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Volume 1 Issue 9



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It's fall y'all...

Hello OKFR readers, and welcome to the September issue of the Oklahoma Farm & Ranch magazine. September is the gateway to the fall season, and I am ready for crisp air, vibrant-colored leaves, fall outfits and comfort food.

Most Oklahoma county fairs take place in September, so first read, "County Fair Animals" in the Farm & Ranch section. Exhibitors should take all precautions to ensure no diseases are spread among the animals at county fairs.

Read about recurrent airway obstruction (RAO) and inflammatory airway disease (IAD) in the Equine section. Recurrent airway obstruction is also known as COPD or heaves and is caused by chronic lower respiratory tract inflammation. "Lower Respiratory Tract Diseases in Horses: Part 2" walks horse owners through the symptoms, prevention and treatment options.

This month, I traveled to Ada, Okla., to meet with September profile, Mike McClure. McClure is the owner of "Boohatch Studio" in the basement of his 1938 home. The singer, songwriter and producer was inspired by the movie, "Honeysuckle Rose," starring Willie Nelson. He later formed "The Great Divide" in 1992. Read "Living the Honeysuckle Rose Fantasy" to learn how McClure navigated through the music industry after going solo.

Next, read "Life of a Ranch Wife" in the Country Lifestyle section by new OKFR writer, Lanna Mills. Mills lives in the heart of western Oklahoma with her husband, Gary, and one-year-old son, Stockton. This relatable article is about the gamble of ranching as well as the trials and the triumphs of being a rancher's wife.

Also in the Country Lifestyle section, read "The House a Treasure Built" about a house that was built in 1896 overlooking the Red River. Sherman Joines found treasure abandoned by the Spanish army and built his home there.

Check out "Don Ciro's Authentic Mexican Restaurant" in the Attractions section about the popular food truck turned restaurant in Shawnee, Okla. Known for their tacos, the Mexican restaurant makes everything in-house. Don Ciro's was successful enough to open a second restaurant in Seminole, Okla.

Finally, read about "Lake Wister State Park" in the Outdoors section. Located near the Arkansas border, the area around the state park was inhabited by various Native American tribes. Lake Wister State Park was recognized as a state park in 1953 when the land was leased to the state by the Corps of Engineers.

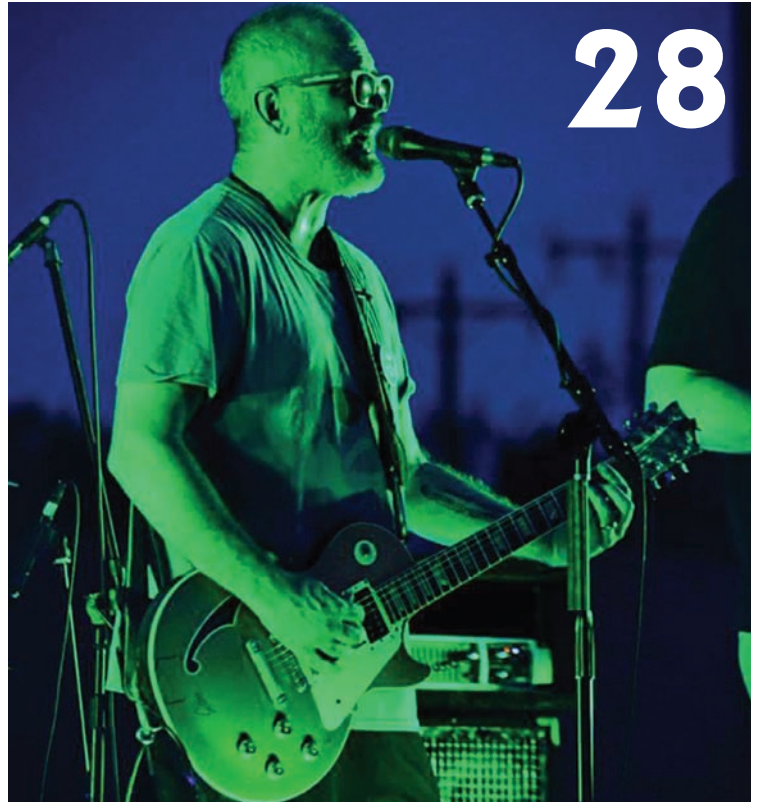
If you have an event, photo or topic idea that you would like to see in Oklahoma Farm & Ranch, email editor@okfronline.com. Keep up with new OKFR updates on our Facebook and Twitter pages. For more information or subscription information, visit our website www.OKFRonline.com.

Until next month,

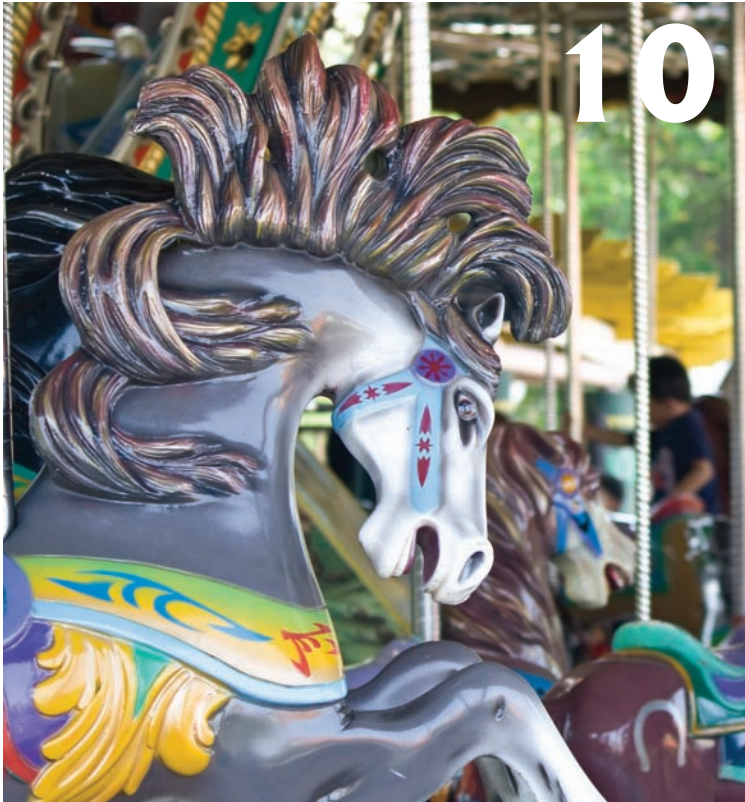


TABLE OF contents

- 08 Socializing
- 10 Fair Time
- 12 Ranch Rigs & Farm Fixtures
- 15 The Barn
- 16 Alternative Livestock:Alpacas
- 18 Lower Respiratory Tract Disease
- 20 A Rodeo Mom
- 23 Slow and Steady
- 26 Life of a Ranch Wife
- 28 Mike McClure
- 35 Lacey's Pantry
- 37 First Impressions
- 38 The House a Treasure Built
- 40 Red Dirt Music
- 42 Joanne's Day Trips
- 44 Wild West Festival
- 46 Event Lineup
- 50 Lake Wister State Park
- 52 Grazing Oklahoma
- 53 Marketplace
- 54 Parting Shot



28



10



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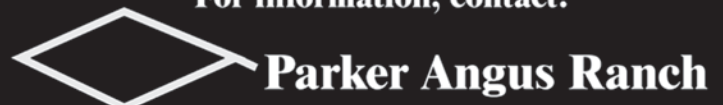
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OKFR / socializing

ON THE COVER

After watching "Honeysuckle Rose," starring Willie Nelson, Mike McClure was inspired to become a musician. He purchased a guitar and started copying songs written by legendary songwriter, Kris Kristofferson, on a legal pad to learn how to write a masterpiece. The native of Shawnee, Okla., formed "The Great Divide" with Kelley Green, Scott Lester and J.J. Lester in 1992. Ten years later, McClure began his solo career. The cover photo is McClure performing at Billy Bob's Texas in Ft. Worth, Texas. (Photo by Laci Jones)

TWITTER FEED

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We sure are proud of the next generation of this industry! Learn about Charly and Chaney Sellers at ow.ly/h26P3037bWN. #OKFR

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Tuesday Trivia: What is the state grass of #Oklahoma? Learn more in this month's Grazing Oklahoma at okfronline.com! #August #OKFR

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Ever wondered how horses get to the #Olympics? radiotimes.com/news/2016-08-0... #equestrian #Rio2016

FACEBOOK WALL

 **Oklahoma Farm & Ranch** shared Kansas Department of Agriculture's photo.
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Fair Time

September and October are fair months in Oklahoma. Most local county fairs take place in early September and are followed by the Oklahoma and the Tulsa state fairs which begin in mid-September and end in October.

This is a great time for the Oklahoma youths who show animals. All of the hard work in preparing their animals for exhibition will hopefully pay off with a blue ribbon.

Here are a few things that need to be done before fair time. Animals should be properly vaccinated and have all required test completed.

This will insure that immunity will be high and animals will be protected against diseases that other animals may bring to the fair.

Unfortunately, even with the best vaccination and parasite control programs sometimes animals will get sick close to fair time. This is a tough dilemma for exhibitors who have worked hard all summer for this moment.

Do they go to the fair or stay home? Any animal displaying clinical signs of disease, even if the signs are minor, should never attend any livestock show before being examined by a veterinarian.

This one animal could infect many animals at the fair. Even worse, if the disease is zoonotic

(contagious to people) people could become sick.

In the past, several diseases threatened to damper these livestock shows. Swine diseases including swine flu, Seneca Valley virus, or porcine epidemic diarrhea virus have been and are a concern for swine exhibitors.

The highly pathogenic avian influenza virus continues to occasionally be a problem in the United States.

This disease could cancel shows in Oklahoma if the virus is found in the state. Earlier this spring, some horse race tracks in other states had to be closed for a period of time due to problems with equine herpes virus infections.

Each exhibitor should take the time to do a health check on their animals before taking them to the fair. The following is a list of suggested things to check for:

- **BAR-bright, alert and responsive.** This evaluates the mental capacity of your animal. Does the animal respond to stimulus? When you rattle a feed bucket, does your animal raise its head and come to eat or does it act like it does not care? If it does not care, this animal may be ill.

- **Hair coat.** The hair coat should be slick and shiny. If the coat appears rough or dirty, it may be a sign that the animal does not feel well enough to groom itself. Areas of hair loss may be indica-



tions of a skin infection such as ringworm or an external parasite infection such as mites or lice.

- **Respiration.** Breathing should not be labored nor loud. Animals should have a nice rhythm to their respiration. They should not breathe like they have been in a 100-yard dash. Excessive noise during respiration could indicate pneumonia or an obstruction in the airways.

- **Normal urination and defecation.** Urine should appear slightly yellow in color and clear. If the urine is dark or red, this could indicate a bladder or kidney infection. Animals that are **See FAIR page 11**



**BY BARRY
WHITWORTH**

barry.whitworth@okstate.edu

PHOTO DETAILS

Animals should be properly vaccinated before the fair. (Photo by Laci Jones)

Fair

Continued from page 10

constantly attempting to urinate, dribbling urine, or appear to be in pain while urinating may have a urinary infection or stones. Exhibitors should observe the tail of their animals for accumulation of fecal material. Excessive buildup of feces on the tail indicates diarrhea, which suggests a digestive problem.

• **Mobility.** All animals should walk normally. If an animal favors a foot or is reluctant to move, this indicates pain. The foot should be examined for any abnormalities.

• **Nasal passages and eyes.** Exhibitors should observe the nose and eyes for discharges.

If an animal has increased mucus or tears from the nose or eyes, this could indicate an infection especially if the discharge is white or yellow. Healthy animals will have a moist nose and eyes that are clear.

• **Bumps.** Exhibitors should look for bumps or swellings on their animals. These could indicate enlarged lymph nodes.

Lymph nodes increase in size with infections. Also, lumps may indicate an abscess that needs attention. Sheep and goats with enlarged lymph nodes may have Caseous Lymphadenitis, which is contagious to other sheep and goats.

• **Appetite.** Animals are usually ready to eat. Loss of appetite is an early indication of an illness.

If an exhibitor finds problems with one or more of the above areas, this does not mean the animal cannot go to the fair, but it would be a good idea to have a veterinarian examine the animal. An examination will determine if an infection is present and needs treatment. This will go a long way in preventing an unwanted



Most local county fairs take place in early September. (Courtesy photo)

outbreak of a disease at this year's fairs.

Finally, for those producers who enjoy going to the fair, the last thing that anyone wants is to bring a disease back home. With this in mind, it is a good idea to follow basic biosecurity.

Thoroughly wash vehicles before returning home to remove

any material picked up at the fairgrounds. Upon returning home, disinfect boots, take a shower and put on clean clothes before having any contact with animals. This will help in preventing any unwanted organism from entering the farm.

Good luck to the exhibitors and have a great time at the fair. ☺



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There are two things to know about the Chevy Silverado HD. One, it's probably the quietest heavy-duty pickup ever built. Even though it feels like it could tow a house, it's as silent as a library when you roll up the windows – diesel engine or not.

And two, unless you can find a dealer willing to let you put a half ton of cargo in the back during your test drive, you won't be able to experience this truck's ride in its best light.

At the beginning of my week long test of the Silverado HD – a 2500 model with the diesel engine and fancy high country trim package – I thought the ride felt a bit too stiff and bouncy. Pickup trucks, even the built-for-work, three-quarter-ton models like this, have gotten so refined lately that you've got to be picky about things like that.

But when I loaded the bed full to the brim with bags of wet mulch, good for probably 1,000 pounds of weight, it had a magical effect on the Silverado. The bounciness was gone. The ride smoothed out. And it became obvious that this truck is happiest when it's doing what it was designed to do, actually carry some weight over its rear axle.

Granted, wet mulch isn't much of a test for a heavy-duty truck. Its engine neared to carry more than 4,000 pounds of payload with the right configuration, so I was only

carrying a fraction of what it was designed for.

With a trailer, it can haul far more. The Silverado 2500 is rated for up to 14,500 pounds of conventional towing or 18,000 pounds with a gooseneck. And you know those figures are legit because they were tested using industry-standard SAE J2807 procedures, not the old make-up-your-own-rules system that truck companies used when evaluating their towing capacity.

General Motors deserves kudos for switching to the J2807 standard this year. Hallelujah!

There are several noteworthy changes for the Silverado HD in 2016.

A new steering system, called Digital Steering Assist, tops the list. Chevy says it's designed to make the driver feel more confident while hauling cargo or pulling a trailer, offering a better, more responsive steering feel. Personally, I thought the difference was very subtle, but other drivers may notice it more – particularly when trailers are involved. I didn't try it with a trailer.

Its digital infotainment system, Chevrolet MyLink, is upgraded with faster processors and Apple CarPlay this year. It felt quick, snappy and easy to use with my iPhone 6 hooked up via a USB cable.

There's also a new package that configures the truck for gooseneck

trailers from the factory, including a spray-in bedliner. It has a platform that mounts to the frame and can accommodate either a gooseneck ball hitch or mounting brackets for a fifth-wheel hitch, and it's available in both gasoline and diesel models.

If you can afford it, the High Country package is a great way to do hard work in the lap of luxury. It comes with rich, thick, saddle brown leather on the heated and cooled seats, along with a wonderful Bose audio system and front and rear sensors to help you park – something very useful in a truck this size.

The Duramax Diesel engine, which came in a package that added over \$9,000 to my test truck, feels invincible. Its 765 pound-feet of torque is a dump-truck-like number for commercial work, yet it accelerates with refined manners thanks in part to the nice tuning of its Allison six-speed automatic.

Pricing starts at \$32,995 for a basic Silverado HD but climbs as quickly as you add options and capability. My test truck rang up at \$67,925, mainly due to the diesel engine and high country luxury trim package.

What was tested? 2016 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 High Country 4WD (\$56,265). Options: Duramax Plus package (\$9,115), power sunroof (\$995), chrome mirrors (\$230), LED cargo box lighting (\$125). Price as tested (includ-

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- Performance: 10
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RANCH RIGS & FARM FIXTURES

PHOTO DETAILS

The impressive 2016 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 High Country 4WD (Courtesy photo)



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In 1935 and 1936, when we used to work a lot of mules, my granddad and dad decided to build some mule barns. So, in 1935, we built the first barn where my dad lived and in 1936 we built a barn where my granddad lived. These barns were built by hand, back before we had cement mixers and the conveniences of life. The work was done by hoe or shovel.

Our neighbors, Sale and Dwight Bennett, and their dad, Claude, helped build the barns. The old man who laid the tile on the barn was Bill Hopper. He was an old bachelor and where he came from or where he went I do not know. But he stayed with my mother and father all during this time while building the west barn. It probably took two or three months to build a barn.

Hopper was particular about what he ate. My mother always had to cook for him, and she was glad to see him leave. He also laid the tile for my granddad's barn. My grandmother cooked for him while he was building that barn.

We used the barn for mules until the late 1940s or early 1950s, when tractors took the place of our mules. I remember my dad trading a team of mules for a D John Deere tractor, which had steel wheel lugs on the back wheel, and you cranked it by hand. I think John Deere built these tractors and called them Argentine, because they were built for sale in Argentina.

When the mules left we converted the west barn. We took out the oat bins and mule stalls and moved our cattle working equipment inside the barn. Each barn had a long oat bin that ran the length of the barn. We filled these bins by scoop shovel with oats that were fed to our work mules.

We converted the east barn the same way but instead of moving our cattle working equipment I converted it to a sheep barn. We used to feed a lot of sheep, and we put the sheep feeders in there. Then we quit feeding sheep and



the barn was converted into calving pens for our two-year-old heifers.

One day Newley, my grandson, approached me. He and Mandy Hill were getting married and he wanted to have the wedding in our converted school house. I asked him, "Why don't you have your wedding in the barn?" He nearly fainted when I mentioned the barn. But I told him we would clean the barn up if he wanted to have the wedding there.

He needed to talk to Mandy's mother, Glenda Hill, and see what she thought about it. She came and looked the barn over and said if it was cleaned up it would be all right. One of the biggest jobs was cleaning the hay out of the hay loft. Some of it had been there ever since the barn had been built. The only way to get it out was using pitchforks through a little door in the north part of the barn. It took three guys several months to get all the hay out of the loft.

It was amazing what they found in the hay. They found collars, harnesses and all kinds of mule and

horse equipment. One of the main things they found was whiskey bottles, which had been hidden by some of the hands. They had hid them there because we didn't believe in drinking.

Then the work started downstairs removing all the calving pens, and we poured a new cement floor. We got a steam cleaner and cleaned the walls, which helped a lot, and repaired some of the windows. On May 16, 1997, the wedding took place, and the reception was in the hay loft. It went off great.

The barn has been used for all sorts of things from family reunions, hunting business and special events for handicapped children. We have had people come from New York, California and even the vice president of Ecuador.

There is something always going on in the barn. The main event now is the Red Angus Sale that we have had for the past seven or eight years. There will be 150 to 200 people in and out of the barn during the sale. Both barns are as

good as they have ever been after 80 years. I don't know of any other barns anywhere that are still standing after the horsepower went away and people started using tractors. I can see no reason that the barns shouldn't last another 80 years. Of course, a tornado or fire could destroy them in a matter of seconds.

Time changes things. ☞



BY RALPH CHAIN

PHOTO DETAILS

This barn, built in the mid-1930s is still used today. (Courtesy of Chain Ranch)



Alternative Livestock: Alpacas

What began as a love for a Great Pyrenees dog named Charlie turned into Kathy Fleming and her husband opening Mustang Creek Alpacas. Ten years ago, the couple embarked on vacation in Oregon where they saw an advertisement for an alpaca farm and products.

“That was our first experience seeing an alpaca,” Fleming explained. “We never saw one before. I fell in love with their guard dog.”

Fleming remembered asking her husband if they got an alpaca, could they adopt a Great Pyrenees dog.

At the time, the Flemings lived in the city limits of Oklahoma City which was not ideal. It took the couple five years of planning to own their own herd. While they do not have a Great Pyrenees dog, they do own 40 alpacas. Often confused with llamas, alpacas are a smaller animal. Female alpacas

can weigh an average of 110 to 150 pounds, and the males are heavier.

The alpaca owner said alpacas stand eye to eye with most adults when mature. Fleming said there are two breeds of alpacas—huacaya and suri. The huacaya alpacas are fuzzier while the suri alpacas have a dreadlock-type fleece.

“We chose huacaya because that is what we favored when using fleece to make products,” she explained. “They’re more prevalent and they were less expensive than the suri alpaca breed at the time.”

Alpacas are registered with the Alpaca Owner’s Association. Alpacas come in 16 official colors along with many other shades, according to the association. Owners send in a blood sample or DNA card to verify the dam and the sires. Like many other animal registries, the owner will receive a

form showing the lineage.

“I highly encourage people to register,” she added. “If you have unregistered animals, it devalues the rest of the industry’s herd because you can’t trace the lineage.”

The animals enjoy cold weather, but like other animals, they need shelters to protect them from wind, rain and sleet. Fleming said managing alpacas in the heat is trickier.

“We run fans in the barn about six months out of the year,” she stated. “We have sprinklers on timers that run four or five hours out of the day.”

As long as the alpacas can get their bellies wet and find a cool spot to lie in, they will remain cool in the heat. Fleming remembered an extremely hot summer a few years ago where an alpaca had a heat stroke. She soaked him in cold water and set him in
See ALPACAS page 17



BY LACI JONES

editor@okfronline.com

PHOTO DETAILS

(Left to right) Alpacas stand eye to eye with most adults when mature. Fleece that is not the same length as the rest of the hair is removed, known as skirting. (Courtesy of Kathy Fleming)

Alpacas

front of the fan to cool off, and he survived.

Alpacas are ruminant animals. They prefer a high-quality Bermuda grass pasture and fresh water, she added. Fleming said she feeds her alpacas a cup of formulated feed for alpacas and llamas and hay when needed. If an alpaca needs more conditioning, she will supplement their feed to provide extra calories.

Fleming said alpacas are mature at two years old. While many alpaca farms breed alpacas earlier, Mustang Creek Alpacas prefer to wait until they are two or three. Alpacas do not ovulate like most animals, she added.

“The males make an orgling sound that causes the females to ovulate,” she explained. “You can determine the time you want your babies born.”

Fleming said the benefit of having this ovulation system is to not have to wait until the animals go into heat. They can bring the male in to trigger ovulation. These animals have a gestation period of 11 to 12 months.

“I’ve heard of people breeding them up to 17 or 18 years old,” she added, “but it depends on the animal.”

When the alpacas are born, they are about the size of a deer weighing 10 to 18 pounds. They can live anywhere from 15 to 20 years. Fleming described alpacas as stoic animals as they do not show signs of illness until they are extremely sick.

“You have to know your animal’s mannerisms just like any other livestock or just like your child,” Fleming explained. “You know how your child behaves. If anything like that deviates, you know something is wrong.”

Fleming said some older alpacas are just as robust as their two or three year olds. Alpacas typically die from old age or

weather, but the more common illnesses are anemia and ulcers. Alpacas, if left alone, can stress and develop ulcers.

“They are herd animals,” she added. “We have to explain to people that you can’t just buy one. You have to buy two or it will just stress itself and die.”

The alpaca owner had a few alpaca stroke, but it is not common among other alpaca owners. The cost of an alpaca depends majorly on the quality, Fleming added. Characteristics of a high-quality alpaca include good conformation and quality fleece. Fleece is evaluated by uniformity, crimp, density and fineness.

“You want the fleece to be soft enough that you want it next to your skin if you are going to have yarn made out of it,” she said.

Females can cost a few \$1,000. Non-breeding animals, generally males that do not make breeding cuts, can be sold for a few \$100, she explained. Alpacas can cost more than \$100,000. However, Fleming said an owner can find an alpaca at a cheaper cost depending on their priorities.

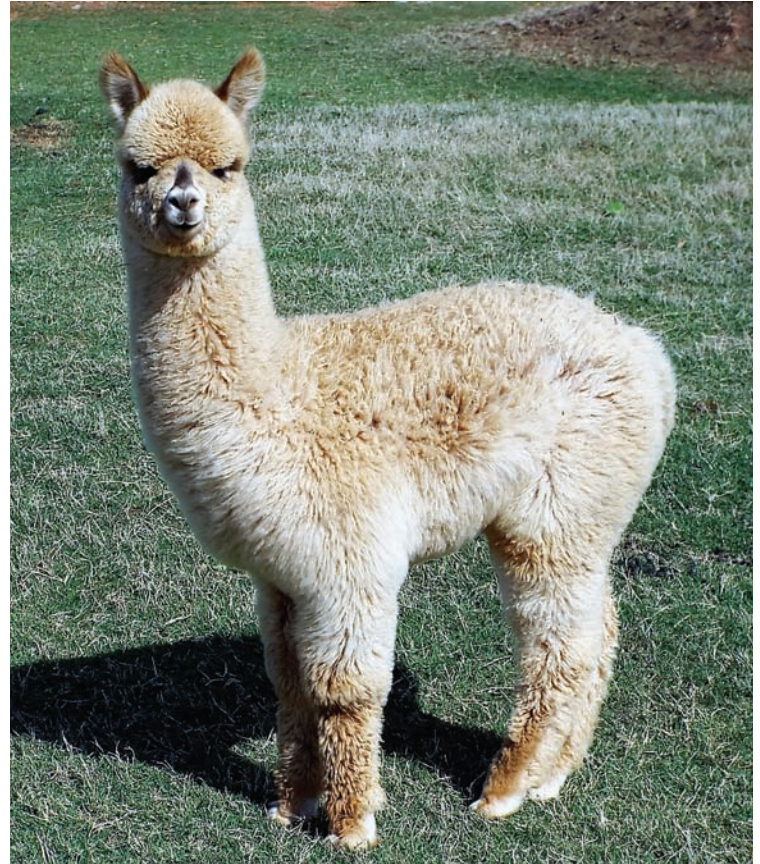
“You have to decide whether you want an alpaca as a pasture ornament, a fiber animal, or to breed and sell,” she added.

Mustang Creek Alpacas has educated the public on what to look for in an alpaca for the past six years at an educational display at the Oklahoma State Fair in the AGtropolis station.

“Usually people want them because they are cute,” she explained. “They want to make a pet out of them, but they are livestock.”

While alpacas will eat out of a person’s hand, they do not seek attention like a dog, she added. The alpaca owner said a common misconception is alpacas spit on people.

Alpacas do not spit as much



Characteristics of a high-quality alpaca include good conformation and quality fleece. (Courtesy of Kathy Fleming)

as llamas. While alpacas use spit to settle disagreements among themselves, they rarely spit on people.

Alpaca fleece can be used in a variety of products including socks, gloves and stuffed animals. The first step in this process is shearing the back and sides of an alpaca and placing the fleece, also known as a blanket, in a bag. Then, they remove the leg and neck hair and place it into a separate bag.


“Some people separate the leg hair from the neck hair,” she said, “but it does not matter to me.”

After the alpaca is sheared, they lay out the blanket and remove fleece that is not the same length as the rest of the hair, known as skirting. If the blanket does not meet the qualifications for a prime blanket, the blanket can be used to produce a different

product other than yarn.

None of the fleece is wasted. Fleming categorizes the leg and neck hair into “seconds and thirds” based on length and coarseness. Seconds are used to make rug yarns and some hair has a high enough quality to make dryer balls. The thirds are used to make nesting balls for birds or shoe inserts.

“You get as much dirt out of it as you can when you are skirting it and sorting through it,” she added. “When you send it to the mill, the less dirt and debris will cost you less.”

Mustang Creek Alpacas opened their mercantile store to sell a wide variety of alpaca products in the Stockyard District in Oklahoma City. To learn more about alpacas and alpaca products, visit www.mustangcreekalpacas.com. 

Lower respiratory tract disease in horses: Part 2

Last month we talked about lower respiratory tract disease in horses as it pertains to infectious pneumonia (bacterial, viral and parasites). This article expands on lower respiratory tract disease in horses by focusing on some of the more common non-infectious lower airway inflammatory diseases.

Recurrent airway obstruction (RAO) and inflammatory airway disease (IAD) are the most common types of inflammatory airway disease seen in horses. Both of these diseases have a similar clinical presentation, but treatment and management can differ depending on the disease.

The cause of RAO and IAD is secondary to inhalation of various irritants and allergens. The main irritants are dust found in the bedding and hay and the ammonia released into the air from the horse's urine. If the horse's stall is not cleaned regularly, the ammonia from the urine will begin to accumulate in the air and cause inflammation of the horse's lower airway.

Recurrent airway obstruction, also known as COPD or heaves, is a disease caused by chronic lower respiratory tract inflammation. The disease is often incorrectly compared to COPD in humans. Current research shows that RAO is more similar to human asthma rather than COPD. Like human asthma, RAO is characterized by recurrent bouts of reversible narrowing and inflammation of the bronchioles—the last part of the airway that lead to the alveoli. The bronchiole is a small tube of muscle that can dilate and contract. Inflammation of the bronchiole will cause the muscle to contract and restricted air flow

in and out of the alveoli.

Early signs of RAO include mild nasal discharge that is white, creamy appearance or yellow in color. This nasal discharge is most commonly seen during and after exercise. Horses may cough repeatedly during feeding and when there are an increased number of respiratory irritants in the air.

As RAO progresses, clinical signs will also progress including increased frequency of coughing, exercise intolerance, labored breathing at rest, nostril flaring, and a noticeable abdominal push during expiration. This abdominal push during expiration is the horse's way of trying to move more air out of the lungs. Horses with chronic RAO will develop a "heave line," which is hypertrophy of the abdominal muscles.

Clinical signs of RAO get better when horses are moved from an indoor stalled environment with poor ventilation, to an outdoor environment. There is a second, less common form of RAO, which is seen in horses housed in pastures in the summer. This form of RAO is called summer pasture associated obstructive pulmonary disease and is seen in horses housed in pasture in the southeastern part of the United States. Clinical signs will improve in these horses when they are put in stalls or dry lots during the summer months.

Clinical signs of IAD are much more subtle than RAO. Some veterinarians believe that IAD is a more mild and acute version of RAO. Horses with IAD rarely display any nasal discharge. Usually the first changes noticed is a reduction in performance. Riders will report that the horse is not finishing a race, not clocking during a barrel pattern, is resistant to



flex at the poll, will frequently toss their heads and cough when asked to flex at the poll, and finally the horse may act lethargic or lazy.

Making the diagnosis on a severe case of RAO is fairly easy and straight forward. Usually a horse's diagnosis is based solely on clinical signs and history. However, horses with mild RAO or IAD are more difficult to properly diagnosis and will require specialize testing, which includes endoscopic examination and bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL).

The endoscopic examination allows us to visualize the trachea (windpipe) for any mucus, blood or debris. The best time to perform an endoscopic exam of the trachea is 30 minutes after exercise.

A BAL is performed by flushing 200 to 300 milliliters of saline into the bronchiole via the endoscope or a specialized rubber tube. The fluid is then recovered via

See DISEASE page 19



**BY LAUREN LAMB,
DVM, MS**

PHOTO DETAILS

Corticosteroids is administered to the lungs through a nebulizer. The nebulizer is left on the horse's muzzle for a few minutes until the treatment is complete. (Photo by Lauren Lamb)

Disease

Continued from page 18

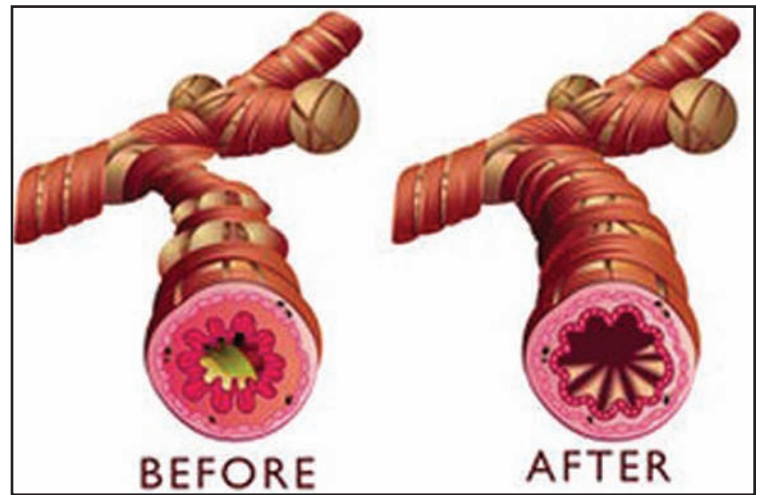
suction and analyzed for number and type of inflammatory cells present in the lungs.

Treatment of RAO is focused toward changing the horse's environment by decreasing the amount of irritants that are inhaled. For the typical case of RAO, this would involve increased amount of time outside or in a well ventilated area. Wetting the hay just prior to feeding or switching to an alternative forage (haylage, cubes and pelleted feed) are good options to decrease the level of irritates inhaled. Wood shavings and shredded paper are low dust beddings and can be used in the place of straw. Rubber mats or peat moss have minimal dust and are the best options for horses with RAO that need to be housed in a stall.

Corticosteroids (anti-inflammatory) and bronchodilators are also helpful in reversing the symptoms

of RAO and IAD. These can only be used for two to three weeks, after which environmental changes need to be used to maintain the horse symptom free of RAO. Prednisolone and Dexamethasone are the most commonly used corticosteroids. The side effects from these medications include laminitis (founder), suppression of the immune system and Cushing-like syndromes. There are corticosteroids that can be inhaled via a nebulizer. This route of administration decreases the risk of side effects and increase the concentration of the drug within the lungs.

The most common bronchodilator used to treat horses with RAO and IAD is Clenbuterol (Ventipulmin). This drug is a smooth muscle relaxer. When this drug is administered to a horse, it will cause the smooth muscles in the bronchioles to relax, which



Bronchiole before muscle relaxer is given (clenbuterol) and then after. Notice the increased diameter of the bronchiole after the muscles relax. (Courtesy of Lauren Lamb)

will allow the bronchioles to dilate and increase the airflow in and out of the lungs.

The key to treating and managing horses with breathing issues is to first and foremost arrive at the correct diagnosis. Once the correct diagnosis is made, therapy can be initiated.

In the case of RAO, the most critical part of treatment is managing the environment that the horse is housed in and decreasing the amount of irritants that are inhaled. In the case of IAD, decreasing the amount of lower airway inflammation is key, followed by environmental management. ☞

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A Rodeo Mom

It is late Sunday afternoon as my 13-year-old daughter and I pull out of Perryton, Texas, pulling a 28-foot horse trailer and three horses heading back to Oklahoma. We have been in Perryton since late Friday afternoon for a two-day rodeo. The first performance started at 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning and then again on Sunday morning.

This weekend was hot, windy and heart breaking. For anyone who has ever traveled the rodeo road, you completely understand how I was feeling.

As I look across at my daughter's dirt-streaked face peacefully sleeping in the passenger side, I think if only I could know which days were going to be bad, then we could just stay home and not have to go through the heartbreak and disappointment.

As my mind is mulling this over, a song by Frankie Ballard comes on and the lyrics, "there's been highs and there's been lows, we lost it all and we rolled some sevens" catches my attention and makes me smile. No better words could ever describe the life of a rodeo mom.

Any sport involves ups and downs, but rodeo is different for several reasons. First, there is the number of chances to correct a mistake. In other sports such as baseball, basketball or football, the players have four quarters or nine innings to make up for a bad play. In rodeo, the player is in and out of the rodeo arena in less than 30 seconds with no second quarter or inning for redemption. They have only one shot to do it right.

The second difference is the number of players. Other sports have a team of players so if one player is having a bad day, a back-up player can be put into that position, thus the meaning of team-work. In rodeo, the individual is ultimately accountable. A hit barrel, a missed calf, a bad tie on a goat or not marking a horse out of the chute ruins the entire



game. In rodeo, the performance of the individual is his/her own. If they are winning, they are responsible, and if they are losing, they are responsible.

As a rodeo parent, it is my job to help prepare my daughter to be the best player she can be. My husband and I spend countless hours running roping calves through the chute, holding goats, setting barrels, exercising horses and preparing our daughter not only physically, but mentally.

We do all we can to prepare our child for competition before the rodeo; however, once she enters the arena our job is done and it is up to her and her horses. All we

can do is watch and pray so that is what we do. Before each rodeo, our family prays together. We do not pray for wins, rather we pray for safety for our daughter, her horses and for all of the contestants and livestock, and we pray for success.

Success. What is success to a rodeo mom? That is a big question and speaking for myself, success is my daughter giving 100 percent, her and her horse leaving the arena safely, and it is even better if a win is in the cards. As rodeo moms and dads, it is up to us to show our children how to handle a bad run, how to stay positive and

See MOM page 22

BY DDEE HAYNES

PHOTO DETAILS

Ddee Haynes (second from left) pictured with grandson, Owen; oldest daughter, Melissa; and youngest daughter, Hattie. (Courtesy of Ddee Haynes)

Mom

to always hold their heads high despite the outcome. One of my favorite quotes is “win humbly, lose graciously and if you must protest do it with dignity.”

Do not get me wrong, I have been known to kick a tire and say a few curse words when things went wrong, but as a mother and a child of God, I must remember we are all here for a greater purpose and to give thanks in all circumstances.

My friend and rodeo mom Lindsey Thiessen said it best in a Facebook post after the National Junior High School finals held this year in June.

“What a great time we had in Tennessee,” Thiessen wrote. “Several highs and lows. [Chance] wasn’t able to accomplish the one goal he set out to do (win the National title in calf roping) but I realize all of this time and effort,

winning and losing is preparing him for what is to come. It is hard on Mommas to watch their babies be so hard on themselves when they don’t perform to their potential (we have all been there), but I am very proud of the hard work and effort that Chance put forth. He is well-deserving, and I am super proud of the competitor he is.”

Quitting is not an option to a rodeo mom. While we may secretly wish for a controlled environment instead of a hot, dusty or freezing cold arena, we will not quit. We just keep putting one boot in front of the other and who knows, maybe the next weekend our kids will roll a seven.

In a nutshell, if we sit on the sidelines afraid of failure or waiting for the perfect day, we will miss some of the best moments of our lives. ☞



Ddee Haynes' daughter Hattie atop her horse named Zoom. (Courtesy of Ddee Haynes)

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Getting a horse to a professional level in any event or discipline takes time, dedication and plenty of heart. It can be a long road to seeing if the young, inexperienced horse a rider is sitting on today could become a champion in the next few years.

The hardest part in training a performance horse can be the seasoning process. Getting horses used to different surroundings like loud music and crowds can be frustrating.

Horses begin with training at home before making their public debut. Tana Renick, a professional barrel racer and horse trainer, has had many horses come through her barn and training program, each having different personalities and abilities.

Renick's love of horses led her to become one of today's leading riders in the barrel racing industry. Her credentials include a long list of accomplishments such as a national circuit championship.

Her passion and commitment

to each horse she swings a leg over brings out the best in many young horses just starting their careers.

It is important for a greener horse to have the right foundation built at home first. Renick prefers her barrel horses to be able to at least lope a smooth, correct pattern at home, no matter the horse's age.

"I judge each and every horse on an individual basis," she said. "If they are a nervous type horse, I will be sure that horse is more solid and confident at home before I take it anywhere."

Many trainers will take unproven horses along with them to competitions and leave them tied to the trailer so they can see the sights and sounds without the stress of competing. New locations are always a learning curve, and horses have to learn to relax and do their job at unfamiliar places.

"My main focus with any horse, especially a young horse, is that they are confident in their

job. I'll try to keep every aspect of their first trip as stress free as possible." She said consistency is key and pays off in the long run. Smooth is always fast.

Some horses may take longer to season than others. In any discipline, trainers should tailor to the horse's individual needs. Horses that are unsure of new surroundings need plenty of time to avoid hurting their confidence.

"I will warm a spooky horse up a lot more than the others," Renick said. "I will not put myself in a position where I have to rush them because these kinds take much more time. I also try to find a place to warm up that they are comfortable and not overly spooky."

Just as each horse's personality and progress varies, so does the plan Renick makes for each one. "If the horse starts out strong but a few months later they are stressing out, then I will give them a break. I may go gather cattle, track steers or just pasture ride. I'll back off See **HORSES** page 24



BY KRISTA LUCAS

PHOTO DETAILS

Tana Renick of Kingston, Okla. running her standout mare XV Wild Child at Rodeo Houston. (Photo courtesy of Tana Renick)

stallion owned by Joe and Carla Spitz, on the rodeo trail.

Boon Dox was a great rope horse before being sent to Renick for barrel racing, winning the American Quarter Horse Association World Champion Heeling Horse in 2011 along with being the overall high point horse of the year as a four year old.

“As a rope horse, Boon Dox learned that when you stop, there is a jerk coming. When he started running barrels, he would sit really hard and deep into the ground before a turn. Although it is beautiful to watch, it does not clock like running all the way up into the hole. We are constantly working on staying forward in our turns, and he has been getting better all the time. He is a true athlete and an incredibly talented stallion. He is still learning different grounds and set ups, but his confidence level is

higher than it has ever been.”

Boon Dox is proof that with time and patience, a horse can learn a new job and be prepared to perform at a high level. Renick said there is no short cut to seasoning horses, no matter what discipline.

The seasoning process can be expensive and time consuming, but when it all comes together for horse and rider, it is worth every penny and sleepless night.

A successful trainer like Renick stays positive while showing an unsure horse the ropes. It is best to always pick the positive moments, and never over think the bad.

“The best advice I can give to anyone is always be a horseman first,” she said. This includes studying how a horse feels underneath the saddle, staying balanced in the saddle and knowing



Streakin Boon Dox is currently being hauled to barrel races and rodeos. (Photo courtesy of Tana Renick.)

when a horse may not be feeling the best.

The bottom line is to just keep hauling, stay determined and listen

to each horse. When all the hard work pays off with a perfect run or performance, it will be completely worth it. ☞



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Life of a Ranch Wife

Welcome to the ranch. It may not be the most glamorous life, but it is my life and I love it. I cannot think of a single thing I would rather do than be a rancher's wife.

From feeding to branding and everything in between, ranching is a family affair. My husband Gary "the rancher," my son Stockton "the little cowpoke," and myself "the rancher's wife" all do our part.

The ranch, a cow/calf operation running beef cattle, was established in the 1950s by Gary's father who sold his land near Kellton, Texas, and purchased the land that we run today just as he did for so many years. I love hearing the stories of past happenings on the ranch and making memories with my family that I will carry with me from now on.

Nestled in the heart of western Oklahoma, in Greer and Beckham Counties, the land is rich with luscious green grass, beautiful wildflowers, thick mesquites, deep canyons and abundant wildlife.

The ranch is demanding, always needing something: fence fixed, cattle fed, water checked, and the list goes on and on. The reward, however, is like no other. Seeing the newborn calves nursing, the cows grazing worry free, and the horses coming in from pasture sunlight glistening off their backs, it gives you a sense of pride and accomplishment.

As a rancher's wife you must

always be ready for anything and nothing is a surprise. Whether it is keeping an orphan calf in the house because it is freezing outside or having a sink full of messy "calf fries" to clean. Then, there is helping with the cattle work. Sometimes you just have to do what you think is best.

Even with the instructions given, things do not always go as planned. Cattle have a mind of their own. For instance, I was told to "take the feed truck to the gate 'call' meaning turn the siren on and off to bring the cattle towards me until you see me. I will wave my hat." Well, here come the cattle and there is not a cowboy in sight. So I just go with it and lead the cattle into the pens. No matter if it is what he would have wanted done there is always a "thank you for your help" and a "good job."

The grass is better than it has been in quite some time and the ponds are full. This is all thanks to the steady rains that we have been receiving. We are now able to buy back cattle that we were forced to sell during the drought that dried up the land and caused many other ranchers to sell out or cut back their number of cattle. During the drought we spent many hours hauling water to not only our cattle but to neighboring ranches.

Each new cow brought to the ranch requires a brand, an ear notch, wormer, hauled to the chosen pasture and unloaded, and a record kept another task of the



ranch wife. It is important to keep track of the cattle. When the cattle were bought, their age, when they calve, and the calf's information is all documented. This lets us know that the cow is doing her part.

Ranching is a gamble; there is always a risk that the hard work you have put in all year will be in vain. Just as it is time to sell, the market will fall out. There you are left with a choice: go ahead and sell the calves or hold out a little longer and pray the price will go back up. I share in the joys of the ranch, but I also share in the stress and worry. It is our livelihood. Ranching is just one of those things—you either love it or you would not be doing it.

It is an exciting time here on the ranch. Our little cowboy, Stockton, turned one year old in August. We celebrated his birthday at the ranch with family and friends, and of course cake.

There is lots of planning and chores to be done. Check back next issue for more from the life of a ranch wife. ☞



BY LANNA MILLS

PHOTO DETAILS

Lanna Mills and her family live on a ranch in western Oklahoma. (Photo by Lanna Mills)



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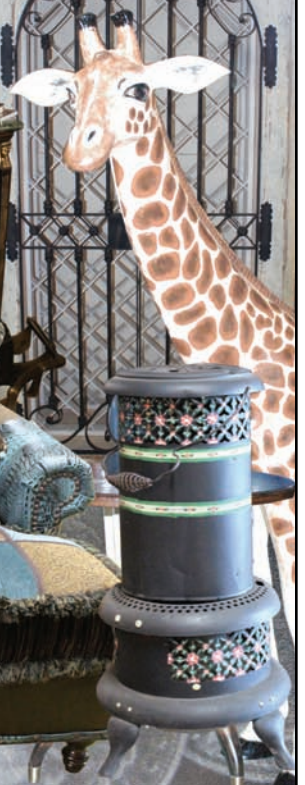
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LIVING THE HONEY SUCC

Mike McClure



BUCKLE UP ROSE FANTASY



LIVING THE HONEYSUCKLE ROSE FANTASY

The music production studio looked like a scene from a rock movie in the 1960s. The lighting in the room was dim, and the studio was an organized chaos with various antique items and music equipment offset with a lounging area.

Whether the visitor is an artist or just a listener, they get the feeling that some form of musical magic is going to happen. Mike McClure affectionately referred to the room as “The Boohatch.”

“The room is older than rock ‘n’ roll,” McClure added. “It was built in 1938. It’s underground, so it’s quiet.”

The Boohatch, located in the basement of McClure’s house, has seen artists including “Turnpike Troubadours,” “The Damn Quails,” “The Suede Panther” and Susan Herndon. McClure also worked with Cale Lester, son of Scott Lester of “The Great Divide” in this room.

The singer, songwriter and producer had the same laid back vibe as The Boohatch, wearing his signature t-shirt and shorts. McClure said he has a process when artists come in. Before recording, the former psychology major enjoys hanging out with his artists and observing how the group works together.

McClure, who turned 45 in July, was born in Tecumseh, Okla. He and his family moved two years later to Shawnee, Okla., where his father bought ten acres of land. The family did not farm for a living, but they had cows, chickens and a horse on the property.

His father was the principal and athletic director for Tecumseh Public Schools, and his mother also worked at the school. One of McClure’s first memories was playing by a creek that ran through the property. He said there were

not many other children in the area because they lived in the country.

McClure learned to play a few chords on his father’s guitar. He remembered “plunking on the guitar” in the backseat of the vehicle while going on family vacations. He tried to learn “Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain” or “Angel Flying Too Close to the Ground.” Watching “Honeysuckle Rose,” starring Willie Nelson inspired him to learn more about the music industry.

“He was my first musical hero,” McClure explained. “I just wanted to be him because he was the greatest.”

Christmas of 1981 was perhaps a defining moment in his young life. McClure’s aunt gave him the vinyl record for the “Honeysuckle Rose (Original-Double)” album. The musician said his family only had a few records including Merle Haggard and Kingston Trio, but he listened to the “Honeysuckle Rose” album non-stop.

“I just loved the sound Willie made because it was unique to me,” McClure said. “I can remember hearing ‘Angel Flying Too Close to the Ground’ as a kid and feeling emotional. I didn’t even know what he was talking about, but I could feel it.”

McClure’s mission was to give other people that same feeling, but it did not happen overnight. He purchased his first guitar at a flea market when he was 11 years old.

“That guy wanted \$30,” he explained. “Dad told me to go back and tell him we would give him \$20. I didn’t understand that process.”

His dad purchased Nelson’s “Sings Kris Kristofferson” album and the words of the album resonated with the young songwriter. Kristofferson is one of the greatest

songwriters, he added.

“I can remember writing the words down on a yellow legal pad,” McClure said. “I liked the process of it and the hand movement.”

McClure compared his imitation process to author Hunter Thompson typing F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “Great Gatsby” to learn how it felt to type a masterpiece. McClure said copying these songs on paper led him down the path to become an artist and songwriter.

McClure’s other musical influences were Mötley Crüe and Ozzy Osbourne while he was in high school, and he was in a band with John Humphrey, drummer for Seether.

“My dad would let me section off part of our garage,” he explained. “Me and my buddies would just jam out there... In a way, I haven’t really left that mentality.”

After graduating from Seminole High School in 1989, he attended Seminole State College with a music scholarship, transferring to Oklahoma State University two years later.

“Moving to Stillwater was overwhelming because I was from small town Tecumseh,” he explained. “It seemed like Stillwater was another country to me.”

The small-town kid only knew two people when he moved, but with his guitar in hand, he soon found his place at the university. McClure was not the type to beg people to listen to him, but friends often invited the musician to grab his guitar and play. The aspiring musician described the experience as being in a “Bohemian atmosphere.”

He was invited by singer/songwriter, Bob Childers to come out to the “Farm,” a central hub for red dirt musicians in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The Farm,

located just outside of Stillwater, burned down in 2003.

“It was the first place I was around where there were that many musicians in one area who were playing songs that they wrote,” McClure explained. “We were inspiring each other.”

The musicians were not competitive at the Farm, but it was more of an encouraging environment, he added. Songwriters would collaborate on songs. Older musicians including Childers and Tom Skinner, who was in McClure’s band for 10 years, were a supportive influence to the young artist.

His roommate opened the original Wormy Dog Saloon in Stillwater in 1992, and let McClure play his guitar on Monday nights. McClure said he was able to hone his skills as a musician. He later met Cody Canada, and the two played together on Monday nights. Canada later started playing on Tuesday nights with Jason Boland. Boland later added Stoney LaRue to the performance.

“Stillwater was a brotherhood,” McClure said. “We were all trying to do the same thing, so why not help each other out?”

When he started performing in public, McClure remembered his face turning red from embarrassment. He said he was confident about the songs, but he was not confident in himself. In 1992 Kelley Green, Scott Lester, J.J. Lester and McClure formed “The Great Divide.” McClure said the other members had more confidence in him.

“I don’t think I would’ve gotten as far without that group of guys who didn’t mind being in the spotlight,” he said.

McClure wanted to be the Jimmy Page or Keith Richards in the group, as he would be content **See FANTASY page 32**

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LIVING THE HONEYSUCKLE ROSE FANTASY

Continued from page 30

if he stood in the back and played the guitar while someone else “pranced around” the stage.

The singer/songwriter remembered looking out at a crowd and everyone would love it except for one person. For a long time, McClure would focus on the one disinterested person in a crowd. It took him five years to gain confidence in himself and be comfortable performing in front of an audience.

The members of “The Great Divide” were influenced by Jerry Jeff Walker, Gary P. Nunn and Steve Earle. McClure remembered listening to Steve Earle and asking who the artist was. Earle was a country artist, but McClure said his music had a rock undertone.

“I felt like there was a rock ‘n’ roll spirit in country with Jerry Jeff Walker or Robert Earl Keen,” McClure added.

“The Great Divide” did not play Top 40 Country because they were not into the style at the time. The group played what they wanted and built an audience around it. They played music from artists who inspired them as well as their original songs. They recorded their first album in 1993 with the help of Lloyd Maines, father of Dixie Chicks’ Natalie Maines.

“He was very influential with how that sound came about.” He added, “He helped shape our sound as well as Jerry Jeff Walker and Gary P. Nunn’s records,” he added.

McClure became less interested in school as the band’s popularity grew. His parents supported his decision to quit school to pursue his career in music. McClure said their support means more to him now because they invested financially in his education. His father was adamant about McClure not

having any regrets even though the odds of success were stacked against him.

The Great Divide performed on the weekends until they signed their record deal with Atlantic Records in 1998. The group performed a couple hundred shows per year until 2002.

“I was living on a bus and acting out my Willie Nelson ‘Honeysuckle Rose’ fantasies,” he added. “It was all just a blur.”

One of McClure’s favorite memories was opening for Nelson at Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota. After the show, Nelson’s manager invited the band to meet Nelson on his tour bus. McClure told the country legend about a song he wrote that went along with “Red Headed Stranger.” The young artist did not have his guitar with him to play the song for Nelson.

Nelson told his sister, Bobbie, to bring his Martin guitar famously nicknamed “Trigger.” When Nelson handed Trigger to McClure, he said he nearly “fell apart.”

“I started tuning the guitar and it started creaking,” he explained. “I said, ‘Man, will you tune it? I’m afraid I’m going to break it.’”

He tuned the guitar and handed it back to McClure. He played his song and the two artists talked. Even though McClure was nervous, he said it was one of the greatest nights of his life.

“I keep that experience in mind as a great lesson of humility and lesson in being nice to people,” McClure explained. “You can get out on the road and get into a routine, especially if you’re not happy and take people for granted.”

In 2002, McClure separated from “The Great Divide” because of typical artistic differences. “We had been together for a long time and living in each other’s pock-

ets,” he explained. “We started having different ideas about management and what album we should be making.”

When asked about his solo career after “The Great Divide” split, McClure laughed and said it was not easy. He went from performing for 2,000 people to maybe 30 people who knew none of his new songs.

“Every artist needs lessons in humility along the way,” McClure said. “You take for granted that there are going to be 2,000 people out there caring about what you are doing.”

The audience wanted to hear “The Great Divide” songs, but he did not want to play songs from his former band. McClure thought being a part of “The Great Divide” would help his solo career, but in a way, it was a hindrance.

“It was a classic story of someone leaving a popular band and going solo,” McClure chuckled. “On one hand, it was cool to be doing music with new people. On the other hand, it was hard because I had a family to support.”

However, McClure said he is more appreciative because he had to start over. After going solo, McClure’s music had more of a rock influence. “We always had rock in “The Great Divide,” but it was more decidedly country,” he added.

The artist did not want to be dictated by a specific genre because he liked different genres of music. McClure said he is better known as a music producer than a music artist. McClure learned how to produce records from watching Maines produce The Great Divide records.

“Lloyd taught me that no matter where you’re at, how fancy it is or how expensive the equipment is, it is just someone’s performance and a microphone,” he added.

One of the first records McClure produced was Cross Canadian Ragweed’s “Highway 377.”

“It was like being a teacher reading out of a manual before teaching a class,” he said with a laugh. “Thank God I learned how to produce from watching Lloyd and those other bands putting their faith in me,” he added, “[Producing] was a way to still do music and not have to dig a ditch.”

McClure and his wife, Scottielyn, and daughters, Marleigh and Mayme moved to Ada, Okla., 10 years ago. The family has two goats, a mini pot-belly pig, a mini horse and chickens.

McClure said he is constantly trying to learn something new whether it’s as an artist or producer. He also learned about producing from Joe Hardy who produced records for Steve Earle and ZZ Top.

“He used to run Ardent Studios in Memphis, Tenn., and recorded everybody,” he added. “He has come from the old analog days all up through digital. He’s just a genius.”

When McClure first began producing records, he hired an audio engineer. Now, he can work with the artists and shape their sound. Nearly 10 years after McClure split from “The Great Divide,” the members buried the hatchet and performed a reunion show.

Today, the band performs 10 to 15 shows per year, and they have recorded new songs. McClure is currently working on putting music to a movie filmed in Oklahoma, “The Scent of Rain and Lightning.”

When asked if he knew the red dirt movement would become so big, McClure paused and said he knew he was in the middle of something special but hoped and dreamed red dirt music would be crowd-pleasing. ☒

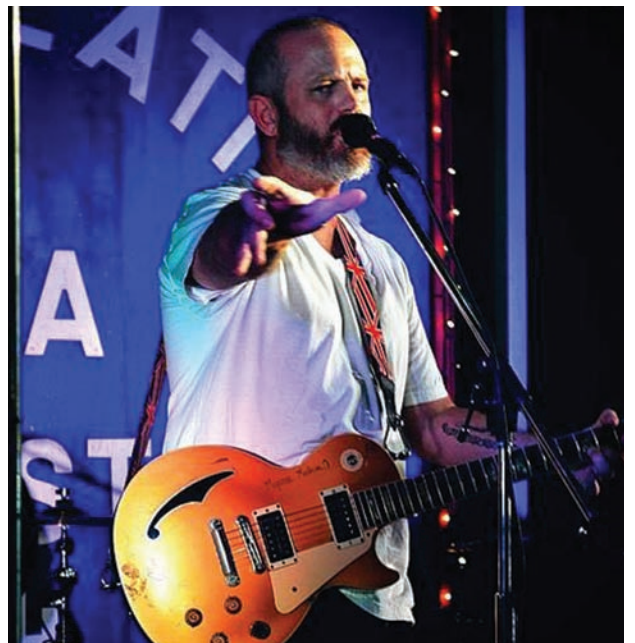


PHOTO DETAILS

(Top to bottom) McClure (second from left) along with Kelley Green, J.J. Lester and Scott Lester formed "The Great Divide" in 1992. (Courtesy of Mike McClure) McClure (center) performing with Tom Skinner. McClure's music was influenced by rock music. (Photos by Jessica Sims) McClure (center) pictured with his daughters, Mayme and Marleigh; and wife, Scottielyn. (Courtesy of Mike McClure)

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LACEY'S PANTRY

By Lacey Newlin



Time: 2 hours and 30 minutes

Serves: 2 loaves

Ingredients

Dough:

- 1 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 envelope rising yeast
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 3 to 3-1/2 cups all-purpose flour

Boiling Solution:

- 3 quarts water
- 1/2 cup baking soda
- 1 egg, lightly beaten

Instructions

In a saucepan or microwave-safe bowl, heat the milk and butter until warm, between 120 to 130 degrees Fahrenheit; the butter will not be melted completely. In the bowl of a mixer or a large mixing bowl, add the milk mixture.

Add the undissolved yeast and brown sugar to the milk mixture and stir. Stir in salt and two cups flour, beat for three minutes. Slowly add enough remaining flour to make a soft dough. Transfer dough to a floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic, eight to 10 minutes.

Place in a greased bowl, cover with a towel and let rise for one to two hours, or until doubled in size. Preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit.

In a large saucepan, combine the water and baking soda. Bring to a boil. Punch the dough down and divide into two equal pieces. Form each piece into a tight, smooth ball. Add the dough to the boiling water and boil for two minutes, turning over after one minute. Remove from water and place on a greased sheet pan. Repeat with remaining dough. Brush with egg and cut a shallow cross in the top with a knife.

Place in preheated oven and bake for 15 minutes. Reduce the temperature to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until the loaves are evenly browned. Remove from pan and cool on a wire rack. ☞

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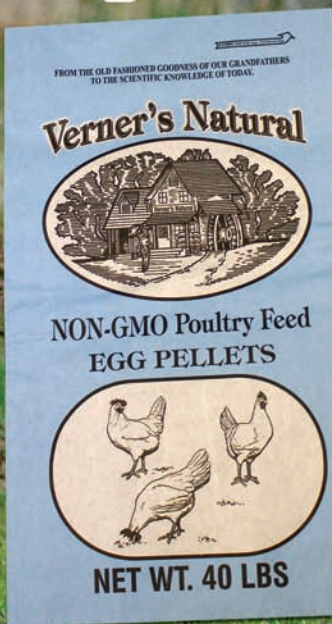
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Something about September makes my mind leap into all things fall. I know the weather rarely cooperates with that idea, but as football season arrives and tailgates occur, my mind cannot help but to fast forward to hot chocolate and cute scarves. Before I get ahead of myself, I thought I would take a look into fun ways to represent your team without wearing a typical t-shirt.

The most important thing about game days is your shoes. They can make or break your day as they have to last miles of walking, standing and cheering while completing your look. I love a classic Converse in the color of your team, but when I want to step up my football game shoe, I lean toward short wedges. I love these by Toms because there are multiple variations, but the comfort and style is never compromised.

Football games often look like a sea of one, main color, I always try and find a pattern with the color mixed in, or I wear an accent color. Then I can make the outfit pop and be more 'team spirited' with shoes and accessories. This technique will be more of a show stopper. Use these examples to search for similar pieces in your favorite team's color. ☞



The House A Treasure Built

Oro! Spanish gold! Many have sought it, but few have found it. U. S. (Sherman) Joines is one of the rare exceptions.

The story begins in 1759 when Colonel Parilla, a Spanish army officer, led his troops to what is now known as Spanish Fort, Texas, to a village of Taovayah Indians on the Red River. He was sent to punish the Indians for the devastation of the San Saba, Texas, mission, taking treasure with him. He found not the typical Indian village but a fort occupied with from 2,000 to 6,000 Indians armed with muskets. The Spanish were soundly defeated and the survivors retreated to a cave across the river in what is now Oklahoma, taking their brass cannon and treasure with them. When they tried to leave the cave, they were murdered by the Indians.

In the 1880s, five men were chasing two panthers they had

tracked from Mud Creek. Pursued by the men's dogs, one of the panthers ran into a rocky crevasse. The hunters began removing stones to allow the dogs to get to the panther and discovered the entrance to a large cave. Sherman Joines was one of those men.

To their surprise, the men discovered a brass cannon, pack saddles, swords, blunderbusses, coats of mail, some Spanish books and treasure—about \$25,000 worth of Spanish gold and silver coins, three silver ingots and two gold crucifixes. No mention was made of what happened to the panther.

Years later, Joines returned and bought the land where the cave sat. In 1896, they completed a house on the site—all paid for with his portion of the treasure. The house, made of sandstone hauled for some distance from Mud Creek by wagons, took five years to build. The exterior walls were 24 inches

thick, and the interior walls were 18 inches thick. The ceilings were 12 feet tall. The house was lighted by coal oil chandeliers that could be pulled down to be lit. The house sits on a hill overlooking Red River, about a mile and a half to the south.

Joines later moved to Ardmore, Okla., to pursue other businesses, and Elijah Jackson Bouldin purchased the house and land. He eventually left it all to his grandson, Loyd Monroe Jackson, who had moved there with his father in 1933 when he was 14. He married Dorothy Morris in 1940, and after serving in World War II, he and his wife established the -J Ranch, modernized the house and raised two daughters, Lana (Jackson) Wade and Fran (Jackson) Riley.

When the new bride moved there, there was no electricity, no telephone, no bathrooms and no running water inside. Individual See **TREASURE** page 39



BY JUDY WADE

PHOTO DETAILS

The house as it looks today.
(Courtesy of Fran Riley)

Treasure

gas stoves heated the rooms before central heat and air were installed. Lana recalls leaving a glass of milk on her bedside table and finding it frozen the next morning.

Two bathrooms were added and the ceilings were lowered to nine feet. It was still a long way from town—15 miles south of Ringling and a half mile off the highway. The nearest neighbor was one and a half miles away.

“I got on the bus to go to school at 6 a.m. and got off at 6 p.m.,” Lana recalls. “I was the first one on and the last one off.”

In 1996, the Jackson family hosted a 100th birthday party for the house with more than 300 people attending.

Lloyd and Dorothy have both passed away, and the ranch is now in the hands of the daughters and their husbands, Charles Wade and

Dale Riley.

“Don’t go there looking for the cave or more treasure,” Fran advised. “We looked for it and looked for it. Geologists came in with backhoes to dig for it because they thought they knew exactly where it was, and they couldn’t find it.”

Some historians doubt the story Joines told. Did the Spaniards really leave the treasure in the cave? Did the hunters find it? Whether or not the story is true, the 120-year-old stone ranch house with its thick walls is a landmark in Jefferson County.

The Riley’s late son, Caleb, wrote about the house for a class assignment when he was about 10. He ended his story this way: “Today U. S. Joines’ old house stands vacant, but the memories live on.”



The Joines family gathered for a rare photo on the porch of their house built in 1896. The house was built from Spanish treasure—\$25,000 worth of Spanish gold and silver coins, three silver ingots and two gold crucifixes. (Courtesy of Caleb Riley)

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Red Dirt Music

Red Dirt Music—we have all heard the term. It is told that this genre of music got its name from the color of the soil in Oklahoma with the birthplace being Stillwater, Okla.

There is a plethora of names that are credited with being legendary in this genre: Mike McClure, Tom Skinner, Bob Childers, and Jimmy LaFave along with Stoney LaRue, Cross Canadian Ragweed and many, many others.

It is interesting that while the genre itself was born in Oklahoma, it quickly bled into other surrounding states. Artists from Texas, Kansas, Arkansas, along with Oklahoma are now considered red dirt artists.

While the history of red dirt music is rich and plentiful, it is important to remember those who started it but also to acknowledge those who will carry it on.

One thing I have learned while working in the entertainment business, more so than I knew before, is how essential it is to listen to the up and coming artists. While

the founding fathers of Red Dirt should never ever be forgotten, they, just like George Jones sang about in Nashville, Tenn., will have others coming behind them to fill the shoes they eventually leave behind.

Red dirt artists thus far have stuck very loyal to the genre, not veering into a rap bro country style, but keeping the roots of red dirt firmly planted in the style that was born in the red soil. The genre is growing and producing more and more talent every day. They look to their heroes for guidance and inspiration, and they look to the fans for the support so greatly needed.

There are many venues that are to be noted in the history of red dirt music also. Cain's Ballroom, The Blue Door, Wormy Dog Saloon, just to name a few. You can still visit these places today and see the artists keeping that great bloodline going.

Stoney LaRue has even opened his own music hall now, and I suspect we will not only see many

legends playing there, but for it to be a launching pad for a new era of music makers also.

It is important for the fans of this genre to support these venues, the artists of all levels and the radio stations that play this music. Fans make all the difference in the world.

In closing, this article is short and to the point because I do not want to tell you all the history that has happened, nor all that is being made even as I type this.

I want you to get out and find out all about it on your own. There are tons of places to visit, articles to read, music to listen to, books to explore—all to give you a better feeling and understanding of the history of this genre, and how deeply it runs through the veins of the people who are a part of it.

As the Red River has bends and turns, so does the music, but it always flows, and it is a beautiful sight and sound.

Be proud Oklahoma; your birthing of a genre has truly inspired generations. ☞

BY DILLON STEEN

PHOTO DETAILS

While the genre itself was born in Oklahoma, it quickly bled into other surrounding states. (Photo by Laci Jones)



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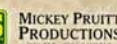


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Joanne's Day Trips

DON CIRO'S

On Sept. 10, 2010, a strange sight started showing up every evening at the mall on MacArthur Street in Shawnee, Okla. It was a food truck. Now, I don't know about you, but when I think of food trucks, I think of large cities, not little Shawnee, Okla. That food truck sold tacos as well as a few other items. The menu was limited, but the food was great. People would park and wait for the food truck to show up. There would be a line of people within an hour. That was the beginning of the Don Ciro's Authentic Mexican Restaurant.

After two years of running the food truck, Don Ciro opened a small restaurant in Shawnee located at 924 N. Harrison. They open at 11 a.m. everyday but close at different times throughout the week. Friday and Saturday they are open until midnight. Don Ciro's was so successful that he was able to open a second restaurant in Seminole, Okla., two years ago.

The building can easily be missed as it is a tan non-descript color with only one sign marking it. The restaurant is small and can only seat 32 people. However, do not let the size of the building fool you. The size is no reflection on the food this group of hardworking people produces. Much of their business is through the drive thru, but they serve a wonderful meal inside as well.

Until recently, most of my business with Don Ciro's has been through the drive thru. Not long after he opened his eatery, my son took me to eat there. I had the tacos and was hooked. For several years, when I got hungry

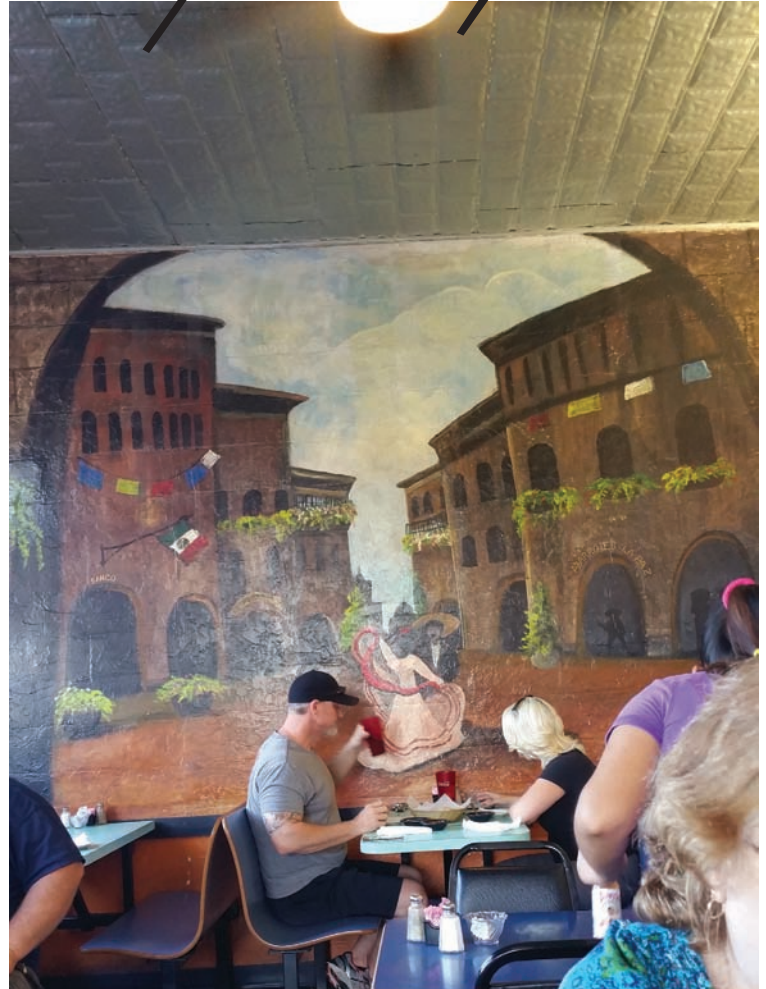
for authentic tacos I would go through the drive thru and get his tacos. I would get six tacos, three chicken and three beef. The tacos are served with a radish garnish, avocado sauce and fresh warm salsa and tortilla chips.

I cannot decide which I like the best—the avocado sauce or the warm freshly made salsa. Not to be confused with guacamole, the avocado sauce is a thin mild mixture. I cannot even determine all of its ingredients, but I like the avocado sauce poured over my tacos.

The salsa is made from fresh tomatoes every day. The tomatoes are somewhere between raw and cooked. The salsa is awesome, a finely chopped mix of tomatoes, cilantro, onions and jalapeños that screams of fresh vegetables. But be warned; when they serve it in the restaurant, the one with the spoon in it is the jalapeño hot version.

I recently went to Don Ciro's with a friend and had something different than my normal tacos. My friend ordered the Gringo Especial, and I decided to try the Don Ciro's Especial. We also ordered a side of rice to share. The Gringo Especial had a quesadilla and two flautas. My especial had one taco, a gordita and two flautas.

We also ordered bottled sodas imported from Mexico. They carry a number of soda choices: grape, mandarin, strawberry, pineapple, tamerine, mango, squirt and coca cola. I had the mandarin soda and my friend had the grape. One of the major differences between American sodas and the imported Mexican sodas is the number of ingredients. American sodas have



a number of chemicals and colors added. The Mexican sodas served at the restaurant had five ingredients. The bottled soda I had did not have any dyes or colors added and had real fruit juice in it. They also serve a limited selection of American sodas.

While we waited for our food, chips and salsas were brought to our table. Two bowls of salsa were set before us; one had a spoon in it. My companion ordered some queso for herself. It was mildly flavored with small bits of jalapeño in it but not overly hot. I started eating from the bowl of salsa closest to me. When I finished that bowl, I started dipping from the bowl with the spoon in it. I quickly found out **See CIRO'S page 43**

BY JOANNE JONES

PHOTO DETAILS

Don Ciro's Authentic Mexican Restaurant is small and can only seat 32 people. (Photo by Joanne Jones)

CIRO'S

Continued from page 42

why the bowl had the spoon in it. I looked around and discovered that every table got the bowl with the spoon, and everyone else seemed to know what the spoon meant. Some customers pushed it away while others grabbed it up.

I was treated to a delightful meal, and I do believe I have a new favorite at Don Ciro's. My plate had a beef taco with fresh lime and avocado sauce, two chicken flautas and a beef gordita. The beef in the taco was not made from ground meat, but it was thinly sliced, lightly seasoned beef served with a sprig of cilantro and little wedges of radish as a garnish on two soft corn tortilla shells. I separated the shells and divided the meat between the two shells, because there was so much meat on the taco it was easier to

handle.

The crispy chicken flautas were filled with shredded seasoned chicken with just the right amount of cheese and lettuce on top to offset the chicken. The beef gordita was filled with meat similar to the taco but with a slightly different flavor. Its flat flour shell was light and crisp with fresh feta cheese inside with the beef. The combination of flavors and textures were a delight to my senses.

The plates looked fresh and crisp, smelled heavenly and the taste was indescribable. I enjoyed every bite and scraped the plate clean. My companion also enjoyed her meal and had enough left over to take home. Her meal had a crisp chicken and cheese quesadilla and two chicken flautas. The chicken in the quesadilla and flautas was



Jones ordered The Don Ciro's Especial including a taco, two flautas and a gordita. (Photo by Joanne Jones)

lightly seasoned but not spicy.

Don Ciro's makes their salsa, chips and tortillas from scratch each day. Don Ciro's has three pages of selections, most of them with Mexican names that I do not understand or know what ingredi-

ents are in them. It just makes me want to go back and try something else.

Don Ciro's has a nino's (children's) section, lunch specials, a vegetarian selection and fish. Happy eating. ☺

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WILD WEST FESTIVAL

Celebrating its 20th year, the Wild West Festival in Old Town McAlester is a family-friendly festival that encompasses the country and western lifestyle in a two-day period.

“McAlester, Okla., is unique in the nation in that we have two downtown areas,” said Brenda Baxter, chairman of the Wild West Festival. The old town is located on Business 69 on North Main Street and Stonewall Street.

The old town, where the festival is held, was named after entrepreneur and politician, J.J. McAlester. McAlester moved to Indian Territory, specifically the Choctaw Nation, when he was 24.

McAlester later married a Chickasaw Indian woman, giving him citizenship in both Chickasaw and Choctaw nations. His rights helped McAlester to be a founder of the Oklahoma coal industry, and he established the J.J. McAlester Mercantile Company. He also later became Lt. Governor of Oklahoma.

When the railroads were built later, downtown McAlester moved a mile-and-a-half south. The mercantile store was mentioned in the 1968 novel “True Grit” by Charles Portis. The novel was turned into a film a year later and recreated in 2010.

Portrayed by John Wayne in the 1969 version, U.S. Marshal Rooster Cogburn traveled through Indian Territory to track down Tom Chaney who drunkenly killed the father of Mattie Ross. On his way, Cogburn stopped at the mercantile company owned by McAlester.

Baxter said keeping the old town alive has been difficult. Members of the McAlester community wanted to keep the old downtown area alive, and they created the festival that takes place on the first Saturday of October each year. The Wild West Festival has an average of 6,000 visitors each year.

This year, the festival begins on Sept. 30 at 3 p.m., with entertainment followed by an ice cream social held at 5 p.m. The 1969 ver-

sion of “True Grit” will be shown at the historical J.J. McAlester mansion, also located in Old Town McAlester, at 8:30 p.m.

Entertainment on Saturday begins at 9 a.m. The Indian Territory Pistoliers entertain audiences with gunfights throughout the day. Dr. H.P. Hedgethicket Esquire III traveling medicine show will also be at the festival for audiences to enjoy, she added.

Oklahoma Kid’s Marty Tipton will display his trick roping skills, and he will hold roping classes for kids, she said. The afternoon entertainment headliner will be up and coming Oklahoma artist, Wesley Michael Hayes and Outlaw Territory. The native of Coweta, Okla., is known for his songs, “Cold Dead Hands” and “Love in Pictures.”

“We had him perform at the festival last year,” she explained. “He can sing it all, and it was great.”

The Wild West Festival honors two individuals who devote their time to Old Town McAlester. The **See WEST page 45**



BY LACI JONES

editor@okfronline.com

PHOTO DETAILS

Oklahoma Kid’s Marty Tipton displays his trick roping skill at the festival. (Photo by Visual Displays Photography)

WEST

crowning of the king and queen of the Wild West Festival will be held at noon on Saturday. Baxter said craft and food vendors will be open throughout the festival. A restaurant located within the old town will also be open for customers.

“Our old town area is only two blocks long,” she explained. “We are very picky as to who we let in as vendors and entertainment.”

Baxter said the Wild West Festival caters to families with a kiddie corral filled with bouncy houses, pony rides and children’s games. Visitors can also tour the big antique shops in the old town including J.J. McAlester Antiques, owned by Baxter. The attendees also have easy access to the festival with parking on both sides of the street.

“We want to promote the fes-

tival for the families,” Baxter added. “All entertainment is free, and we wanted to provide that for our community.”

The Wild West Festival is sponsored by the Old Town Association and is made possible with the help of the City of McAlester and McAlester Main Street Program.

“The Old Town Association is a not-for-profit (501(c)3) organization whose mission is to preserve and revitalize the Old Town Historic District in north McAlester,” Baxter added. “The Old Town Association is made up of community members and business owners. We all volunteer our time to help the Old Town Historic District remain a vital part of our community. A large part of this effort is our sponsorship of the Wild West Festival every year.” ☞



The Wild West Festival is sponsored by the Old Town Association. (Photo by Visual Displays Photography)

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EVENT LINEUP

SEPTEMBER 2016

SEP 01 **BACKWOODS MUSIC & CAMPING FESTIVAL**, Tatanka Ranch, Stroud, OK 74079. The Backwoods Music & Camping Festival is a must-visit music and art festival at Tatanka Ranch in Stroud on Sept. 1-5. Years in the making, this festival started as a gathering of local artists and musicians in Oklahoma. Today, top touring names and headliners grace the multiple stages at Backwoods. The festival will have art installations by well-known artists, and plenty of spots to relax in the beautiful surroundings. Visit www.backwoodsmusicfestival.com for more information.

SEP 01 **CHEROKEE NATIONAL HOLIDAY**, Tahlequah, OK 74465. The Cherokee National Holiday in Tahlequah celebrates the signing of the Cherokee Nation Constitution in 1839. This annual event, held on Sept. 1-4, is a celebration of Cherokee heritage and cultural awareness. The Cherokee National Holiday attracts visitors from across the United States as well as from around the world. The four-day holiday is full of activities for all ages, from traditional Native American games. For more information, visit www.cherokee.org.

SEP 01 **CHOCTAW NATION LABOR DAY FESTIVAL & POWWOW**, Choctaw Nation Capital Grounds, Tuskahoma, OK 74574. This annual event offers activities for all ages including sports tournaments, quilting demonstrations, live performances, buffalo tours and more. The Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival takes place on Sept. 1-5. The festival invites all visitors to enjoy tribal heritage activities, an intertribal powwow, Choctaw cultural exhibitions, stickball games, arts and crafts, free concerts and carnival rides. Visit www.choctawnation.com for more information.

SEP 02 **PRCA RODEO OF CHAMPIONS**, Beutler Brothers Rodeo Arena, Elk City, OK 73644. For over 75 years, Elk City has hosted one of the most renowned rodeos in the state of Oklahoma. The PRCA Rodeo of Champions, takes place every Labor Day weekend at the Beutler Brothers Arena, brings thousands of visitors to watch top-ranked cowboys and cowgirls compete for cash and points as they ride, rope or wrestle their way to win national titles. For more information, visit www.elkcityrodeo.com.

SEP 02 **CHOCTAW OKTOBERFEST**, 1900 S Harper Rd. Choctaw, OK 73020. On Sept. 2-10, Choctaw Oktoberfest has become a favorite destination for visitors from a multi-state area seeking German food, music, beer and wine. Visitors will be able to select from more than 30 German draught beers and international wines while enjoying continuous live entertainment. Visit www.oldgermany.com for more information.

SEP 02 **MIDSOUTH YOUTH RODEO COWBOYS ASSOCIATION FINALS**, Stephens County Fair & Expo Center, Duncan, OK 73533. Visit Duncan on Sept. 2-5 to support young men and women competing in the MidSouth Youth Rodeo Cowboys Association Finals. This event features rough stock and barrel racing, as well as other fun activities. For more information, visit www.mrca-rodeo.com.

SEP 08 **BLUEGRASS & CHILI FESTIVAL**, Expo Center, Claremore, OK 74017. Claremore's Bluegrass & Chili Festival is cooking up plenty of family fun in the month of September. Join more than 30,000 visitors at this annual event and sample chili from cooking teams during the Mid-America Regional Chili Cook-Off. For more information, visit www.bluegrasschilifest.com.

SEP 08 **MIAMI FESTIFALL**, Downtown Miami, Miami, OK 74354. Enjoy the changing of the seasons and welcome autumn at the FestiFALL in downtown Miami on Sept. 8-10. This celebration includes a sidewalk sale, 5K run, car show, live entertainment, chili and barbecue cook off, Indian tacos other great food and much more. Visit www.miamiokchamber.com for more information.



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SEP
08

AMERICAN MINIATURE HORSE REGISTRY NATIONAL SHOW, Tulsa Expo Square.

Tulsa, OK 74114. Held on Sept. 8-18, the American Miniature Horse Registry and American

Shetland Pony Club are bringing their National Show to Tulsa's Expo Square during a 10-day display of equestrian skills in different classes and categories. This prestigious event features more than 1,500 horses, making it the largest show of this kind in the world. Visit www.shetlandminiature.com for more information.

SEP
15

OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR, Oklahoma State Fair Park.

Oklahoma City, OK 73147. Make your way to the Oklahoma State Fair on Sept. 15-25 and celebrate the end of summer with endless carnival rides, delicious fair food and a wealth of agricultural, artistic and commercial exhibits. Oklahoma's state fair draws over 1,000,000 visitors annually and features a variety of live performances, major attractions and countless competitions. There is literally something for everyone at the Oklahoma State Fair. Enjoy browsing through five exhibit halls, stop by the fair's auto show to peruse new makes and models from Ford, Dodge, Honda, Jeep, or compete for prizes. Visit www.okstatefair.com for more information.

SEP
16

CHEROKEE STRIP CELEBRATION, Downtown Enid.

Enid, OK 73701. On Sept. 16, 1893, people flocked to Enid to stake their claim. Join the city of Enid on Sept. 16-17 to celebrate this historical event at the annual Cherokee Strip Celebration. Visit www.enidchamber.com for more information.

SEP
15

TECUMSEH FRONTIER DAYS, Downtown Tecumseh.

Tecumseh, OK 74873. This annual celebration is a tribute to Tecumseh's land run that took place in September of 1891. Highlights of Tecumseh's Frontier Days include over 60 vendor booths, food, live music, a parade and games. For more information on Tecumseh Frontier Days, visit www.tecumsehfrontierdays.com.



STOCKYARDS STAMPEDE

SEP
23

OLD TIME THRESHING BEE & TWO CYLINDER SHOW,

Hwy 58. Fairview, OK 73737. Come to Fairview's Old Time Threshing Bee & Two-Cylinder Show, an annual celebration of pioneer farm life with actual demonstrations using authentic farming equipment. Witness demonstrations of grain milling, threshing of wheat bundles, rope-making, corn shelling, plowing, broom-making, saw milling and more. While at the Old Time Threshing Bee, enjoy a gas and steam engine show, antique car and truck show, antique farm equipment show and more. For more information on the Old Time Threshing Bee & Two Cylinder Show, visit www.oktclub.com.

SEP
24

NATIONAL ALPACA FARM DAYS, Various Locations.

Oklahoma. Visit an alpaca farm on Sept. 24-25 to learn about this unique certified, sustainable livestock. Visitors can also purchase different alpaca products. Visit www.alpacasofoklahoma.com for a full list of Oklahoma Alpaca Farms.

OCT
01

STOCKYARDS STAMPEDE,

1305 S. Agnew Ave. Oklahoma City, OK 73108. Bring the whole family to Stockyards City in Oklahoma City for the district's premier event, Stockyards Stampede. Beginning on Exchange Avenue, a longhorn-led parade kicks everything off, followed by cowboy entertainment. After the parade, savor the aroma of range approved Dutch oven and chuck wagon cuisine paired with a variety of folk and western musicians. Old West tradesmen will be demonstrating frontier skills such as rope making and blacksmithing and craft vendors will be scattered throughout the event. For more information, visit www.stockyardscity.org.

OCT
20

PRAIRIE CIRCUIT FINALS RODEO, Stephens County Fair & Expo Arena,

2002 S. 13th St., Duncan, OK 73533. This three day rodeo features the top cowboys and cowgirls from Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska. Begins at 7:30 p.m. nightly. For more information visit www.prairiecircuitfinals.com.

OKLAHOMA STATE PARKS

Lake Wister State Park

Debra Reininger, park manager of Lake Wister State Park, is always shocked when people tell her they have never heard of Lake Wister State Park near Poteau, Okla., and Heavener, Okla. However, she said they love the tranquil environment whenever they get here.

“There is something mystical at Lake Wister State Park that grabs people when they get here,” she added. “People want to come back for more whether it’s the relaxation or the view.”

Located near the Arkansas border, the area of the state park was home to various Native American tribes. The Choctaw Nation relocated to the fertile river valleys of the southeast Oklahoma region. The nation also had a strong tribal government with well-established laws.

“The Choctaw light-horsemen were famous for their courage in bringing law and order to Indian Territory,” according to the Lake Wister State Park Background/History document. “The home of Peter Conser, one of the leaders of the light-horsemen, is located near Lake Wister.”

The Poteau River, the only Oklahoma river that flows north,

flows into Lake Wister. Lake Wister has 7,300 surface acres and 115 miles of shoreline. Wister Lake was authorized for flood control and conservation by the Flood Control Act of 1938.

The state park area included a 50-acre peninsula called Quarry Island. The peninsula received its name because rock used for the dam structure completed in 1948 was quarried locally, the park manager added.

“Lake Wister is a Corps of Engineer lake,” Reininger added. “Therefore, it was built solely for flood control.”

The Corps of Engineers constructed a road to connect the dam with Quarry Island, according to the Lake Wister State Park Background/History document. Land on Lake Wister was leased to the state for a state park by the Corps of Engineers on Jan. 1, 1953.

The 1,220-acre state park is the only camping facility located on Lake Wister and will see 100,000 to 112,000 visitors each year. The peak season for visitors is after spring break until the first of November after the fall colors, Reininger explained.

The state park hosts the Trail of Treats and Thrills the Saturday

before Halloween. Bus drivers from surrounding schools pick people up at the parking lot at the Wister Dam campground and bus them to Quarry Island. Children walk through the area and get candy, and the state park provides hotdogs and water. The radio station in Poteau, Okla., also hosts a costume contest at the state park.

The Poteau Chamber of Commerce also puts on the Lights on the Island, a drive-thru Christmas light tour at Quarry Island, she said. Reininger said the light show usually runs from Thanksgiving weekend to New Year’s Day.

“I have noticed recently that we have picked up during the winter holidays,” she added. “We have people meet here for their family get-togethers, or we have local people who have guests and don’t have enough room to accommodate. They will have their guests come and stay at our cabins here.”

Lake Wister State Park offers 15 cabins for rental. Twelve of the cabins have one bedroom with a queen-sized bed. A couple of the one-bedroom cabins have a beautiful view of the lake from the front window, she added. “We See **PARK** page 51



BY LACI JONES

editor@okfronline.com

PHOTO DETAILS

The peak season for the state park is spring break through November. (Courtesy of Debra Reininger)

PARK

also have the park side cabins which are located up in the pine trees,” she explained. “Those are the duplex cabins.”

One of the two-bedroom cabins are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, she explained. All of the cabins include a fully equipped kitchen, fireplace, flat screen 32-inch TV with satellite service, picnic table and grill. Each of the cabins has a sofa that pulls out to a full-size bed. Fresh linens are also supplied between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day if the visitors choose.

Lake Wister State Park has 99 campsites including everything on Quarry Island, she added. Lake Wister State Park is in the beginning stages of renovating their primitive campsite, Wister Ridge Campgrounds. The Wister Ridge Campgrounds will have a bathhouse and a pavilion that will sit on top of the mountain side. Reininger expects the campground to be available to the public next park season.

“Wister Ridge Campground will be an awesome place for people and families who want to do the primitive camping,” she said. “It is a really beautiful area, and I cannot wait to see it brought back to life.”

The park manager hopes to restore the ADA compliant paved trail in the future. The state park has a self-guided nature trail and a six mile hiking trail for visitors to enjoy the nature in southeast Oklahoma.

Reininger said the pine trees along with the view of the Oachita National Forest create a tranquil environment for campers. People who visit these state parks need to take care of their property because



Lake Wister State Park offers 15 cabins for rental. (Courtesy of Debra Reininger)

Oklahoma State Parks belong to the people. Staying at Lake Wister State Park is a rewarding experience whether you are in a camper, tent or cabin, she concluded. ☞

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Characteristics: Panicled tickclover is a warm-season perennial forb native to the eastern United States. Panicled tickclover can grow more than four feet tall. It commonly grows along the margins of woodlands and openings. Leaves are alternate and palmately trifoliate. Small pink to purple flowers appear in May through August, and seeds appear in segmented pods from July to October. An unmistakable characteristic of this plant and other tickclovers is the Velcro-like hairs on the leaves, stems and seed pods that make these parts of the plant stick to

jeans, shirts and other clothing.

Area of Importance: Panicled tickclover is found on a variety of sites from central Oklahoma and Texas eastward. It is primarily found along the margins of wooded areas, but it can also be found in open areas or woodlands. Panicled tickclover disappears with moderate to heavy grazing, so it is often absent in continuously grazed pastures.

Attributes: Panicled tickclover is a member of the Fabaceae family. Species in this family are considered legumes and have the ability to fix nitrogen in the soil. Legumes are also one of the most

PLANT ID KEY

-  = ANNUAL
-  = PERENNIALS
-  = WARM SEASON
-  = COLD SEASON
-  = NATIVE
-  = INTRODUCED

P  **N**



BY JOSH GASKAMP

jagaskamp@noble.org

PHOTO DETAILS

An unmistakable characteristic of panicled tickclover is the Velcro-like hairs on the leaves, stems and seed pods. (Courtesy of The Noble Foundation)

preferred forages for white-tailed deer and livestock. Panicled tickclover is utilized by wildlife and livestock in spring and summer. It responds favorably to late winter and early spring burns.

Reference: Gee, Kenneth L., Michael D. Porter, Steve Demarais, and Fred C. Bryant. White-Tailed Deer: Their Foods and Management in the Cross Timbers. Ⓜ

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**

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OKFR / parting shot



Rising Moon

Photographer, Kathie Freeman was enjoying the weather outside one evening, when she noticed how beautiful the moon looked. Using a new lens, Freeman took more than 60 photos to get “the perfect picture” of this half-moon. She said it is difficult to get the best focus of the details of the moon because the slight breeze blurred it out. (Photo by Kathie Freeman)



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