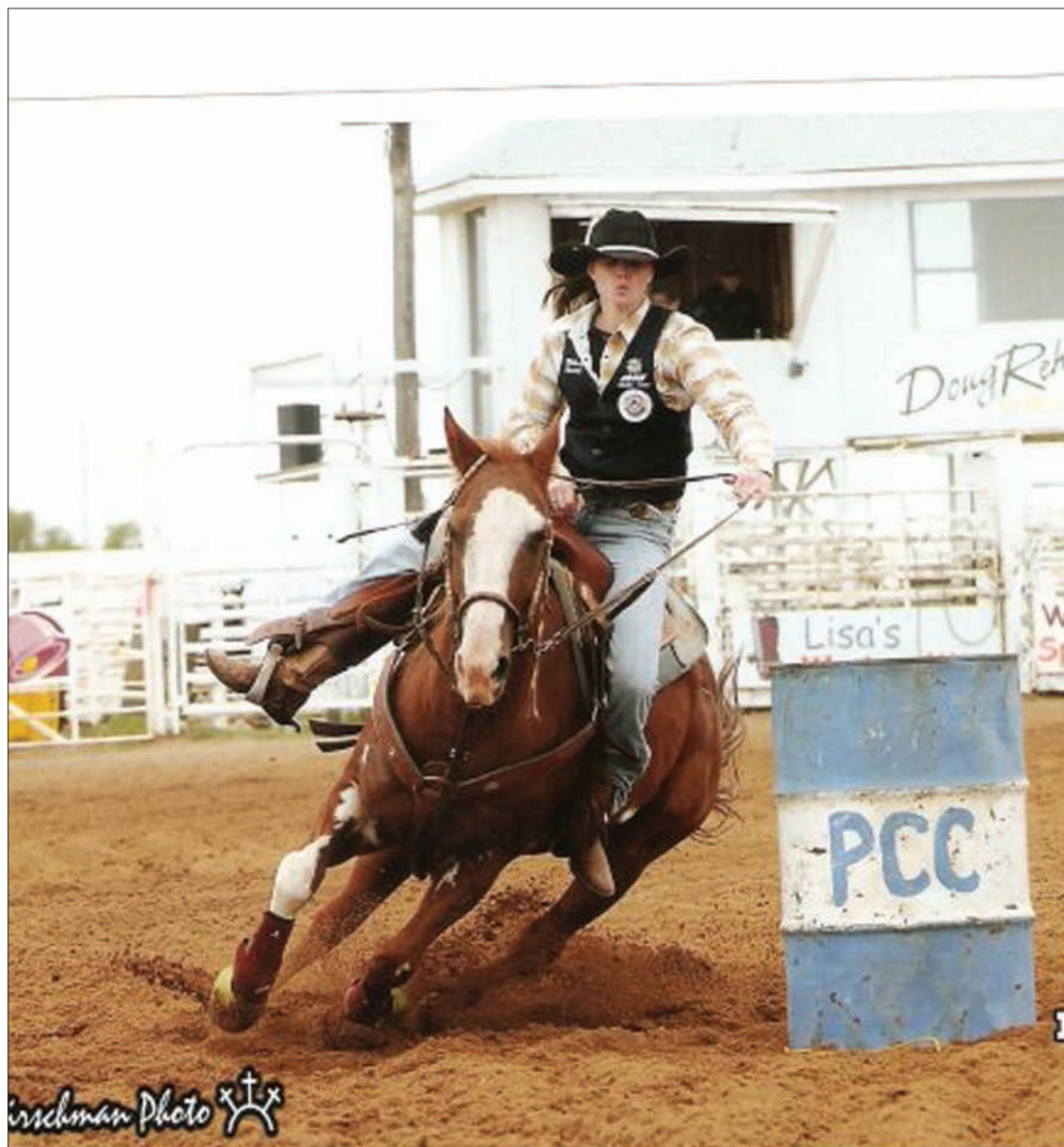
He was just a solid ranch horse, but he was not sure what the horse knew. Terry had ridden him a time or two and worked some cattle on him. He seemed pretty solid. Taking his advice, I made the trip out to try this horse.

I will never forget the day I laid eyes on him. It was a chilly mid-October day when I pulled up and saw a tall sorrel paint horse standing with his head held high looking my way. As I stepped from my truck, a slim cowboy with welcoming eyes and a broad smile looking close to my dad's age greeted me.

"You must be Ddee," he said. "Terry told me you were coming."

As he gestured toward the horse in the pen, he said, "I just call him Spot. Did you bring your saddle? Take him for a ride if you want. I left a bridle on the post."

Fifteen minutes later I had the tall, thin and sort of mangy-looking horse saddled. As I rode him, I just had a feeling that this horse had some potential and



heart. An hour later, I wrote a \$1,500 check for this horse and headed down the road. I could not wait for my daughter, Melissa, to meet this horse. Little did I know as I drove away how the horse in my borrowed trailer would impact our lives.

Melissa, being a typical 10-year-old girl, fell in love with Spot. Do not start picturing a fairy tale of nothing but blue skies and green pastures because this big

painted horse could be a storm just waiting to happen. He would try to throw Melissa. When I got on him to "tune him" up for his actions, he would try to throw me as well. Trust me, Spot was not the only name he was called. Week after week, I rode this horse and worked him on the barrels. He was one of the roughest riding horses I had ever ridden. Trying to post on this horse was almost impossible, but **See HORSE page 22**

BY DDEE HAYNES

PHOTO DETAILS

Spot was purchased by Ddee Haynes 28 years ago for her daughter, Melissa. (Courtesy of Ddee Haynes)

once you got him into a lope, he was as smooth as a Cadillac.

Eventually, a complete transformation started to show. He settled down and started to really work. I stepped off him, and he became Melissa's No. 1 mount. We boarded Spot at a place that had once been a race horse training facility, and it was there that we learned Spot's true love—running. He literally loved to run around the track like a true race horse. He lived for the words, "Let him run." I can honestly say running that track is where he and Melissa bonded.

The first competition Melissa and Spot went to was a play day in Corn, Okla. Melissa was so nervous. I told her I entered her in barrel racing, poles and flag race.

"I don't know how to run poles, Mom," she protested.

Being the kind and supportive mother, I simply said, "I guess you better watch the other kids then."

From that day on, Melissa was hooked. She won the barrels and placed in the other events. Pretty soon, we had a used two-horse bumper-pull trailer that was more primer than paint heading up and down the road to junior rodeos.

Throughout the next 12 years, Melissa and Spot became one of the most consistent teams to beat. They were not always the No. 1 team, but they were in the money nine out of 10 runs. In 2005, Melissa and Spot, along with another good horse named Bob, brought home an All-Around Saddle.

This team went from junior rodeos, to high school rodeos for a couple of years then onto college rodeos. Spot also picked up "goat tying" along the way. Spot's one bad habit when tying goats was as soon as Melissa stepped off him, he would run as fast as he could around the arena bucking and rearing like a bronc.

Once, after giving Melissa's



Spot was chosen by Professional Choice as the February 2014 Equine Athlete. He was highlighted in the NHSRA Times magazine. (Courtesy of Ddee Haynes)

time, the announcer gave Spot a 77 in the bronc riding. Usually, he would stop after a few laps until one college rodeo when he was feeling extremely good and decided to embarrass Melissa with his antics. Instead of stopping and coming to her after a few laps as usual, he kicked it into high gear and kept it up so long the announcer started playing cartoon music to the amusement of everyone except his rider.

Later that day, she called and said, "You are not going to believe what your horse did!"

Spot never really liked men much. He tolerated my husband, Mitchell, because he fed him. But men in general were not his cup of tea, and he was quick to try and get rid of them. A young experienced cowboy who worked for my husband asked to borrow Spot one weekend to work cattle. We told him that's fine and just come pick

him up. When the trailer pulled into the drive to bring Spot home a few days later, we were informed Spot tried to buck him off most of the weekend and was successful a couple of times. I can honestly say that big painted horse gave anything 100 percent, good, bad or otherwise.

After Melissa graduated college, we retired Spot for a few years with the exception of an occasional barrel race. We rode him a few times a month just to keep him in shape. We would put kids on to lead around or ride with them, but he became a different horse when the arena gates opened. It was game on. He would prance, dance and rear off the ground just slightly and occasionally act like he was not going in. I am not sure how many times I had to yell across the arena at him or walk towards him. Once he heard or saw me, he knew it

was time to stop acting silly and get in the gate.

Two years after Spot's first retirement, we decided it was time for him to come back out for our younger daughter, Hattie. Hattie, who had just turned seven, had been competing on a horse named Uno. Uno was the perfect kid horse, easy to ride but not a complete gentleman. He would occasionally buck just enough to wake the kid up. Uno was a confidence builder but he just did not have the heart or speed needed to win.

Hattie, being the competitive kid she is, wanted to win so the big man was brought back out. Spot became the backup barrel horse and the No. 1 pole pony. Throughout the next five years, this new team of Spot and Hattie missed winning the pole bending saddle by one point, were the av-

See SPOT page 23

Spot

erage winners and runner up two years in a row and almost always were in the top four at every rodeo. With his help, Hattie won her first All-Around saddle.

In 2013, we hauled Spot to the Better Barrel Races (BBR) in Oklahoma City. This race is a three-day qualifying race where literally thousands of top notch barrel racers come from all over the United States to compete. Spot was entered in the junior division. Let me tell you that big guy made a hand and once again brought home some money. I could almost guarantee he was one of the oldest, if not the oldest, horse to compete that weekend.

In January 2014, I received a call from Professional Choice informing me Spot had been chosen as the Equine Athlete for the month of February. What an honor it was to see Spot highlighted in the NHSRA Times magazine.

The summer of 2015 was the last year for Spot to run before his second retirement. We began to notice his times were a little slower, and it was necessary to give him medicine after a rodeo to prevent him from being sore at the end of the day. The decision was made to retire him again when the day before, he tripped and almost went down. It was a hard, yet easy, decision. We loved that horse enough to not want him to live in pain for the rest of his life because of a selfish need to win.

Our friend, Monty was the rodeo announcer at the last rodeo we entered him in. He gave Spot a wonderful commentary as he and Hattie made their last ever pole run. I admit I cried as I watched his last performance. Throughout the day, I had several people comment how they loved watching Spot run and never realized he was that old. Even one person questioned me on his age.

A couple of months down the road, we decided to take him to a barrel race that was close, and we did not want to run the new horse three times over the next two days as we had a rodeo that weekend. That big guy came out and made a hand with just a few holes out of the money.

Less than a month later, I was gathering horses to leave for a rodeo when I noticed Spot rolling.

I did not think much about it. Spot had always been a roller. When I came around the barn the second time, I saw he moved further up the pasture and was rolling again. My heart dropped as I grabbed a halter and ran. When I reached him, he jumped up and took off. I knew then he was trying to colic because he never ran from me when I wanted to catch him. When I finally caught him, I could tell by the pain on his face it was not good. Tearfully, I called Mitchell and told him Spot was trying to colic and to get out here now. Mitchell gave him medicine as I kept Spot walking in an effort to keep him from lying down and rolling again.

We could not load Spot in the trailer to take him to a veterinarian because he would try to lie down whenever we would stop walking. I called every veterinarian within a 100-mile radius until I finally got one to come out. After examining him, the veterinarian gave us the news no horse owner wants to hear. His gut was twisted and surgery was not a real option with his age.

I can honestly say this was one of the saddest days of my life for my two daughters and myself. We had to say goodbye. Melissa, who lived too far away to come home, was heartbroken when I called. I told Hattie to tell Spot goodbye then go in the house. The image of her hugging his neck and cry-

ing will forever be etched in my memory.


As I lead him to the back of the pasture, my heart broke in half. I honestly believe Spot knew it was his time when I took off his halter and he lay down peacefully. As I stroked his head and held him he took his last breath, I thanked God for allowing my family to have been part of such a majestic animal's life.

This horse was not just a horse. He was the horse who carried my daughters—my most precious God given possessions. He loved those girls and me, and he showed his love each time he was saddled and entered the arena. He gave 110 percent to those girls every run. He was the horse we all three shared our troubles with, the first horse I trusted enough to set my young-

est daughter on at the age of six months and then again 12 years later with my grandson.

Spot gave my girls the confidence to become better riders and winners. He was our funny watermelon eating, snack stealing and open the gate and run through the yard while pretending to want us to catch him horse. Spot was the most solid, big-hearted and loving horse God could have ever blessed our family with. The hole he left will never be filled. It is still hard to look out and realize after almost 18 years of seeing his soulful eyes watching me when I walked outside that he is no longer here.

So the next time someone tells you it is just a horse, tell them about my Spot.

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History of the Horseshoe: Part 2

With the saying, “Don’t reinvent the wheel,” Lee Liles, owner of the National Museum of Horse Shoeing Tools and Hall of Honor said the same could be said about the horseshoe.

“Nothing is really new in a horseshoe,” he explained. “It just seems to be a revolving circle.”

While the horseshoe has not changed, Liles said the title of the horseshoe specialist has. At some point over time, the horseshoer took on the name “farrier,” he added.

Certification

Horseshoers in the late 19th century needed to have a certificate issued by the Master Horseshoers National Protective Association. Liles said the association was like a union. If someone was caught without being a licensed member, they could be fined \$400.

The color of the certificates were different each year, making the certificates easy to identify when entering the blacksmith’s shop, where most shoeing was done.

Other countries like Canada and Germany also required certification. Horseshoers in London in 1909 needed to carry a certificate with them at all times. The certificate was signed by the queen, Liles explained.

Mid-Century Trends

In the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, all horses had heel caulks, a pointed extension, on their horseshoes to promote traction.

“I can remember back in the 1960s we had a shoe we called ‘The Cowboy Shoe,’” he added. The Cowboy Shoe was beveled out on the inside to help shed dirt. Liles said a good cow pony on rough terrain requires a tougher shoe.

“If it weren’t for a horseshoer



moving up [in rough country] there would never have been good cattle country,” he said. “He kept the horses sound from being on the rocks.”

He remembered when owners could get away with just trimming their ranch horses in the 1960s.

“Getting into the 1970s, you had to put shoes on ranch horses,” Liles added. “Their feet weren’t as strong because the breeding changed their feet a lot.”

The Horse

“The life of a horseshoer is very short,” Liles explained, “especially this day and time more so than the old days.”

To give a time-life-history of the horse, 24 million horses were in the United States in 1915. By 1950, they were down to two million. Farmers began working with

tractors and the workhorse phased out, he added. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, horses became luxury items, Liles explained. Owners used horses more on ranches and started horse shows and events.

“In 1965, there was a shortage of horseshoers because most were cavalry horseshoers or taught by somebody who was in the cavalry,” he added.

Horseshoers who were cavalry retired by the early 1960s, and there was a need for horseshoeing schools.

Z-Bar Shoe

“Our shoe industry has changed dramatically since 1979,” Liles explained. “We’ve got so many good horseshoes on the market today that you hardly need a forge to heat them up to shape them.”

See **HORSESHOE** page 25



BY LACI JONES

editor@okfronline.com

PHOTO DETAILS

This historical photo shows men shoeing an oxen in an oxen chute. (Courtesy photo)

Horseshoe

Liles said the industry now has front and rear in the patterns, which has changed horseshoeing. The Z-Bar shoe may have been patented in 1900 in New Orleans, but the shoe has become more popular in recent years. "It's popular in our horseshoeing contests," Liles explained.

The Z-Bar shoe is used on horses that have a bad quarter crack, he added. The shoe relieves the pressure and lets the swelling go down, and the bar distributes the weight in the foot. This is the only patent I ever seen south of the Mason-Dixon Line," he added.

Current Trends

"Just in the last few years, we're seeing horseshoes with multiple nail holes," Liles added. "That is more than we've ever had."

For 200 years in the United States, horseshoes have always had eight nail holes in the shoe. Now, 10 to 16 nail holes are in a shoe. "That's a dramatic change," Liles explained. "It gives [farriers] more of an option to where they can rotate the nails around if the foot gets bad, so it's not a bad deal."

Shoeing horses on the front end and not the back end is trending in the show horse industry, he explained. When asked why this is trending, Liles said one person started winning with this type of shoeing, and everybody thought it would help them win.

"It's not always necessary to shoe the back end of a horse," he said. "Most of the weight on a horse is carried from the front end with the weight of the horse's neck and the cowboy."

Marvin Beeman, DVM and educator for the American Colt Horse Association, told Liles how a horse farrier shoes a ranch horse depends on the biographical areas in which they live in.

"If you change your horse from



The color of the certificates were different each year, making them easy to identify. (Photo by Laci Jones)

one environment to another environment, it will actually change the growth pattern of the horse's foot and start a groove around his foot," Liles explained. "When you change that horse's environment, the horseshoer can actually read it in his foot."

"That's hard for a lot of people to imagine, but when you bring a horse from the east coast to the west coast, that's a dramatic change for that horse."

Different Materials

Liles said using different materials is a current trend among horse farriers. In the early days of horseshoeing, farriers used wrought iron. Today, most horseshoes are made using plain steel as well as tungsten. However, the show horse industry uses a lot of aluminum and titanium.

"A pair of heavy walking horse shoes can cost \$5,000," Liles explained, "but it's made out of tungsten."



The National Museum of Horse Shoeing Tools and Hall of Honor is located north of Sulphur, Okla. (Photo by Laci Jones)


Plastic and rubber shoes have also become popular in recent years. Amish horses used on roads have horseshoes made of Borium.

Borium is a texture that keeps the shoe from wearing out, but it can also have a negative impact on the road.

"If you drive around in Amish or Mennonite country and see a dip in the road, it's from a horse going down the road," Liles explained. "A lot of states like Pennsylvania and Ohio have funded projects trying to come up with a traction device horseshoe that will not hurt their asphalt and highways as bad."

Glue-on shoes have come along after he was an active horse farrier. The dairy industry uses the glue-on shoes more than anybody, he added.

Dairy cattle are on water and concrete, and they can have a tremendous problem with foot rot. Liles said proper nutrition can help combat this disease.

To learn more about the history of the horseshoe, visit www.horseshoeingmuseum.com. 

LACEY'S PANTRY

By Lacey Newlin



Hawaiian Chicken Kabobs

Serves: 8-10

Time: 45 minutes

1 box BBQ Sauce & Dry Rub,
Sweet Honey
1³/₄ cup pineapple juice, divided
4 large boneless skinless chicken
breasts
1 cup mushrooms, halved
1 red bell pepper
1 orange bell pepper
1 cup diced pineapple
1 green bell pepper
1 purple onion

Directions

Combine ³/₄ cup pineapple juice and one pouch BBQ Sauce & Dry Rub. Set aside.

Cut chicken into bite sized pieces. In a large zipper bag, combine one cup pineapple juice and one pouch BBQ Sauce & Dry Rub and chicken.

Marinate for 30 minutes. Pre-heat grill to medium high. Thread chicken and vegetables onto skewers and brush with BBQ Sauce. Grill 12 to 16 minutes or until cooked through.

Hawaiian Beef Kabobs

Serves: 6-10

Time: 45 minutes

6 ounces pineapple juice
1/4 cup low sodium soy sauce
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
1/4 cup light brown sugar
1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
1 tablespoon unsulfured molasses
2 teaspoons minced ginger
2 teaspoons minced garlic
1¹/₂ pounds beef sirloin tip, cut into 1-inch pieces
1 red pepper, cut into 1-inch



pieces
Small sack of yellow baby potatoes
1/4 red onion, cut into 1-inch pieces
1 zucchini, cut into 1/4 - 1/2-inch thick coins
extra cooking oil for preparing grill grates

Directions

Soak 12 wood skewers in water for at least 30 minutes if they are wooden. In a medium bowl or resealable container combine marinade ingredients. Whisk until well combined. Reserve one cup of marinade. Add beef to remaining marinade in bowl. Toss to coat.

Cover and marinate at room temperature for 30 minutes. If marinating longer be sure to refrigerate.

Meanwhile, add reserved one cup marinade to a small saucepan and cook on medium high, stirring occasionally, until reduced by half (This is optional, but I love the thick coating of sauce on the beef).

Prep pineapple and veggies. Preheat grill to high.

Layer beef and veggies on skewers. Use 2 skewers about 1/4-inch apart for each kabob. I start the kabob and end the kabob with beef. But you can do it any

way you like.

Layer them so the ingredients are touching but not smashed together. Divide the ingredients out over 6 skewers.

Wad paper towels into a ball and hold with tongs. Dip into a bowl of cooking oil. Rub paper towel over the hot grill grates to thoroughly coat them.

Brush with reserved marinade when you place them on the grill and each time you turn the kabobs.

Grill kabobs for two to three minutes per side until golden brown and cooked through. Remove from grill and serve.

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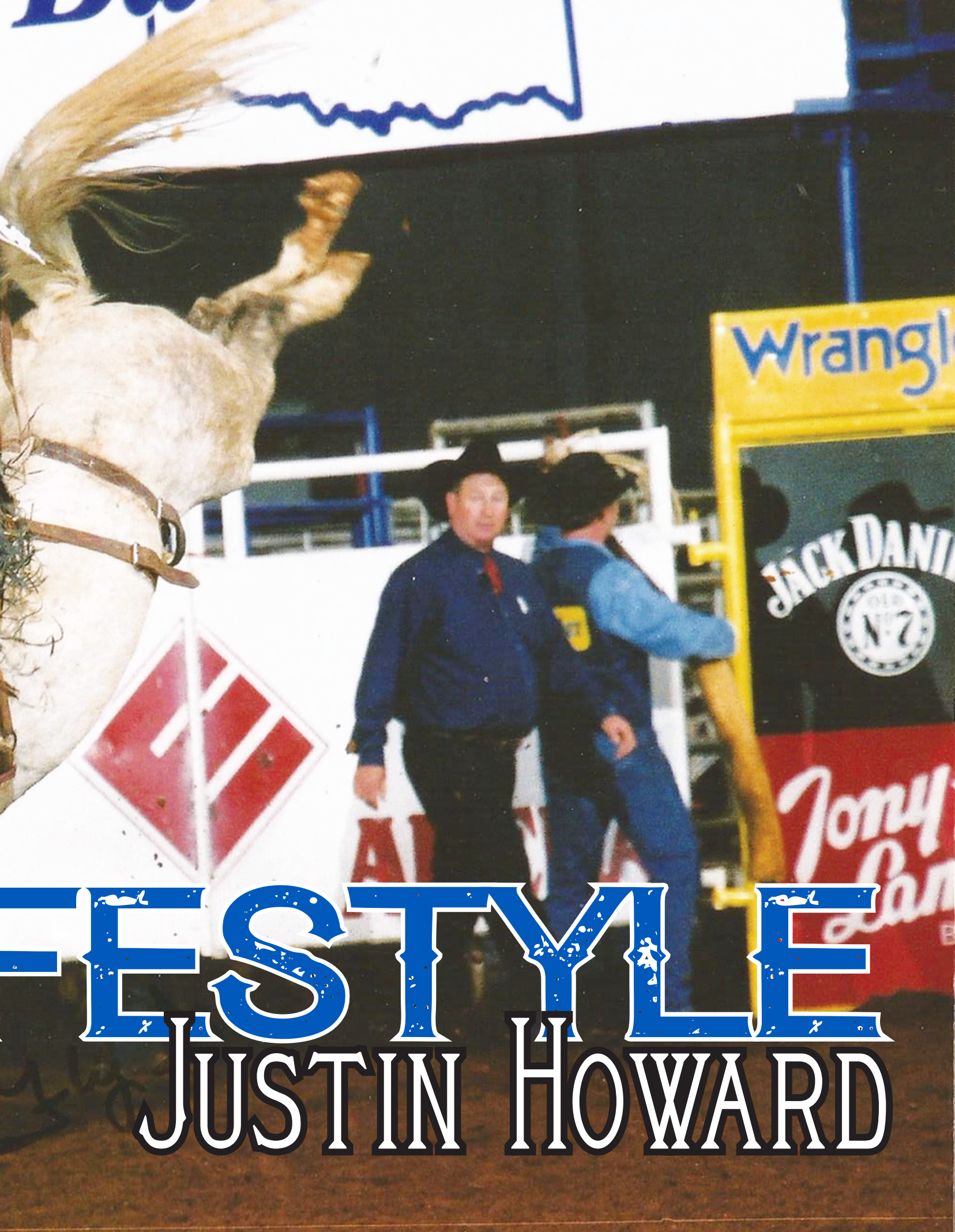


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THE LIFE



FESTYLE

JUSTIN HOWARD

THE LIFESTYLE

JUSTIN HOWARD

Wildfires spread across northwestern Oklahoma, taking more than 70,000 acres of precious rangeland this spring. As Justin Howard drove around his property in Woodward, Okla., he said the fire was bittersweet.

"It has certainly changed the scenery as a grass producer," he explained. "It was beneficial because it burned cedar trees, but from the aesthetics of it and from a hunting standpoint, it hurt it and the beauty of the land."

The former professional bronc rider said the fire burned 1,200 acres of grass on the north and east side of his property.

One of his rent houses burned down, as well as his shop, and his house suffered from water damage from fire prevention methods. Today, Howard Ranch is rebuilding.

"My great-great-grandfather showed up here in 1904," Howard explained. "The story goes he had \$20, a wagon, some mules and a wife."

While he does not know where his great-great-grandfather originated, Howard knows he came from Missouri to stake his claim on a quarter section of land in Oklahoma. His ancestor had five children and made his money by training mules.

"Some time later, they started building highways," he added. "Highway 64 in Woodward is the highway I have heard the most stories about."

By this time, Howard's great-great-grandfather had hundreds of mules. He leased his mules to the state or to a construction company, as a government-funded deal, to build the highways. During the Great Depression and the

Dust Bowl, many homesteaders sold their property and left the Midwest. Howard's great-great-grandfather purchased their land.

"If you look back in the deeds, he didn't give much money for a lot of the land," Howard added. "He may have traded some mules and a wagon or a little bit of cash."

His great-great-grandfather added to his land, having 30,000 acres at the time of his death. Like some of his ancestors, Howard was born in Woodward.

His mother is a school teacher, and he transferred schools several times after his parents divorced. By seventh grade, he and his mom moved to Lacey, Okla., from Dover, Okla. He attended Hennessey Public Schools to wrestle and play football.

His father's family farmed wheat and raised cattle, but the main business was training horses.

"I spent quite a bit of time over there with my grandparents," Howard added. "I would spend school breaks and weekends there."

When asked how his 20-year career in rodeo began, he said he did not know any different. Spending time at the family farm set the foundation for his rodeo career. Howard said his father and grandfather rodeoed, and his mother ran barrels.

He attended play days and horse shows and later competed in rodeos. He started riding and roping calves, but his favorite event was saddle bronc riding.

Howard attended the Sankey Rodeo School in Abbyville, Kan., in 1986 at 16 years old. The riding coaches told Howard in the other students they could ride as many

horses as they wanted to get on.

The school taught students how to land properly, but Howard grew up riding colts and getting bucked off. He said he knew how to land on his feet or at least his hands and knees.

The students who have not been bucked off, often land on their head or back—knocking the wind out of them. The coaches also said it would take getting on about 250 head of bucking horses to learn how to ride properly.

Howard went to the school to learn how to ride horses, and he intended to have it figured out by the following week. He took advantage of the opportunity to ride as many horses as possible. Howard said other students were finished after riding three horses, but he thought he needed to get on 250 bucking horses by the following week.

"It was getting pretty late that first night," Howard chuckled, "and they finally told me, 'I know we told you that you could get on as many as you wanted, but we need to get back and watch videos and eat supper.'"

Howard rode 17 horses in two and a half days. He said he could ride the horses, but his biggest problem was his technique.

"I was pulling on my rein," he explained. "I wasn't setting my feet because I was used to riding colts."

He would pull their head up and just ride them. Howard said it took him some time to convince himself to start lifting on the reins and his feet. Once his technique was established, he quit roping calves.

Howard said saddle bronc riding became an addiction, but there was a learning curve. He gradu-

ated high school and attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Okla., with a rodeo scholarship.

He purchased his Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) permit in 1988. The following year or two, Howard left Oklahoma for Cody, Wyo., with \$800 in his pocket for the summer. He set up his \$800 Lincoln to live in, but he won \$1,200 on the way.

An evening rodeo took place each night, and a PRCA-sanctioned two-day rodeo took place once a week. He honed his skills in Wyoming, and he placed first or second consistently.

"It doesn't seem like much money," he added, "but whenever you're living in your car and doing what you love to do, it doesn't take much money to live."

Rodeos taught him how to survive with little money, but he had odd jobs during the summer. He said he was living the dream along with several other young men. He graduated college with a bachelor's degree in recreational leadership and mathematics in 1995.

"I had no idea what I wanted to do for a living, so I tried bucking horses," he explained. "I only knew what I didn't want to do and that was doctor cattle or ride horses."

During his final year of college in February 1995, he tore his knee up in Bismarck, N.D.

"I was getting set up to go rodeo," he explained, "I sent all of my horses home and pretty much quit training horses. There I was crippled with no job."

Once he was finally able to move around, he started framing

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THE LIFESTYLE

JUSTIN HOWARD

Continued from page 30

houses for his uncle's father-in-law. After framing three houses for him, he framed his first house on his own in South Carolina. While he was there, he entered his first rodeos in Florida since his knee injury. He did well enough to convince him to quit his job to focus on bronc riding.

"It was kind of hit and miss," he explained. "I would go hard for a little bit, and then I would have to go home and work. It seemed like the more work I had, the better I would ride."

Whenever he needed to be traveling to rodeos, it was hard to get away because he was tied down to a job.

He moved back to Oklahoma in 1997, and he began working for Howard Ranch Trust. His grandfather died the same year, and Howard inherited part of the ranch.

Howard developed a management plan to get the ranch out of debt, maintain the cow numbers and start expanding. However, he needed to make some money to fund his plan. He started a construction business with his cousin in Stillwater, Okla., while maintaining his home in Woodward.

At the same time, he competed in the Texas Cowboy Rodeo Association rodeos. He said being on the road was a "tremendous experience." Since, he has not found anything better than getting on a good bucking horse.

"A couple of houses had basements where a bunch of us cowboys would stay," Howard explained. "They just opened up their houses to come and go as you want."

Howard quit riding broncs professionally in 2007, but it was

not planned. He noticed a change while traveling to a rodeo in Abbyville, Kan.

"On most of my way up there, I wasn't craving it," Howard explained. "I noticed I hadn't in a while, but I always said there's nothing better than getting rounds."

The bronc rider decided to quit riding until he got the craving again. By that point, he said he was out of the habit. Howard was always busy and time passed him by. "As it turned out, I just quit going," Howard said. "I never went back."

Howard said it is ironic that he learned to ride broncs in Abbyville, Kan., and his final ride was in the same town. He tried not taking all of the memories for granted, but he said he missed being around friends and the camaraderie. While he missed certain aspects of bronc riding, he said tripping steers in the last four years has filled part of the void. Howard also sometimes helps local kids pursue their dreams in the rodeo industry.

"Being known as a bronc rider creates notoriety in the community," he explained. "Anytime somebody wants to learn to ride, even if they want to ride bulls, people will call me."

He still has two practice horses, and Howard will put his saddle on the spur board and assess their abilities.

Howard said he gets to relive his rodeo experience by showing kids how to ride properly. He always tells the kids that riding broncs is 90 percent mental, he added.

"If you watch the NFR, you'll see guys get bucked off three, four or five head in a row," he said.

"You know they're elite bronc riders and typically that wouldn't happen. That shows just how mental it is."

He said riders need to figure out the mental aspect of the game and to train themselves to not think about getting paid or hurt. As a bronc rider, Howard said it seems like he was always hurt.

Howard remembered having a horse flip on him when he was 30 years old. The horse smashed his hip and he was black and blue from his shoulder blades down to the back of his knees. Howard went to the doctor in Pawnee, Okla., to see if anything could be done to ease the pain.

The doctor said Howard needed to rest, but he thought he had a good shot in two upcoming rodeos in Longford, Kan., and Hastings, Neb. The doctor did not agree, he added.

"The beginning of rodeo sports medicine was whenever they would have trailers at rodeos," Howard explained. "They were beneficial to the cowboy."

While on the road, Howard would call a sports medicine doctor if he needed to treat a medical issue to get himself through to the next ride. Howard remembered self-treating cracked wrists, ribs and more. He admitted he did not feel the pain initially because of the adrenaline rush.

"The hardest thing about being injured is getting off a bucking horse and then sitting in a car," Howard explained. "That's what creates the soreness and prolongs the injuries."

Looking back, he said being a bronc rider does not seem smart, but it was just the way of life. He said his plan in life was more about what he did not want to

do rather than what he wanted to do. While he did not want to ride colts or doctor cattle at one point in time, his aspirations have changed.

Howard has added the guest ranch and hunting to the list of enterprises at Howard Ranch. Howard said he turned his hobby of hunting into a business in the mid-2000s.

Hunting enthusiasts come to the ranch to stay in a rustic cabin and hunt for deer, quail, turkey and duck.

The guest ranch started with a few friends wanting to come out to the ranch. The guest ranch gave him the opportunity to educate visitors on the many aspects of ranching.

As for the future, Howard talks with his neighbor and business partner, Leroy Bookstore, about expanding the ranch.

"It all goes back to that saying, 'I don't want to own all of the land in the world, but I just want to own what borders me,'" Howard quoted.

Howard has about 3,800 acres of land and close to 12,000 combined with Bookstore. He has 150 head of cattle and plants wheat and rye.

His ultimate goal is to be prepared for any opportunity that presents itself and hopes his family will want to carry on what he built.


"I thank God every day whenever I see different things," Howard explained. "Whenever you're working with kids, gathering at daylight and see the sunrise, whenever you're planting and see the sunset or whenever you're calving and see the little babies. It's all seasonal, but it's fulfilling." 



PHOTO DETAILS

(Clockwise) Justin Howard began bronc riding in 1986; this photo shows him at the TCRA Finals in Amarillo, Texas in 2003. Howard's father (right) pictured with Howard's great grandfather. Howard rides a bronc at a rodeo in Vernon, Texas in May 1994. Howard pictured working cattle at the guest ranch. Howard quit riding broncs professionally in 2007. (Courtesy of Justin Howard)



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First Impressions by *Sara Honegger*

Trending Color

I have always been attracted to the color—olive green. Besides cheetah print, I consider it to be a main staple neutral in my own closet, and it always seems to give any look a sense of understated class and style. Recently I have been noticing more pieces are being produced in the color, and it seems to be popping up every time I am out shopping.

It made me think about how the color could impact other wardrobes, not only mine. It can complement any skin tone and make eye colors pop against its rich color. It also is an easy color to layer with as it pairs well with neutrals, patterns and brighter colors. These pieces can also transition into the fall and winter months, which your wallet will surely enjoy.

I love having a color that can give me confidence every time I put it on, and I think this color could have that affect for many people. Here are some ways to put some green into your closet, and save some green when the season changes. 



Look Out here comes the next generation **PART 4**

Like most young girls, Charly and Chaney Sellers are glad school is out for the summer.

They are enjoying swimming in their backyard pool, playing on their swing set, climbing to their tree house, shooting snakes in the pond with their BB guns, playing with their Great Pyrenees named Sandy, driving the gator and entertaining their little brother.

They have invented a new game: frog o'clock. Late in the evening they catch all the frogs they can (and there are a multitude this year), put them in a bucket and release them later.

The daughters of Jay and Christy Sellers, are both students at Waurika Elementary, where they made straight 'A's, and are on the honor roll. Charly received a medal for winning second place in the elementary spelling bee this year.

They play coach pitch—Mom is their coach—for the Eagles. They are active in 4-H Clover Buds and at the United Methodist Church.

Unlike many other young girls, however, these two are experienced horsewomen and ride almost every day.

They are excited about the upcoming events in the Mid-South Youth Cowboy Rodeo Association (MRCA).

Eight-year-old Charly has light red hair and a sprinkling of freckles and will be in third grade this fall. She runs barrels and poles and ties goats.

"I like barrels best because I can go faster than any other event," she said.

In 2015, her first year in MRCA,

she made the finals by being in the top 15 in all three events. She won her first buckle there.

She has a new sorrel horse, Turbo, that she just recently began riding. Before that, she and her sister both rode Marvin, their dad's tripping horse.

"When I grow up I want to be a horse trainer because I love to ride," Charly explained.

Fallon Taylor is Charly's idol. Charly said she likes the way Taylor runs barrels.

"Charly rides every day after school," Sellers said. "She keeps our horses legged up and does everything right. She even figures how to get on bareback."

The eight-year-old also likes to play with her friends Bently, Josey, Chazli and Crosby at the rodeos.

Blonde-haired Chaney, who is six, will be in first grade this fall. She, too, runs barrels and poles and ties goats. She likes the goat tying best.

"I like petting the goats and pulling their tails," she giggled.

She qualified for the 2015 MRCA finals, her first year to compete, in all three events by being in the top 15 and won a buckle.

She won another buckle in the mutton bustin' at the WRCA rodeo at Coyote Hills.

She has ridden Marvin the last two years, having moved up from her miniature pony, Swiper. At a recent costume event at Morgan's Arena in Velma, she dressed as Tonto, the way Johnny Depp portrayed him in *The Lone Ranger* movie.

"I like Fallon Taylor," Chaney said. I like her helmet and shirts. I



do have a shirt kind of like hers."

According to Christy, both girls now have helmets that they wear most of the time, but are just getting used to.

"I want to be a veterinarian," Chaney said. "I like my dog so much, but I want to work on all kinds of animals."

Both girls give their dad, Jay, much credit for helping them.

"Dad helps me in the alley and saddles my horse," Charly said.

Dad taught Chaney how to ride, and he lets the girls ride his tripping horse, Chaney added.

Jay is a steer roper and a member. See **SELLERS** page 37



BY JUDY WADE

PHOTO DETAILS

Chaney Sellers dressed like Tonto. (Photo by Firebrand 405 Photography)

Sellers



(Left to right) Charly competes at an MRCA event. Chaney and Marvin make a barrel run. (Photos by Pamela)

ber of PRCA. He recently made the short round at the Windy Ryon Memorial Roping in Saginaw, Texas, and placed at the Ben Johnson Memorial Roping in Pawhuska.

He won the Prairie Circuit Finals average in 2003 and 2011 and was the year-end winner in 2003. He learned from the best, his uncle Buster Record, PRCA Champion steer roper and many times National Steer Roping Finals qualifier. Jay lived with Buster and wife, Jane after he lost his father.

"I don't go as much anymore since the girls have started competing," he said.

He is a salesman for off-road tires for heavy equipment.

"Mom watches us and videos us and rides our horses in the morning when we are in school," both girls continued.

Christy is an advertising executive for "OKFR" magazine. She is also a stay-at-home mom, taking care of four-year-old son Stony, who is undecided about rodeoing

at this point.


"I ran barrels as an amateur, but now I am the arena help," she laughed.

The girls love to go play at Big Jim and Nene's (Christy's parents Jim and Connie Simmons) across the street and Nana's (Jay's mom) in Tulsa.

They also love going to G Maw Bussey's -Buster and Jane Record's- in Buffalo, Okla., where there are always horses to ride.

Right now, Chaney is sitting seventh in barrels, eighth in poles and sixth in goats, so her chances of qualifying for the 2016 MRCA are looking good.

Charly had to move up an age group this year and is finding the competition tougher, being the youngest in that group. She is currently 16th in barrels, 13th in poles and 22nd in goats, but she has a good chance of moving into the top 15.

They will compete at the MRCA finals at the Stephens County Fairgrounds on Labor Day weekend. 

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Krystal Kiss

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Detroit might be “The Motor City,” but Krystal Kiss pointed the motor of a pink 1996 Chevy S10 a different direction when she was 19 years old. She pointed it straight to Oklahoma.

Growing up in Lincoln Park, Mich., a city outside Detroit, she jokes that she headed out for the spur of the moment 17-hour drive with nothing short of a bad idea. What an adventure she was in for.

“I gave myself four days to say goodbye, pack and pick up my last check from the kiosk job I was working at the mall,” she explained. “I really had no idea what I was doing, but I knew I was headed to Oklahoma and was going to stay with my best friend until I got on my feet. It turns out that was the best (even though crazy) move I could have ever made for myself.

“Twelve years later I have settled down with the love of my life, have two beautiful boys (ages nine and six), work part time for a tornado shelter company during season, and then I also do this crazy radio thing. Radio has always been something I was very interested in from early on, but everybody kept telling me how impossible of a career it is to even get your foot in the door, so of course I stayed away, until two years ago that is.”

A friend of Kiss’s, who had his own internet radio station, approached her two years ago to do some advertising sales for him. She was a country music fan and the one thing that really bothered her was there was no country on that station. She kept after him, hounding or persisting, whichever



you want to call it, and the rest kind of fell into place.

“I kept telling him what he was missing and he finally said, ‘If you want country on this station, then you do the show!’ Well, I thought about it for a week and thought, ‘This is my chance.’”

After working with that station for about eight months, Kiss started at American Broadcasting School in OKC and left the station.

“I couldn’t get enough of being on the air, so I decided to create

‘The Red Dirt Kraze’ as a hobby/ learning experience while making my way through school,” Kiss explained. “Graduation came and went before I knew it, and RDK was actually making a name for itself. Making the decision to continue with the show rather than going to work for a station was a hard one, but I love working with the independent artists and giving them a platform to share their music with the world.”

Independent artists far and wide
See KRYSTAL page 39

**BY DILLON
STEEN**

PHOTO DETAILS

Krystal Kiss (right) photographed with her husband and two children. (Courtesy of Krystal Kiss)

Krystal

are very happy that Kiss stuck to her guns and then branched out on her own. With Kiss coming from a city known for Motown, among other things, it is uplifting to know that country music goes deep into her soul.

If you ask her some legendary performers that are her favorites she does not name Diana Ross, Smokey Robinson and those types of artists. She names Hank Williams, Jr., Lynyrd Skynyrd, Garth Brooks, Merle Haggard (whom she was lucky enough to see perform last year) and Alabama. Who would have thought "Sweet Potato Pie, and I Shut My Mouth" would be a soundtrack for a city girl's childhood? She has yet to see Hank Jr. in concert, but maybe that will change soon.

Obviously, working with independent and up and coming artists is close to her heart. She never lets herself forget that everybody deserves to be given a chance to be heard.

"Before doing radio, I never realized the talent that was out there," Kiss said. "Of course I had heard great artists here and there, but the amount that has yet to be discovered still blows my mind every time I sit down to record the show."

She herself even has eclectic tastes in music, but I asked her who favorite five up and coming performers were right now.

"If I can only choose five right now, I would have to go with Abbi Walker, The Mills Band, Abraham Weaver, Smoke Wagon and Jerrett Zoch & The OSR Band," she replied.

"Even though I have so many others, these are the ones that I find myself singing the loudest to at the moment."

As a married woman with children and so much going for, and around, her, she makes sure to always keep one thing at the top of the most important list—God.

"Music consumes a lot of my life with the radio show, of course," Kiss added, "but it's on all the time whether in my car, cleaning my house, or hanging out on the deck. Here recently though, my family and I have made our way back into church and it has brought the passion back for trying to get closer to God."

Personally, she is molding into a Godlier woman with a supportive husband and great children who keep her plenty busy also. Kiss loves watching her kids read their Bibles and getting excited to pray before meals as well as going to church and Bible study.

"As a matter of fact, we were having a rough time the other day and my oldest son stopped me and asked if we could just stop and pray about it," she added. "It was a great feeling and talk about getting stopped in your tracks."

Kiss recently added backyard chickens and gardening to her list of hobbies.

"I know I live in town but when they say 'Chicken Therapy,' it's a real thing," she explained. "Not to mention, we are going to be getting lots of fresh eggs soon. What's better than being able to feed your family fresh and right from the land?"

The Kraze is growing, and her desire to keep it growing and build bigger and bigger platforms for the up and coming artists keeps growing also. There is a ton of hard work ahead of her just to get The Kraze to pay for itself and then grow.

One day she would like to see more of the world, but right now those plans wait until the kids get a little older. Her dreams and passions are never on hold though, and each morning as she does her "chicken therapy," her mind is turning with more and more ideas.


None of us know what the future might bring, we just work




Krystal Kiss (left) photographed with Brandon Jenkins. (Courtesy of Krystal Kiss)

every day trying to do our best. However, I believe one day I will get a postcard from Kiss from some beach in Maui or someplace, and it will say, "Hey, Dillon, just saying hi, and hope you are

keeping God and music front and center."

I will be, as I know she will be. Now let's get some sweet potato pie and tune into The Kraze at www.thekrazenation.com. 



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Joanne's Day Trips

The Mix Marketplace and Tea Room

I recently went on a shop hop road trip with a friend visiting quilt shops around Oklahoma. On our first foray, we stopped for lunch at the Mix Marketplace and Tea Room in Duncan, Okla.

The Mix Marketplace and Tearoom got its start in 1989. Its original owners were Bill and Bobby High. In 2010, the Bishop family bought the market place and tea room and has been managing it since.

One of the most interesting aspects of this tea room was that it is located in the middle of an antique market. When we first entered the building we were surrounded by antiques, but as we looked around the market, we spotted the dining area, straight to the back of the mall.

As we approached the dining area, we found two charming garden benches flanking each side of the entrance. At first I thought they were just cute props, but I think they may actually be a waiting area. The day we were there, we were lucky enough to get there before the crowd hit.

Before we were served our lunch, the place suddenly filled up. There were people from businesses, shoppers with children and even customers in nurses' scrubs suddenly filling up the seating. The tea room must be a local favorite. I did not count the tables or seating but would estimate that the tea room could seat 80. On a busy day, I think those charming benches get used while people are waiting on tables to be available.

Every table was a different antique style table. The tables were all decorated with different laces and burlap as table cloths.



No two tables were decorated with the same floral arrangement or decorations. The wall, or maybe I should say the dividers, all had an arrangement of decorations from antique pictures to even an old garden gate.

The arrangements are designed to create a sense of privacy in some areas and openness in others. Everywhere I looked, I was surrounded by antiques. Even a lovely old China hutch graced one corner. The whole atmosphere evoked a definite feminine vibe. Gentlemen, have no fear of all things feminine, because they had a man cave nearby.

My friend and I sat near the tea-room entrance and had barely sat down when our waitress brought over a small appetizer bowl of muffins and menus. She took our

drink orders and zipped away. When she returned with our drinks, she walked us through the menu options. We were pleased to find out that we could have soup and a fruit salad with our sandwiches for less than a dollar more. We placed our orders for the broccoli cheese soup and sandwiches; turkey and Swiss cheese on sourdough bread for my friend and chicken salad on wheat berry for me.

While we waited for our sandwiches, we sampled the tea and muffins the waitress had brought us. There were two white chocolate raspberry muffins and two dark brown muffins that we could not identify. I thought they tasted a lot like a Boston brown bread. My friend did not agree with me. When we could not determine what they were, we finally asked

our server what they were. Bran, just plain old bran; well not so plain after all.

The specialty of the month was the white chocolate raspberry

BY JOANNE JONES

PHOTO DETAILS

Joanne Jones ordered a turkey and swiss sandwich plate at The Mix Marketplace and Tea Room. (Photo by Joanne Jones)

muffins; they were very tasty. However, the bran muffins stole the show that day. We could taste the light blending of molasses and spices in the bran muffins. The quality of the flour was evident in the light fluffy muffins. We enjoyed both muffins immensely.

The tea was different. We ordered peach tea and apricot mango tea, but we forgot that we needed to specify sweet or unsweet. We got unsweet. No amount of sugar added to a single glass of tea ever gets it to the right amount of sweetness. So remember if you like it sweet, and I do, order it sweet. Even though I could not get the sweetness factor right, I did enjoy the apricot mango tea. I could taste the mango immediately followed by a hint of apricot.

Our sandwiches arrived on overflowing glass plates. The sandwiches were served on warm toasted bread with steaming cups of soup, chips, a pickle spear and a cup of sliced fruit to round out the meal. The sandwiches were well balanced with tomatoes and

lettuce and a generous portion of meat.

The broccoli cheddar soup was thick and tasty with plenty of cheese with broccoli and even bits of bacon. The pickle was a crisp refrigerator dill and added a wonderful crunchy component on the plate. The chips were a quality crinkle cut. To finish off the meal with a sweet note there was the cup of fresh sliced fruit.

My companion and I thoroughly enjoyed the tearoom sandwiches and soup. I was unable to finish all of mine because there was so much on our plates. If the fruit had not been enough of a sweet treat, they offered other specialties as well. That day they were serving fudge cake and cheesecake mousse.

The tearoom was a delight to our eyes and our palates. I recommend giving the tearoom a try any time you are in Duncan. Happy eating!

Update: Unfortunately on July 5, The Mix Marketplace and Tea Room was destroyed by a fire. ☹️

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Watermelon Festival

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Rush Springs is famous for growing watermelons, said Joe Dorman, chairman of the Watermelon Festival. The town has the perfect conditions to grow watermelons—sandy loam soil, arid climate and natural springs.

“It has just made it a wonderful location for the watermelons to grow and the farmers to have the success with that specific crop,” he added.

The Watermelon Festival in Rush Springs, Okla., began in the 1940s before World War II, Dorman explained. However, it became a consecutive festival in the later mid-1940s. The festival has been sponsored by the Lion’s Club every year since its inception.

“The festival has sprung up from that as a way to promote that industry and help the farmers sell more of the watermelons,” he said.

Although time has changed, Dorman said the festival has remained mostly consistent. It has always maintained a family-friendly environment.

The Lion Club hosts a rodeo the Thursday and Friday night prior to the festival in an arena donated by members of the club from the Rust family. The livestock is provided by F & F Rodeo, owned by the Frick Family. The Rodeo Queen is selected based on ticket sales. This alcohol-free festival caters toward all ages with a carnival and music.

“The owner of the carnival moved to Rush Springs several years ago,” Dorman added. “He was impressed with the com-



munity.”

The festival always highlights local entertainment, and they try to bring in a wide variety of music.

The festival officially begins at 9 a.m., with the Stephens County Honor Guard. Dorman will give a welcome address, followed by local music and the tiny tots’ competition. The tiny tots’ competition is to select the Little Mr. and Miss Rush Springs. Judges select a boy and a girl between four to six years old who live within the school district region.

The seed spitting contest always takes place at noon, and it is the most popular event of the festival.

“It is the time when individual get up on stage and display their prowess of spitting a watermelon seed and how far it will go,” he explained.

He said it is fun to see the children compete, and the adults take

it way too seriously. The farthest someone has spit a seed is over 50 feet, and winners receive plaques. Former seed spitting champions return as well as people come from all over the world.

Six or seven years ago, Dorman said they added a 5K run in the morning and it has grown in size. He said the run was added to promote healthy living and runs were becoming more popular. Proceeds help fund programs at the school, but the board may give the funds to assist a specific individual.

A car and tractor show was added to the schedule of events in recent years, as well. Fifteen years ago, an arts and crafts vendor fair was added to the festival.

“It has grown to about 125 vendors that will display in the park,” he explained. “It is great for the local individuals who have their crafts to sell them at
See WATERMELON page 43



BY LACI JONES

editor@okfronline.com

PHOTO DETAILS

The Watermelon Festival in Rush Springs, Okla., is a family-friendly event. (Photo by Charla Gilleland/Redstone Images)

Watermelon

the festival.”

Watermelon is served all day at the price of \$1 per slice. After 4 p.m., the watermelon is free, a long-standing tradition of the festival. The watermelon is provided by local farmers within a 20-mile radius of Rush Springs.

“There have been years where the drought condition or bad weather have hurt the crops,” Dorman explained. “In those cases, we try to expand that radius and bring in some friends from western Oklahoma or sometimes in eastern Oklahoma.”

On normal years, the festival will have about seven to eight local growers. Some of these growers are third generation farmers. One watermelon producer is a corporate grower, who sells his crops to grocery store chains.

“That has helped expand

the reach and visibility of Rush Springs watermelons, which has been great for us,” he added.

More than 15 varieties of watermelon are grown in the Rush Springs area. The most famous variety is the black diamonds, Dorman said. Black diamonds have a solid dark green color with deep red meat and larger black seeds.

The more popular varieties are the sweet variety of watermelons. Like the name, this category of watermelon has a sweeter taste and can grow to about 40 pounds.

“The optimal size is something between 30 and 40 pounds,” he explained. “The larger it gets, the less sweet it’s going to taste.”

The festival also has a prize melon exhibit where farmers compete for the largest watermelons and the best selection of three

melons in a category. The farmers bring in different varieties for the competition, he added.

“We have local judges who have years of experience with watermelons,” Dorman explained. “They go through and rank based on appearance, shape and make sure there are no scars or blemishes.”

Dorman said it is a great money maker because farmers bring watermelons for the competition, and they are later auctioned off at the prize auction. The Lions Club splits the proceeds with the grower who wins the category while the other half is donated to charitable programs within the community.


The festival also has a 40 to 50-foot-deep exhibit stand and both sides have several tables filled with watermelons. On average, 50,000 pounds of watermelon


is served at the festival.

The festival is affordable, and attendees do not have to spend a single penny if they do not want to, he added. Dorman recommended attendees drink plenty of water because it is always hot in August. The natural spring is located in the middle of the park, and visitors can get water without spending money.

Dorman estimates about 30,000 people will attend the Watermelon Festival, but it also depends on the weather.

“Most towns will see their reunions happen at homecoming,” Dorman explained, “but for Rush Springs, all of the reunions happen during the watermelon festival weekend.”

The Watermelon Festival marks the end of summer and will take place on Aug. 13. 



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EVENT LINEUP

AUGUST 2016

**AUG
03**

OLD SETTLERS' PICNIC, Humphrey Park. Velma, OK 73491. The Old Settlers' Picnic in Velma on Aug. 3-6 has been bringing summer fun to small town Oklahoma for over 100

years. It is known as the longest continuously running free rodeo in America. During four days of free family entertainment, you and the family can enjoy the ranch rodeo with team roping, a steer tripping contest, a rodeo parade and much more. There will be a carnival each night with rides, games and plenty of vendors in the midway.

**AUG
04**

SEILING IPRA RODEO, Flying W Arena. Seiling, OK 73663. Bring the whole family out to the annual Seiling IPRA Rodeo on Aug. 4-6 for three days of exciting events. The high action

rodeo runs from Thursday through Saturday nights with all of the major rodeo events. Visit the Flying W Arena for the rodeo, then stick around on Friday and Saturday nights for a town dance with live music. Don't miss the Saturday morning parade at this fun annual event.

**AUG
04**

SALLISAW LION'S CLUB IPRA RODEO, Sallisaw Rodeo Grounds. Sallisaw, OK 74955. Bring the family to enjoy the 73rd annual Sallisaw Lion's Club Rodeo on Aug. 4-6. This

IPRA championship rodeo showcases some of the county's elite athletes in rodeo competition.

**AUG
05**

TUTTLE RODEO, Schrock Park Arena. Tuttle, OK 73089. Join the citizens of Tuttle for two evenings of rodeo action and excitement on Aug. 5-6.

This family-friendly event will include bronc riding, bull riding, calf roping, team roping, calf scramble, barrel racing and mutton busting.

**AUG
05**

AQHIA WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP QUARTER HORSE SHOW, Oklahoma State Fairgrounds. Oklahoma City, OK 73107. The AQHYA World Youth Championship

Quarter Horse Show arrives in Oklahoma City on Aug. 5-13. This is one of the top youth events in the country. Witness as more than 1,200 horses from all 50 states and half a dozen countries compete in several equestrian events including cutting, reining, jumping and much more. The event also boasts a free trade show complete with more than 60 vendors including equestrian products, home decor and the latest fashion trends.

**AUG
05**

ALL STAR TEAM ROPING, Tulsa Expo Square. Tulsa, OK 74114. Gather in the Ford Truck Arena at the Tulsa Expo Square for the All Star Team Roping finals on Aug. 5-7. For

more information, visit www.allstarteam-roping.com.

**AUG
05**

YUKON FFA IPRA RODEO, Yukon Round Up Club. Yukon, OK 73085. The Yukon Ag Booster club presents the 15th Annual Yukon FFA IPRA and open Rodeo. The rodeo will be

Aug. 5-6 at the Yukon Round Up Club in Yukon, OK. Gates and concession stands open at 6:30 p.m. and the rodeo begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$6 in advance or \$8 at the gate. Bring the whole family for a night of Rodeo excitement. For more information, call **405-219-0084** or visit www.yukonffarodeo.com.

**AUG
06**

PAWNEE OLD TIME SATURDAY NIGHT CRUZE-IN, Downtown Pawnee. Pawnee, OK 74058. Old Time Saturday Night in Pawnee welcomes anything with wheels to its car

show and exciting celebration. For more information, visit www.cityofpawnee.com.

**AUG
06**

ULTIMATE CALF ROPING, Stephens County Fair & Expo Center. Duncan, OK 73533. Watch as ropers show off their skills at calf roping, held

on Aug. 6-7 at the Stephens County Fair & Expo Center. The best of the best will be on hand to lasso and tie as quickly as possible. Call **580-255-3231** for more information.



PAWNEE OLD TIME SATURDAY NIGHT CRUZE-IN

**AUG
12**

GRAB, ROOT & GROWL BBQ COMPETITION, Crystal Beach Park. Woodward, OK 73801. Head to Woodward to get your fill of delicious barbecue made by some of Oklahoma's best home cooks on Aug. 12-13. The Grab, Root & Growl BBQ Competition is a people's choice barbecue cook-off where those in attendance are invited to taste and judge the chicken, pork and brisket smoked for hours by expert pit masters. This event is sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbecue Society. Visit www.grabrootandgrowl.com for more information.

**AUG
13**

JAY CRUISE NIGHT, Downtown Jay. Jay, OK 74346. Known as the largest car cruise in northeast Oklahoma, the Annual Jay Cruise Night encourages visitors to bring their own lawn chairs, pull up a seat along Main and witness as endless numbers of classic cars, antiques, street rods, motorcycles and muscle cars meander their way through downtown Jay. For more information, visit www.jaychamber.org.

**AUG
13**

RUSH SPRINGS WATERMELON FESTIVAL, Jeff Davis Park. Rush Springs, OK 73082. Held each year on the second Saturday in August, the Rush Springs Watermelon Festival celebrates the local crop of watermelons with watermelon-themed activities.

**AUG
19**

TAHLEQUAH ROCK & MINERAL SHOW, Tahlequah Community Building. Tahlequah, OK 74465. This show features 25 vendors displaying collections of rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, nature crafts and gemstones. Bring the whole family out on Aug. 19-20 to enjoy demonstrations. Visit www.tramsok.webs.com for more information.

**AUG
19**

BLANCHARD BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL, Lions Park. Blanchard, OK 73010. There's fun for the whole family as over ten of the best bluegrass bands in Oklahoma perform at the annual Blanchard Bluegrass Festival in Lions Park on Aug. 19-20. For more information, visit www.cityofblanchard.us.



GRAB, ROOT & GROWL BBQ COMPETITION

**AUG
19**

ELGIN RODEO, Kenney Rd. & Miller Rd. Elgin, OK 73538. The Elgin Rodeo is a southwestern Oklahoma tradition. For several years, thousands of people have gathered in this small town each summer to witness this exciting, open rodeo. Come see traditional rodeo events and cheer for your favorite cowboys and cowgirls on Aug. 19-20. For more information, call **580-695-8343**.

**AUG
20**

KNID SPORTSMAN'S & OUTDOOR EXPO, Chisholm Trail Expo Center. Enid, OK 73701. Visit the KNID Sportsman's & Outdoor Expo in Enid on Aug. 20-21 for two days filled with helpful vendor products and information, as well as educational activities and friendly competitions. Visit www.knid.com for more information.

**AUG
20**

THE VILLAGE LIONS CLUB ANNUAL CAR SHOW, 2731 Winston Rd. Oklahoma City, OK 73120. This fundraising show draws cars from all over Oklahoma, showcasing them in a variety of categories including survivors, hot rods, muscle cars and fully restored classics. Each participant receives a goody bag, becomes eligible for door prizes and is entered into a drawing for prizes. Call **405-478-4783** for more information.

**AUG
20**

CHISHOLM TRAIL COALITION HISTORIC WALKING TOUR OF DOWNTOWN ENID, Downtown Square. Enid, OK 73701. Come along with Cactus Jack on the Chisholm Trail Coalition Historic Walking Tour of Downtown Enid for a glimpse of Enid's past. Visit www.chisholmtrailcoalition.org for more information.

**AUG
24**

WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL RODEO, American Legion Rodeo Grounds. Vinita, OK 74301. The Will Rogers Memorial Rodeo, a PRCA sanctioned rodeo held each year in Vinita, will be is held in Aug. 24-27. Created in 1935, the Will Rogers Memorial Rodeo has become one of the biggest and best rodeos in the region. For more information, visit www.willrogersmemorialrodeo.com.

**AUG
26**

OKLAHOMA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION RANGE ROUND UP, Lazy E Arena. Guthrie, OK 73044. At the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Range Round Up, 12 different ranch teams from around the state compete in six events that attempt to encompass ranch life including saddle bronc riding, team sorting, wild cow milking, team branding and more. Visit www.okcattlemen.org for more information.

AUG 27 **OKLAHOMA FALL HUNTING & FISHING SHOW**, Claremore Expo Center. Claremore, OK 74017. The Oklahoma Fall Hunting & Fishing Show at the Claremore Expo Center welcomes a wide variety of vendors to cover all of your hunting and fishing needs. Come browse new products and merchandise to find the perfect equipment for your next outing. For more information, visit www.okhuntandfishshow.com.

AUG 30 **TULSA REINING CLASSIC**, Tulsa Expo Square. Tulsa, OK 74114. The Tulsa Reining Classic is an action-packed display of equestrian skills at the Tulsa Expo Center. The Tulsa Reining Classic also includes a youth evening, rookie level and team challenges. Cheer for your favorites in this show. Don't forget to check the on-site Western trade show for some great deals. The Tulsa Reining Classic is held on Aug. 30-Sept. 4. For more information, visit www.tulsareining.com.



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STAFFORD AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM



On Route 66 in Weatherford, Okla., a Lockheed F-104 rises six stories straight into the sky.

One of thousands of exhibits at the Stafford Air and Space Museum, the Lockheed F-104 welcomes visitors to the museum and gives them a glimpse of the artifacts that they will find inside.

One of only three Smithsonian Institute Affiliates in Oklahoma, the museum honors Lt. General Thomas P. Stafford and his storied career as a test pilot and astronaut.

Stafford, who was born and raised in Weatherford, graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) and was selected by NASA in 1962 as one of 24 SWOSU graduates to join NASA in the 1960s.

Stafford donated many items

from his personal collection to the museum.

He flew four historic space missions, including Gemini 6, Gemini 9, Apollo X and the U.S. and Soviet Apollo-Soyuz. He received a Nobel Peace Prize nomination for his work as Joint Commander of the U.S. and Soviet Apollo-Soyuz mission.

Stafford was honored earlier this year at a ceremony at the Oklahoma State Capitol when a portrait of him was dedicated and placed in the Oklahoma State House of Representatives.

The museum has worked closely with the Smithsonian Institution, NASA and the U.S. Air Force Museum to assemble their collection of air and space artifacts.

Items on display include a ten-story Titan II rocket, the space suit worn by Stafford during the

Apollo 10 mission, an Apollo Command and Service module and the biggest collection of rocket engines in the Midwest.

Also housed at the museum are an F-1 from the Saturn V, a flown shuttle main engine, and a flown segment of a shuttle solid rocket booster that you can walk through.

The museum also showcases a variety of aircraft. A Sopwith Pup, F-86, F-104, T-33, T-38, F-16 and MIG-21 are all housed at the museum.

A full-scale replica of the Bell X-1, piloted by Chuck Yeager to break the sound barrier, is on display.

Additional full-scale replicas on display include the Wright Flyer, Bleriot and Spirit of St. Louis.

See MUSEUM page 49



BY STACI MAUNEY

prestigepraise@gmail.com

PHOTO DETAILS

Lt. General Thomas P. Stafford's Apollo X Space Suit is displayed at the museum. (Courtesy of the Stafford Air and Space Museum)

MUSEUM

Throughout the years, more than 20 astronauts and cosmonauts have come through the museum. Visitors include Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, and Eugene Cernan, the last man on the moon.

In 2015, the 40th anniversary of the Apollo-Soyuz mission was celebrated at the museum, with Stafford and the Russian commander both in attendance.

The museum has maintained a five-star rating from Trip Advisor and received the Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence for 2015. Because the museum is located on Route 66, they receive a number of international travelers. Visitors from Australia, New Zealand, France and Italy have stopped by the museum recently.

"Winning the Trip Advisor Cer-

tificate of Excellence is a source of pride for the staff," said Mallory Hankins, marketing and development coordinator. "Thank you to everyone who works so hard to maintain this seal of approval. We are proud to teach everyone about the legacy General Stafford has left in Weatherford."

Traveling displays come through the museum and offer members and visitors an opportunity to see unique items such as a beam from the World Trade Center in 2015. New artifacts will be arriving this fall.

The museum sponsors a quarterly speaker series in which the presenter focuses on topics related to air and space travel.

Guided tours are offered for groups and schools. Students enjoy the flight simulator and a

science camp in the summer.

This year, the museum offered Camp Invention, a national program consisting of a five-day, STEM-based camp for kids who have finished kindergarten through fifth grade.

This camp allows kids to receive practical, hands-on experience creating items such as robots or goo.

The museum is staffed by three full-time employees: the museum director, Max Ary; the registrar, Chaney Larson; and the marketing and development coordinator, Hankins.


In addition, students known as Stafford Scholars work at the museum part-time. These students receive a scholarship and part-time job for the duration of their time at SWOSU. To qualify, students

must live within 30 miles of Weatherford.

On Sept. 24, 2016, the museum will participate in Museum Day Live!, an annual event sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute that provides free entrance to any Smithsonian museum. Tickets can be downloaded beginning Aug. 1.

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

It closes for Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

For more information about the museum, including ticket pricing, visit their website at www.staffordmuseum.org or follow them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. 



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OKLAHOMA STATE PARKS

Red Rock Canyon State Park



California or bust! Red Rock Canyon State Park, located in Hinton, Okla., is a state park like no other. The 310-acre state park has a history involving the California Gold Rush and sits at the base of a canyon where the walls go up to 80 feet.

"It is odd-shaped," said Dave Sutton, park manager of Red Rock Canyon State Park, "and it's a quarter of a mile long."

Sutton, who has worked at the state park for 30 years, said Comanche and Kickapoo Indians are thought to have used the canyons for shelter in the 19th century.

When gold was discovered in California, people traveled from the eastern United States on the California Road Trail. The California Road Trail started in Fort Smith, Ark., and continued through Indian Territory along the Canadian River.

"Today, the ruts of a portion of the California Road Trail that was used back then remain today as a

monument to an important episode in the development of the United States," Sutton stated in the Red Rock Canyon State Park Historical Information Report.

These ruts can be seen along the California Road Interpretive Trail at the state park, he added.

By 1930, the Hinton Kiwanis Club decided they wanted to have a park for Hinton citizens close to town. The canyon was the closest to Hinton, and the club entered into a lease agreement with landowner, Herman Gerdes.

"The owner stipulated he would let them use his property for \$100 per year for 10 years to see if the project would work," Sutton explained.

The agreement also stated the Hinton Kiwanis Club could make necessary improvements, but there would be "no cutting or destroying any live timber by anyone without his consent." The Kiwanis Club would have the first option to purchase the property if

it was for sale.

Gerdes' son, Carl Gerdes, signed an agreement with the Hinton Kiwanis Club in 1938 transferring the agreements made by his father and the club to him. A year later, the Hinton Kiwanis Club purchased the land from Carl and Alta Gerdes, Sutton explained. The Gerdes family requested the right to fish in the park in the agreement, he added.

The park was known as Kiwanis Canyon Park. The Hinton Kiwanis Rodeo was established to help pay for the lease.

At one time, Sutton said the Hinton Kiwanis Rodeo was the oldest, continuous rodeo in Oklahoma. The rodeo supported the park until 1956.

"In the mid-1950s when Route 66 was going heavy, the city mayor said, 'Let's get some people off of Route 66 and come to Hinton, since the highway is only four miles north of town,'" he **See PARK page 51**



BY LACI JONES

editor@okfronline.com

PHOTO DETAILS

The walls at Red Rock Canyon State Park go up to 80 feet. (Photo by Laci Jones)

PARK

explained.

The mayor wanted to establish a state park with camping options to draw travelers off of Route 66. No overnight accommodations were available at the time.

In 1956, ownership of the park was transferred from the Kiwanis Club to the State of Oklahoma, renaming it Red Rock Canyon State Park.

"When the state took it over, they started building overnight accommodations and facilities to expand the recreational opportunities here," Sutton added.

The state government also built a swimming pool in the state park. In the 1950s, not many towns in western Oklahoma had a swimming pool that was not built by the CCC or WPA, he explained.

"That was one of the benefits of the state coming in," Sutton added. "A swimming pool, campgrounds and a picnic shelter were built."

Since then, Sutton said everything within the park has been renovated including the

bathrooms and swimming pool.

In 1974, the original wooden dam in the pond was replaced with a concrete dam. The state slightly enlarged the surface area of the pond, he added. More land was purchased and donated to add to the state park between the 1950s to early-1970s.

The state park is not water oriented like Lake Foss or Fort Cobb.

Instead, Red Rock Canyon looks more like wilderness. Red Rock Canyon State Park have 100,000 to 120,000 visitors each year, he added.

Visitors can bring their own gear and rappel down the walls as well as hike along trails and enjoy the wildlife and scenery.

Visitors can also visit Rock Mary, located about eight miles northwest of the state park. Rock Mary is a 60-foot-tall rock that was a landmark for early emigrants traveling west, Sutton stated.

The rock was named after Mary Conway by 1st Lt. James H. Simpson. Conway was a woman traveling to California on the Marcy

Expedition.


Visitors have access to picnic shelters and group picnic areas in the park where people have family reunions.

He said the main shelter is rented almost every day from the first of April to the middle of October, and visitors have family reunions every weekend during the year. The swimming pool is open from Memorial Day to the first day of school.

"For a town like Hinton, we're about the only pool still left operating in these small towns in western Oklahoma," he added.

Sutton said the town of Hinton offers more than just the state park including casinos, restaurants, a splash pad and the Hinton Museum.

"We benefit from just being five miles off of the interstate," he added. "There are other parks that are farther distance from the interstate, and I don't believe they get as many campers or as many park visitors as we do."

For more information about Red Rock Canyon State Park, call 405-542-6344. 

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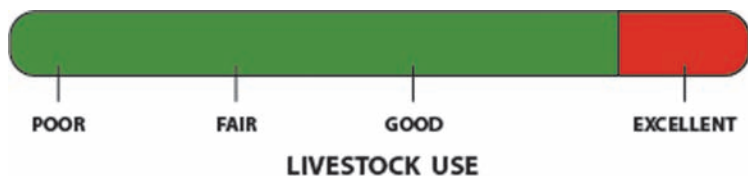
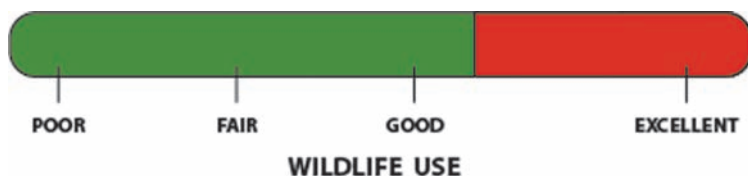
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Grazing Oklahoma

Indiangrass



Characteristics: Indiangrass is a native, warm-season, perennial grass with short, scaly rhizomes. It is best adapted to deep, moist soils but can be found growing on a wide variety of soils. Mature height is about three to eight feet tall. The leaves are flat, up to 3/8 to 5/8-inch wide, six to 12 inches long and have a blue-green color during the growing season. The ligules at the base of the leaf take on the appearance of rabbit ears, which make it easily identifiable. The seedhead is a dense narrow panicle six to 12 inches long.

One awn extends above each individual seed.

Area of Importance: Indiangrass is the state grass of Oklahoma. It is a tallgrass of the True Prairie and one of the “big four” grasses. It is grazed by all classes of livestock and is excellent for livestock use.

Grazing value for deer is poor, but it provides good screening cover and fawning cover for deer. It is also good nesting cover for quail and turkey.

Attributes: Overgrazing will cause Indiangrass to decrease on rangelands. Proper stocking rates

PLANT ID KEY	
	= ANNUAL
	= PERENNIALS
	= WARM SEASON
	= COLD SEASON
	= NATIVE
	= INTRODUCED

and sufficient grazing deferment will allow the plant to persist in grazing lands. Commercial sources of seed are available to include Indiangrass in seed mixes for restoration projects.

References:

Coffey, C.R., R.L. Stevens. Grasses of the Great Plains: A Pictorial Guide

Linex, R.J., 2014. Range Plants of North Central Texas



BY ROB COOK

rwcook@noble.org

PHOTO DETAILS

Indiangrass is best adapted to deep, moist soils but can be found growing on a wide variety of soils. (Courtesy of The Noble Foundation)

auction

RED RIVER LIVESTOCK AUCTION- Sale every Wednesday at 10 a.m. I35 exit 24, Overbrook, OK. **580-226-6933**

WAURIKA LIVESTOCK COMMISSION COMPANY- Cattle sale every Tuesday, 9 a.m. Waurika, OK. **940-631-6003**

WICHITA LIVESTOCK SALES CO- Sale every Wednesday at 10 a.m. Holstein Steer Sale every third Wednesday. Located south of Wichita Falls on Hwy 281. **940-541-2222**.

VERNON LIVESTOCK MARKET- Cattle sale Tuesdays at 11 a.m. www.vernonlivestockmarket.com. **940-552-6000**.

MCALISTER UNION STOCKYARDS- Regular sale every Tuesday. 10 a.m. Calves & Yearlings. 6 p.m. Cows & Bulls. **918-423-2834**. mcalesterstockyards.com

for sale

SAM'S BEST BUYS- A family owned surplus farm type store. Established 1945, we offer department store quality goods, personal service and real bargains. Like us on Facebook and see us on www.Yellowpages.com. Located at 2409 South Agnew Ave. Oklahoma City, close to the stockyards. **405-636-1486**. 08p

CUSTOM BUILT WW LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS- Hydraulic chutes to fit your specific needs or requirements. **580-439-8802** or **1-800-657-6062**.

FOR SALE.- Hesston 956A baler. Has all updates. **405-282-0507** or **405-640-5989**. Guthrie, Ok.

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FERTILIZED NET WRAPPED- 4x5.5 Bermuda mix \$35/bale. **405-258-6442** or **405-258-6442**. Chandler, Okla. 10c

EXCELLENT PRAIRIE HAY- Sprayed 4x5 round bales, net wrapped. \$30/each and small square bales. \$3.75/each. Perry, Okla. **580-716-5811**. 10p

FOR SALE- Round bales of prairie hay to be cut first of July. Three 500 gallon gas or diesel tanks. 3 liquid oxygen dryers, 2 cattle guards one 18ft and one 14ft. B580-336-8011B Perry, Okla. 10p

ALFALFA- For sale. \$130 to \$150 per ton. 4x5 net wrapped \$60/bale. 5x6 net wrapped \$70/bale. Delivery available. **580-716-6562**. 10c

livestock

BREEDING AGE ANGUS BULLS- Net worth genetics, low birth, high gain. VanMeter Angus. Martin VanMeter. **580-920-6914**. Durant, Okla. 10p

REGISTERED ANGUS BULLS- Females, semen and embryos for sale. Top bloodlines from Gardiner, Express, Wezhmann and Woodside. Top 1 percent EPDs and performance tested. For more info call Rocking P Angus, Paducah, TX, **806-626-8657** or email landon@rockingpangus.com. 08-09c

777 CHAROLAIS RANCH- Registered bulls for sale. Large selection commander bloodline. Also we have hay for sale. Call Jack or Claudell Higgins **580-276-3285** or Jim Lemmons at **580-276-8052**. 08-10p

real estate

400 +/- ACRES- \$740,000; 100 head capacity, flat to gently rolling topography, beautiful large hardwoods, creek, ponds. For more information contact Accredited Ranch and Land Brokers, **844-ALB-LAND**

FOR SALE- 520 acres, 5 ponds, 2 box cars and 2 hay barns. Good water well and electricity is available with really good neighbors and really good Bermuda grass. Lots of clover, 2 large meadows, 4 pastures with 2 entrances. Also registered Angus cow herd and bulls for sale. For more info call **580-320-4702**. 08p

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FARM LAND FOR SALE- Tillman County, Okla. near Grandfield. Two separate plots 160/acres each. One in full cultivation and other 32 acres of grass, pond and cultivation. Call for details **940-632-5781**. 10c

wanted

WANTED- Baby pigmy goats in good health. Possibly registered. Call Lynn or Shelly **405-651-5809**. 08p

WANTED- All kinds of classes of horses. Daily markets, cash paid on the spot. Highway 33 next to the Sale Barn in Perkins, OK **405-547-8337** or **612-963-0712**. 08p

OKFR / parting shot



Graceful Birds

Photographer, Kathie Freeman was at Lake Overholser in Oklahoma City without her camera. She came back a few days later to do some bird watching when she captured this image. (Photo by Kathie Freeman)



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