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John Gosney



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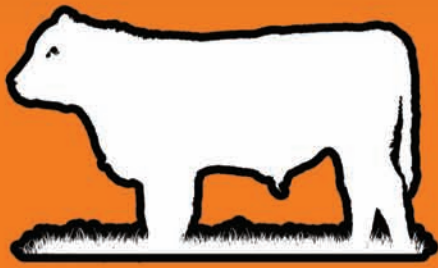
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- 2017 Stallion by **Smooth As A Cat** out of a daughter of Hes A Peptospoonful
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- 2016 Gelding by **Doc Tivio Goldseeker** out of a granddaughter of Mr Gun Smoke - lots of color
- 2015 Gelding by **Smart N Pepto** out of a daughter of Two ID Sweet Jack with over 400 AQHA roping points.
- 2016 Gelding by **Cat Ichi** out of a daughter of Herman Goldseeker
- 2016 Brown Gelding by **Once In A Blu Boon** out of a daughter of High Brow Cat
- 2016 Palomino Gelding by **Hydrive Cat** out of granddaughter of Smart Little Lena - smaller type horse
- 2016 Sorrel Gelding by **Show Me A Song Joes** out of a daughter of Sensation Cash
- 2016 Gelding by **Bay John Goldseeker** out of a daughter of CD Olena
- 4 geldings by World Champion **Show Me A Song Joes** out of daughters of Mr Baron Red & Two Eyed Red Buck
- 2016 Stallion by **Hydrive Cat** out of a daughter of Royal Fletch - rides nice
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- 2016 Bay Roan Gelding by **Rhinestone Bartender** out of a granddaughter of Leo Goldseeker HPI Eligible
- Compete dispersal of long time Liberal, Kansas breeders - Darrel and Georgia Taylor, own son of **Paddys Irish Whiskey**, broodmares, 2 yr olds, and yearlings
- 2016 Buckskin Gelding by **Mr Tyree Drifter** out of a daughter of Zan Juan Buck
- 2015 Roan stallion by **Royal Blue Quixote** out of a daughter of Zans Diamond Shine - great disposition
- 2016 Sorrel Gelding by **Corona Caliente** out of a daughter of Mr Baron Red - HPI Eligible
- 2016 Buckskin daughter of **Herman Goldseeker** out of Audacious To A Te mare.
- 2016 Bay Roan mare by **Rhinestone Bartender** out of a daughter of Smart Aristocrat - HPI Eligible
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- 2016 Buckskin mare by **Roosters Wrangler** and out of a daughter of High Brow Cat
- 2016 **Once In A Blu Boon** mare out of a daughter of Smart Mate
- 2016 Bay Roan mare by **Rhinestone Bartender** out of a daughter of King W Goldseeker - HPI Eligible
- 2016 Palomino daughter of **Two ID Sweet Jack** out of a daughter of Poco Dot Lena - HPI Eligible
- 2016 Buckskin daughter of **Reds Diamond Jack** out of a daughter of Two Eyed Red Buck - HPI Eligible
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Summer Lovin'

Hello OKFR readers, and welcome to the July issue of the Oklahoma Farm & Ranch magazine. Summer has officially arrived, which means the bright green grass of spring has almost disappeared. Aside from the notorious 100 plus degree Fahrenheit weather across the prairies, summer is a marvelous time of year.

We are breaking out the boats, sandals, swimsuits, and of course, the tanning lotion/sunscreen. We are enjoying life by the campfire while eating more than our fair share of s'mores with the fellowship of family and friends. With the Fourth of July right around the corner, check out the calendar of events for fireworks displays as well as other celebrations this month.

Chain Ranch is a diverse operation in Oklahoma and Kansas. Owner of Chain Ranch, Ralph Chain has always been fond of Longhorns, and he even drove a herd of Longhorn steers through downtown Dallas. While Chain has contemplated selling his herd of Longhorns in the past, the herd still remain on the ranch in Canton, Okla. Read about their Longhorns in the Farm & Ranch section.

Before the temperature reached 100 degrees Fahrenheit, I visited with Oklahoma farmer, John Gosney. When I met with Gosney on the farm, he was gearing up for the 2018 wheat harvest. Located in Fairview, Okla., John's Farm has been in Gosney's family for more than 120 years. This Oklahoma wheat and cattle producer spent a few decades using conventional methods but switched to organic farming in the mid-'90s. Read about this producer in "Unconventional Farmer."

This issue reveals the final chapter of the 101 Ranch series located in Ponca City, Okla. This ranch was once known as the largest diversified farm and ranch in the United States. After the unexpected deaths of two of the Miller Brothers, Joe and George, Zack Miller was left to manage the empire alone through the Great Depression. Read the final installment of the 101 Ranch series in the Attractions section.

In the outdoors section, read about a plant used for medicinal purposes by Native Americans. While it is not considered a good forage for livestock, passionflower is located in the eastern half of Oklahoma. The origin of the plant name is unique as it refers to the crucifixion of Christ. Read more in "Grazing Oklahoma."

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, Twitter and Instagram pages. Subscribe to the digital version of OKFR on our website: www.OKFRonline.com.

Until next month,

Laci J. Jones



ON THE COVER

When John Gosney's great-grandparents homesteaded their farm in north-western Oklahoma more than 120 years ago, they attempted to grow wheat, corn and grapes. While the grapes and corn failed due to the dry climate, the farm continued to prosper. In the mid-'90s, the farm made the transition to become a certified organic farm. Pictured on the cover is Gosney at his farm in Fairview, Okla. (Photo by Laci Jones)

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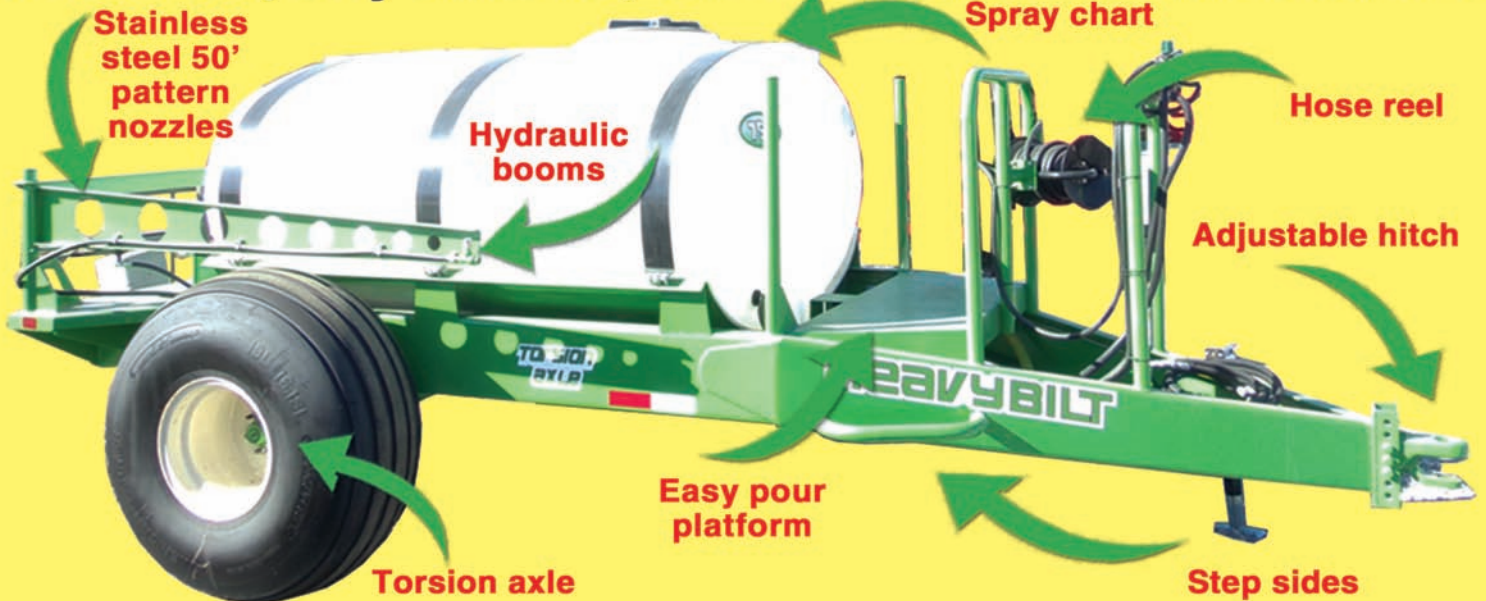
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NEW WORLD SCREW WORM

By Barry Whitworth, DVM



New World Screwworms have only been found in North and South America. (Photo courtesy of the USDA-ARS)

In October 2016 the United States Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence of screwworms in the Florida Keys. The initial case was found in a Key deer.

In January 2017 the public was informed of a dog in Homestead, Fla., that was infested with screwworms. This was the first case reported on the mainland in many years. During the 2016 outbreak, the USDA confirmed 16 cases of screwworm infestation in animals. All the cases were detected in the state of Florida.

Previous to the 2016 outbreak,

the last case of screwworm infestation reported by the USDA occurred on Aug. 30, 1982. Since 1982, only sporadic cases of screwworms have been diagnosed, but these were animals or people that were infested in another country and then entered the United States. The last official diagnosed case of screwworms in Oklahoma occurred in 1976.

New World Screwworms have only been found in North and South America. According to the USDA since they have been eradicated from the United States and several other countries, they are

now only found in South America and five Caribbean countries. The adult flies are slightly larger than the common housefly. They have orange eyes and a blue green body that has three stripes down the back. The females typically mate once and lay their eggs along the edges of an open wound or in the mucous membranes (mouth, nose, ears) of an animal.

When the eggs hatch, the larvae burrow into the host flesh and feed on living tissue and fluids. Wounds attract more flies, which compounds the problem. Once the larvae mature, they drop to

the ground, burrow into the soil, and begin the pupal stage. In a few days, the adult flies emerge to repeat the life cycle.

Animals that are infested with screwworms will have a wound that has a foul-smelling odor and oozes a blood tinged fluid. The wound will enlarge and deepen if left untreated. Occasionally, a wound will appear to not enlarge, but on closer examination the wound will have many tracts under the skin. As the lesions worsen, the animal will refuse to eat and separate from the herd. If treatment is not provided, the

animal will die from the tissue damage, toxemia, and/or from secondary bacterial infections.

Before the eradication of screwworms from the United States, livestock producers spent a great deal of time trying to prevent screwworm infestations. Navels of newborns required an insecticidal treatment. If producers failed to do this, many of these babies would die due to infections. Procedures such as tail docking, castration, dehorning or branding had to be done at certain times of the year when screwworms were not a problem.

How was the Florida outbreak contained? The answer is the same way that screwworms were eradicated from the United States. In the 1950s the USDA began using the sterile insect technique. The program released male screw-worm flies that were sterile. Since female flies usually only mate

once, females that mated with the sterile males would produce non-viable eggs. Eventually after several years, the population should be eliminated.

Currently, the USDA maintains the Screwworm Barrier Maintenance Program (COPEG) facility in Panama. This facility produces sterile male screwworm flies every day of the year. Most of the flies are released along the border of Panama and Colombia. This prevents the flies in South America from migrating to North America.

The facility focuses on producing the strongest and most aggressive flies as efficiently as possible. For this reason, the overseers of the facility are constantly searching for new strains of screw-worm flies and better production practices. The current strain is Jamaica-06. Another strain is available, should the current strain

fail to perform optimally.

At the facility, each stage of the life cycle is carefully monitored from the laying of the eggs to the final packaging of sterile male flies. Each stage of the life cycle has a specific diet, temperature, humidity and growing medium that is specially formulated to produce the healthiest flies. The diet consists of dried bovine blood, dried milk, dried eggs and cellulose.

The facility mixes 800 gallons of food a day. A colony is 45,000 flies, and three colonies are maintained at all times. These flies are enticed to lay eggs on an artificial wound. The eggs are removed and incubated at the right temperature and humidity. The eggs hatch and the larvae are moved to new rooms to grow. As the larvae mature, they are continually moved to different rooms with a different temperature and humidity for optimal produc-

tion. Once the larvae pupate, the pupae are carefully observed for the right time to irradiate. Once completed, the flies are packaged and sent to be released.

The work that is done at the COPEG facility saves livestock producers millions of dollars each year, and most producers are unaware of the work. Livestock producers should thank the USDA for all the hard work they do to protect the livestock industry of the United States.

If producers would like more information about New World Screwworms, they should contact their local veterinarian or their local County Extension Educator. Additional information about screwworms, may be found at the USDA web site at www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animal-health/animal-disease-information/cattle-disease-information/nws/new-world-screwworm.

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OACD LEADERSHIP CLASS

By Chris Cox



The Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts has hosted the OACD Conservation Class since 1997. (Photo courtesy of Chris Cox)

Social movements are a lot like agricultural operations. An idea, much like a seed, has to be nurtured, cultivated and grown into something that people can believe in and grasp. Movements, again much like agriculture operations, also must be passed from generation to generation so the success of the movement (or ag operation in this ever-weakening analogy) can continue to live. The Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) is doing its part to continue the conservation movement through the OACD Conservation Leadership Class.

Starting with people like Hugh Hammond Bennett, Aldo Leo-

pold, and other conservationists, the conservation movement has always been driven in local communities by local leaders. Bennett, the man who started the Soil Conservation Service (now the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service), once said, "National action may be led and aided by government, but the soil must be conserved ultimately by those who till the land and live by its products."

It is that sentiment that led to the passage of the Soil Conservation Act in 1936 and, ultimately, individual state laws establishing conservation districts.

The OACD Conservation Leadership Class began in 1997 as

a way to encourage Conservation District directors to take a more active leadership role in spreading the conservation message throughout Oklahoma. It is also designed to highlight and enforce the conservation partnership in the state between the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and OACD. This year-long course meets every other month for two days to discuss various conservation related topics. The class held its first meeting in February at the OACD State Meeting at the Oklahoma Conservation Commission office in Oklahoma City.

To participate in the Leadership Class, candidates must be

a conservation district director or associate director, fill out an application and submit a letter of recommendation from their district board. The goal of the class is to "provide directors with a comprehensive overview of conservation in Oklahoma." The leadership class will hear about topics ranging from water quality to soil health to conservation planning. They will also discuss abandoned mine land reclamation, watersheds, threatened and endangered species, and conservation issues on tribal lands.

Phil Campbell, one of this year's participants, has a unique perspective of the leadership class as he is currently serving

in a leadership role as the Area II Commissioner for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. Commissioner Campbell said he applied for this class because his goal is to grow in his leadership role at his local district and at the Conservation Commission.

“I hope to gain a history of conservation in Oklahoma and hear the first hand perspectives of the people who experienced the Dust Bowl so we don’t have a repeat of those types of events,” commissioner Campbell said.

He also hopes the knowledge he gains will allow him to better tell the conservation story, both successes and failures, to people he comes in contact with.

This year’s class features 14 people representing all five Oklahoma Conservation Commission Areas and 12 different conservation districts. Ben Pollard, former Oklahoma Conservation Com-

mission assistant director and one of the creators of the Leadership Class, believes geographic diversity within a class is important because participants need to know the different issues each region in the state faces.

“I hope [the participants] get a broad understanding of natural resource related issues in Oklahoma and how they vary from McCurtain County to Cimarron County, and I hope they build a network with each other to collaborate on those issues,” Pollard said.

Sarah Blaney, OACD executive director, echoed those statements stating, “The Conservation Leadership Class is a great way for associate directors and directors to learn more about a variety of conservation issues in Oklahoma.

“It’s also our hope that directors build lasting relationships with each other that will help them in their service to their local

district.”

Pollard also hopes that this leadership class will inspire the participants to be more politically engaged.

“By having exposure to our state leadership and developing leadership skills in the class, it’s my hope that they want to take an active role in the legislative process to push for solutions to conservation issues in our state,” Pollard added.

Pollard said former leadership class members have gone on to run for various local, county and state offices.

Commissioner Campbell, a cow/calf operator from Oklahoma County, said this class is unique because of the various backgrounds the participants come from.

“The diversity among the class has really surprised me,” Campbell said. “We have people who

have large operations and people with small operations. We also have people who have operations that have been passed down to them and others that are just getting started.”

Diversity is a key to this class with Oklahoma’s agriculture sector as diverse as it is. Oklahoma has 11 different crops and six different animal or animal products that rank in the top 10 in terms of production nationwide. That kind of diversity has to be represented in this leadership class for the participants to gain a true understanding of what challenges are facing Oklahoma’s farmers and ranchers and what it takes to lead Oklahoma into the next chapter of the state’s conservation story.

For more information on the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts Leadership Class visit www.okconservation.org/leadershipclass.

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THE LONGHORNS

By Ralph Chain



We started raising Longhorns in 1964. We bought our first Longhorns in the Centennial Drive, a celebration of the 100-year drive from Texas to Dodge City, Kan.

We bought two cows and a yearling bull, Don Quixote, in that sale. The two cows came from the Y.O. Ranch. One of the cows was a yellow and white registered Longhorn cow.

This cow was around two years old when we bought her, and we kept this cow till she died — probably 14 or 15 years. Each year she would have a heifer calf. After about 10 years of keeping these heifer calves, we had Longhorns everywhere.

We have been in the Longhorn business for more 54 years. I do not know how many people we have helped start their Longhorn business, but there have been several. I have thought about getting out of

the Longhorn business a couple times, but for some reason I have not sold them yet.

We bred Hereford heifers and commercial heifers to Don Quixote because we did not have to pull any calves. We later sold Don Quixote to a well-known artist by the name of Darell Dickerson for \$600. Don Quixote has been sold quite a few times. Dickerson took him to Colorado and used him, then sold him to a man in Wyoming. The man in Wyoming sold him to a man in Texas. Then Dr. Baker from Elk City, Okla., bought him. He called us and asked if we wanted to see Don Quixote before he died. Darla and I went to see him, and the next day he died.

Today, we have a bull in the Longhorn pasture that looks just like Don Quixote, except he has longer horns. 

BEHIND THE ALLEY

Amber Manley

with

By Krista Lucas

If you follow barrel racing and other equine events, you may have noticed a bright-eyed, cheery blonde behind the scenes. “Behind The Alley” is one of western industry’s newest brands to showcase event highlights and new products from nutrition to performance. Amber Manley, the creator of “Behind the Alley,” gets up close and personal with some of today’s top trainers, competitors and producers, in and out of the arena.

“My long term vision is to hopefully become a show producer’s go-to on helping brand their events while mixing the contestants among the marketing side,” Manley said.

Manley calls Houston, Texas home and did not come from a rodeo background. In 2011, her husband traveled quite a bit for work, so she decided to buy a horse to start a new “little hobby.” What started out as being a scary new adventure, turned into a passion that would lead to her starting a brand new business.

“I turn a can’t into try, and I did just that,” Manley said. She started “Behind the Alley,” after realizing she was given an opportunity to showcase dedicated trainers who share a mutual passion for horses. Along the way, she has learned about the industry’s innovative products and supplements. Any chance to share knowledge directly from a product, to consumer and trainers, is what “Behind the Alley” is all about.

“Best part of running my business is the connections made along the way, finding skill sets I never imagined I held,” Manley said. “As for growing my business, it is all happening so fast.” She

has given her followers coverage from the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, Rising Stars-Future Stars Calf Roping and the Better Barrel Races World Finals to name a few, keeping everyone up to date on the latest equine news. She is one of the best when it comes to promoting some of the finest new products out there.

“As for my brand, that’s where things have gotten fun,” Manley said. “I am ecstatic to have been given a saddle line with Sports Saddles by Bob Marshall. I only ride treeless and have never looked back, so when the Sports Saddle team gave me an offer to represent the average rider to a pro level rider I couldn’t sleep. I have other opportunities in the works, which I wish I could share, but in time I think those will launch before this year’s NFR, so stay tuned.”

Manley also recently signed a sponsorship deal with 5 Star Equine Products to create a treeless saddle pad that brings comfort to horse and rider. She is excited to have the opportunity to collaborate with a company she believes in and “Behind the Alley” can promote. “Might I add, it’s nice to see companies that don’t base opinions and feedback from only the pro-level riders,” Manley said. “Goes to show you that the industry is evolving with open minds.”

Building her own business and brand can be challenging, but Manley always lets her positivity and no-quit attitude shine through. She displays an encouraging and caring persona, which is what makes her really stand out on her social media platforms.

“I try to walk it out, regroup, chew my lips, shut my phone off



Follow Behind the Alley on social media for all of the latest western sports news. (Facebook, on Instagram @behindthealleywithambermanley, Twitter @AmberManley5) (Courtesy photo)

and think what is best for you, your image, and or what effect could this or that have if you did do that?” Manley said. “Think it through, not always easy, but pray and go with your gut.” In her free time, Manley spends time with “The Chunk” every chance she gets. “CK Chics Sargent,” or “The Chunk” as he is affectionately known as, is her own barrel horse that she describes as “the love of her life.”

“He has brought such inspiration, it inspired me to share the same struggles no matter the level

of competitor— for him I am forever thankful,” Manley said. She frequently shares videos of her barrel racing adventures with the horse, learning as they go.

Behind the Alley is rapidly growing into the go-to source for covering action in and out of the arena. Manley hopes to expand her team in the near future in order to showcase other disciplines. For all of the current news surrounding the rodeo world and beyond, you can follow Manley and “Behind the Alley” on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. 🐾

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Sydney Bottoms

Vintage Cowgirl

By Ddee Haynes

If you happen to see a 1972 Cadillac Deville with bull horns being driven by a beautiful girl with long brown hair, a \$1 million smile, sparkling eyes with a hint of mischievousness, and more than likely wearing a cool pearl snap shirt, you have just encountered Sydney Bottoms, or as I like to call her, the Vintage Cowgirl.

Bottoms along with her parents, Brad and Kara, and her younger sister Sealy, make their home in Strong City, Okla., on the same ranch where Brad grew up. When Bottoms was just two years old, Brad's dad became ill, and the decision to move from Childress, Texas, back to the ranch to help Brad's dad was an easy one. Fifteen years later, the Bottoms family still makes their home on the ranch.

In addition to the ranch, Brad has an oilfield supply business, and Kara has an embroidery business.

The Oklahoma High School Rodeo Association recently held their rodeo finals on May 30 through June 2, 2018, in Chickasha, Okla. It was two days of fierce competition with a rodeo performance each day. After the end of the second performance, the points were totaled and only the top 15 contestants with the highest points, a total of their year points, two days of finals points as well as average points from the last two performances, were able to

compete in the final round known as the short-go.

When all the points were tallied, only the top four from each event proceeded onto the National High School Finals in Rock Springs, Wyo., where the qualifying cowboys and cowgirls compete against the top four of

second – nine points, third – eight points, fourth place – seven points and so on. In addition to the regular point system, average points were be awarded. One bad run or a barrel knocked over could be detrimental.

The road for Bottoms to get to this position had not been easy,

the barrel racing. Her barrel horse, “Fable” at the time was struggling with being consistent. The horse would win one day and the next day not even place in the top 10. It seemed that no matter how well she did in the practice pen in her goat tying and barrel racing, when she got to the rodeo it all fell apart. The highs were high, and her lows were low.

While her freshman year was a heartbreaker, it all started to come together in July 2017. Bottoms and “Fable” were entered in several open rodeos during the Fourth of July weekend. Bottoms was traveling with her friend Kelsey Knight, and Fable was not working well at all. Kelsey, who normally travels with several horses, told Bottoms to run her 16-year-old horse Ricochet. Bottoms and Ricochet's first run was in Amarillo, Texas.

It was less than perfect, but they still ended up in the 10th spot. The next night the pair made a run in Canadian, Texas, and hit a barrel. Had they not hit a barrel, they would have won it. Their third run was in Wellington, Texas, and the new team won. Bottoms asked Kelsey if she would sell Ricochet that night. The decision to sell Ricochet was finally made in August, a week before the first Oklahoma high school rodeo.

Ricochet has truly been a blessing in disguise. He took the focus from her goat tying and gave

“Surround yourself with the type of people who make you better in life, people who have goals and want you to reach your goals.”

Sydney Bottoms

each event from High School Rodeo Associations across the United States. Teams and contestants will also represent Australia, Brazil, Canada and other countries at the week-long event of six rodeo performances and one short round performance where, again, only the top 15 high scoring contestants will be allowed to compete.

Bottoms and her horse, “Ricochet” came into the OHSR finals this year in the fourth spot in barrel racing. Only 21.5 points divided the second and seventh position. With seven of the toughest cowgirls and fastest horses vying for the top four positions, it was going to be a fight to the very end. The point system at the OHSRA is as follows: first place – 10 points,

and to be honest, a lot of girls her age might have thrown their hands in the air and walked away, but Bottoms is not a quitter. Two years ago, at the end of her eighth grade year, Bottoms qualified for the National Junior High Rodeo finals in goat tying and went on to win the Reserve National Goat Tying Championship.

That fall, Bottoms entered her first Oklahoma high school rodeo as a freshman. Bottoms soon learned that along with her own expectations, others had expectations of her as well. When she did not do as well as she and the others thought she should, she soon went into a slump. She was not only fighting her head in the goat tying, she was also struggling in

her more overall confidence. In addition to purchasing Ricochet this year, Bottoms also purchased "Hollywood, an older goat tying horse who knows his job. Hollywood" was purchased after her original horse was hurt and another rodeo family, Derrick and Dusty Duncan, offered to let her use him at a rodeo.

Bottoms finally realized she needed to break her goat tying back down to the basics. The 2017 to 2018 high school rodeo season was a learning experience for Bottoms. She fought her way back with the determination of the true winner she is. She worked harder than ever, and it has shown this season. She is back to goat tying consistently on Hollywood, and she and Ricochet just seem to be getting better with each run.

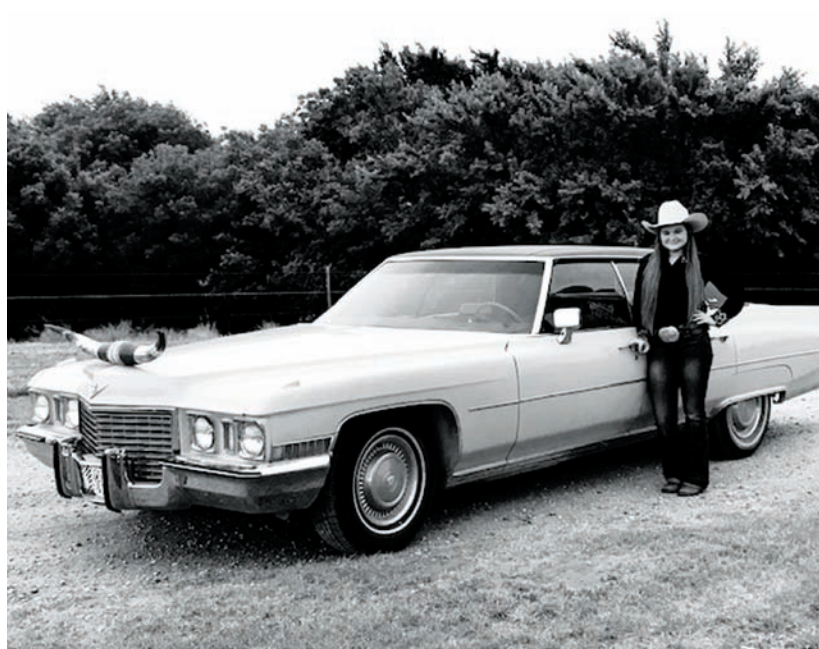
As expected, the barrel racing was a tight race at the finals. The first day Bottoms and Ricochet

hit the second barrel, but so did several others in the top positions. A few girls further down played a little defense, and at the end of the day Bottoms was still not out of it.

The second performance was clean and smooth, landing team S&R into the seventh spot for some much-needed points. The final and last performance known as the short-round, Bottoms and Ricochet held nothing back and secured their spot in the top four! They will represent Oklahoma at the National High School Rodeo Finals in July.

When I asked Bottoms if she could share some advice or words of wisdom, she was quick to respond with this simple statement that we should all adhere to.

"Surround yourself with the type of people who make you better in life, people who have goals and want you to reach your goals



Sydney Bottoms owns a 1972 Cadillac DeVille with bull horns adorning the hood. (Photo by Sik Shot Photos)

as well, and pay attention to those in your circle who clap for you," she responded.

Good luck Bottoms and Ricochet at the National Finals. You are winners in my heart! 🍀



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REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

in the horse

By Lauren Lamb, DVM

The horse's body is composed of cells for every function. One of these functions is to repair injured tissue. These cells can be collected, concentrated/cultured and injected into injured tissue or joints to help stimulate healing.

The term regenerative medicine is used to describe the use of these reparative cells and other biologics derived from the horse's body to stimulate tissue repair with minimal scar tissue. Most forms of regenerative medicine in equine sports medicine are focused towards healing injuries to the musculoskeletal system or wounds on the skin.

If you are a horse owner, you understand that horses are prone to musculoskeletal injuries (tendon, ligament and/or bone). A tendon bow is a good example of why regenerative medicine is used to treat horses with musculoskeletal injuries.

When a horse injures a tendon, the injured part of the tendon will heal with scar tissue rather than normal tendon tissue. The scar tissue is quite strong, but not as elastic as the normal tendon tissue. This lack of elasticity results in a high rate of re-injury at the junction of the scar tissue and normal tendon tissue.

The goal of regenerative medicine is to stimulate healing of the injured tendons, ligaments, cartilage, etc. with minimal to no scar tissue. Regenerative medicine may speed up the healing process; however, the ultimate goal of regenerative medicine should be minimizing scar tissue and

not shortening the convalescent period.

Stem cell therapy, platelet rich plasma and interleukin receptor antagonist protein (IRAP) are some of the most commonly used forms of regenerative medicine in equine sports medicine. Stem cells are unique cells that have the capacity to become virtually any type of cell within the horse's body (tendon, ligament, etc.). Stem cells are seen in all types of tissue in the horse's body, but they are highly concentrated within the bone marrow and adipose tissue. Adipose tissue can be collected around the horse's tail head and submitted to a lab. The lab will isolate and concentrate the stem cells from the adipose tissue. These isolated stem cells are sent back to the veterinarian to be injected into the injured tissue.

Bone marrow-derived stem cells (BMC) can be collected from the ilium (hip bone) or the sternum (breast bone). Once the bone marrow is collected, it can be spun down in a centrifuge to concentrate the stem cells or sent to a lab to have the stem cells concentrated and cultured. Like the adipose-derived stem cells, once the bone marrow-derived stem cells are concentrated and/or cultured from the bone marrow, they can be injected into the injured tissue to stimulate healing and minimize scar tissue.

Platelet rich plasma (PRP) is another form of regenerative medicine that utilizes growth factors found in the platelets. Platelets are cells found in the blood with the primary function of forming a

blood clot when a vessel is lacerated or injured. Granules located within the platelets contain high concentrations of growth factors that will stimulate healing of tissue. Unlike stem cells, which will actually form collagen, bone, or other tissue to heal an injury, platelets just stimulate other cells (via the growth factors) to start replicating and repairing the injury. PRP and stem cells can be used together to help achieve the best healing possible with minimal scar tissue.

PRP is derived from the horse's blood. The process of collecting PRP starts with the collection of 50 milliliters of blood from the horse's jugular vein. The blood is centrifuged to concentrate the platelets. Once the platelets are concentrated, they are re-suspended in a small amount of serum and injected into the injured tissue. From start to finish it will take 15 to 30 minutes to collect the blood, process the PRP and inject the PRP into the injured tissue.

PRP and stem cells can be used to treat injuries to soft tissue within the joint, tendon or ligament. PRP and stem cells can also be used to stimulate healing in long bone fractures along with bone plates and screws. PRP and stem cell therapy can be used to improve wound healing on large wounds that cannot be sutured closed.


IRAP is a product derived from the horse's blood that can be used as an anti-inflammatory therapy in horses with arthritis (inflammation within the joint). IRAP inhibits the interleukin-1 receptor within the


joint. The interleukin-1 receptor is one of the primary receptors that contributes to joint inflammation. Inflammation leads to cartilage degradation and the development of osteoarthritis.

IRAP is processed by collecting 50 milliliters of blood from the horse's jugular vein. The blood is incubated in a special syringe for 24 hours to stimulate the release of interleukin receptor antagonist protein from the blood cells.

After 24 hours of incubation, the syringe with 50 milliliters of blood is centrifuged to separate the blood cells from the plasma. The plasma, which is rich in interleukin-1 receptor antagonist protein, is collected and either injected into the joint or frozen in aliquots of two to six milliliters for use at a later date.

IRAP is beneficial in treating joints with inflammation (arthritis). It has minimal use for treating injuries to ligaments and tendons outside the joint. IRAP will not reverse permanent damage to structures within the joint. IRAP can be quite beneficial in cases that are refractory to intra-articular therapy with hyaluronic acid and corticosteroids.

Currently, regenerative medicine is an area of significant research and development in equine sports medicine and surgery. In the last couple of decades, there have been significant improvement in the products and technology used for regenerative medicine. This progress will continue in the years to come, with the hope of being able to heal even the most significant musculoskeletal injuries. 



Regenerative medicine is an area of significant research and development in equine sports medicine. (Photo by Laci Jones)

Gary Ledford <<

>>>>>> Giving Back

By Judy Wade

“When I began roping, Barry Burk offered to mount me, help me enter and we traveled together,” said Gary Ledford of Burk, a 17-time National Finals Rodeo qualifier. “I had a good horse, but we always took his, too. He helped me win. He made me believe in myself.”

That is exactly what Ledford is doing today: giving back. He is helping youngsters learn the fundamentals of calf roping and breakaway roping at his ranch southwest of Comanche, Okla.

Each Tuesday evening, Ledford mentors as many as 11 boys (and occasionally girls) in his barn built especially for roping events and has been doing so since 2002.

“Five to six is the number I like to have at one time to do a good job,” Ledford explained.

Ledford is certainly qualified to pass on the techniques a good roper needs to be successful. He qualified for the NFR nine times when it was still held in Oklahoma City before the move to Las Vegas. He set an arena record at Calgary during his first year as a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association card holder, posting a 12.9 behind that notoriously long barrier. He received a beautiful bronze statue of a calf roper to commemorate the event. His favorite rodeo is Cheyenne Frontier Days, which he won in 1971.

The Copenhagen Skoal roping in 1977 was his biggest win, pocketing \$15,000, the most amount won by any tie-down roper at a single event up to that time.

“That win helped me more in my life than anything,” he explained. “That was a lot of money then. I was able to start buying land and putting cattle together.”

The entryway to his ranch reads “15 Grand” in honor of his biggest win.

“I brand my cattle with 15G,” he added.

Born in Temple, Okla., to Ernest and Jewel



Ledford ropes a calf at Ponder, Texas. (Photo courtesy of Gary Ledford)

Ledford, he has three brothers and two sisters. The family lived in the Corum community area where Ernest bought and sold hay. After graduating from Comanche High School, he and high school sweetheart, Carol Sitton, were married.

They have two children who traveled with them in the summer. Their son, Morris, followed his father’s footsteps and became a PRCA tie-down roper, qualifying for the NFR in 1992. He and his family now live in Idaho. Their daughter Misty and her family live near Ledford’s ranch.

“I started rodeoing as an amateur tie-down roper my senior year in school, making \$150 to \$200 a week before joining the PRCA. That was better than working for a living,” Ledford laughed. “I met a lot of good guys and made a lot of friends on the road.”

Good horses are essential in tie-down roping, and Ledford had his share.

“I rode a ‘Leo Tag’ stud when I qualified for my first NFR in 1969,” Ledford related. “Thumper was a Harlan-bred gelding. He was green when I got him, and I finished him. I won my first NFR average on Classy, a six-

year-old half-Thoroughbred. I also won a lot of money on a 'Doc Bar' mare named Sissy. My son qualified for the NFR riding her, but she crippled and didn't get to take her to the finals."

"I rodeoed hard on the road during July and August and tried to stay close to home the rest of the year," he said.

Ledford won the first Prairie Circuit Finals ever held and continued to qualify for those finals for several years after he quit the road. He continued to rope until he was 53 years old.

While he hoped to rodeo three or four more years, fate had something else in store for him. He was approached by several people to run for County Commissioner of Stephens County.

"I decided to give it a try, just getting my name out there," he laughed. "I never expected to win."

He won and held that position for 24 years from 1979 to 2002.

"I built this indoor roping barn because I was tired of roping in the wind," he explained. "After I retired from the commissioner position, I began helping a few kids and by word of mouth, kids kept coming. Every session starts with prayer led by Ledford."

Fathers accompany the kids and sit in chairs at the side of the arena, making it a family affair. When I asked Jeff Jordan why he brings his son, Tater, to Ledford, he replied, "Gary is a good Christian man, and I trust his opinion on a lot of things. He has a great reputation from the past, and all his peers hold him in high regard."

Calf roping is all about learning the fundamentals and carrying them out the correct way.

"I teach kids the basics, because you can always go back to the basics and correct yourself," Ledford explained. "I try to make kids aware of why they made a mistake, so they can correct it."

Ledford invented what he calls the "Horse Saver" to teach those basics before the student ever ropes a calf from a horse. Horse Saver is a calf chute with a saddle mounted on top where the roper sits. At the nod of his head, a live calf is released from the front of the chute.

"It teaches a roper how to get in position," Ledford advised. "When a kid can rope that calf 80 percent of the time, I let him try it horseback."

Similar machines can be seen at trade shows, but a mechanical calf on a rail is used, and it is always in the same position.

Another training technique involves the calf



Tater Jordan demonstrates the Horse Saver. (Photo by Jeff Jordan)



Gary Ledford's students, Kord Kelly (left), Newt Nipp, Tater Jordan, Hot Shot Elmore and Ledford. (Photo by Jeff Jordan)

being released with a rope around its neck, and the rope is tied to the chute. The object is to run down the rope, flank the calf and practice tying. Ledford uses a stopwatch to time the tie, encouraging with "hustle," "keep your elbow up," and other instructions.

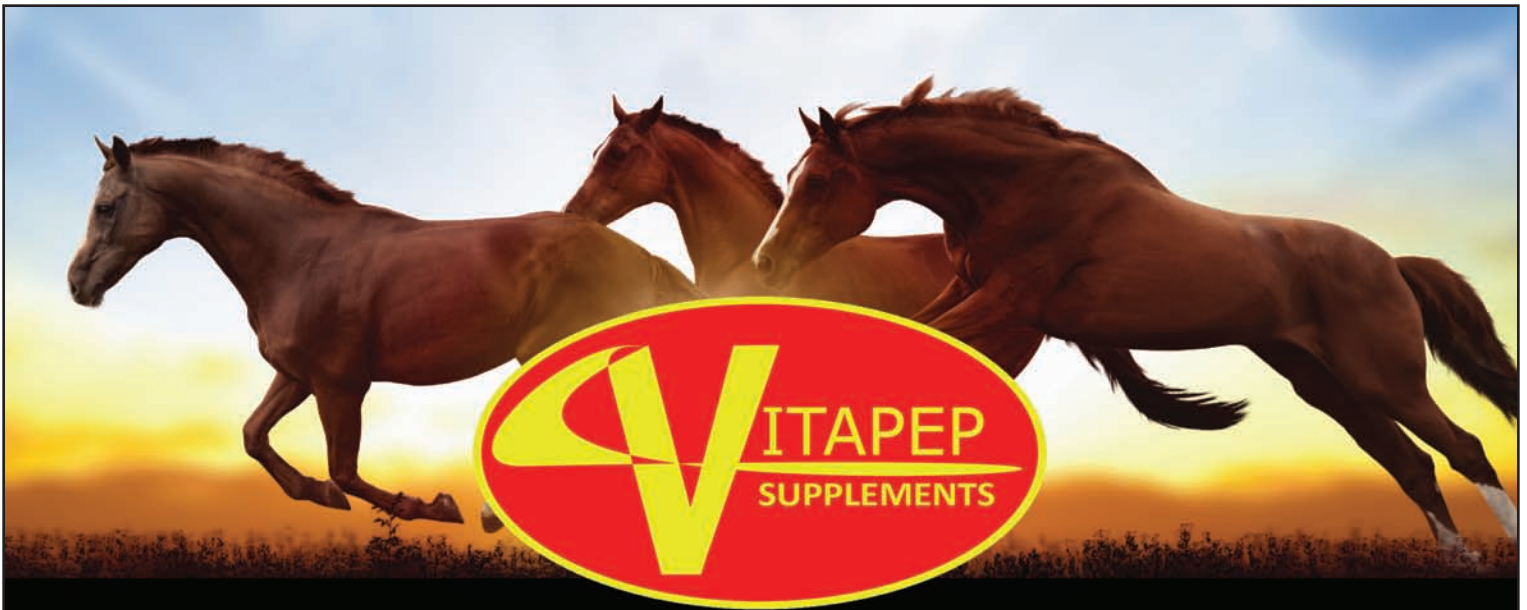
Ledford said he loves to help kids, which is why he continues to mentor them. One of his students is 19-year-old Kord Kelly from Comanche, Okla. Kelly has been coming for 15 years. When asked why he keeps coming out, he replied, "To help my tying and to improve more."

Newt Nipp of Healdton, Okla., has been mentored by Ledford for seven years. Ledford's best advice to him: "Keeping my rope out front."

Tater Jordan of Dean, Texas, is 12 and has been getting Ledford's assistance for four years.

"He has taught me to be smart when I rope," he shared.

"I come to get better in a good atmosphere," said 17-year-old Hot Shot Elmore of Springer, Okla. "What better way to learn than from someone who has been there?"



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Matthew 6:34





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Life of a Ranch Wife

By Lanna Mills

Imagine for a moment that everything you know, everything you have worked for, your livelihood, your home, your cattle or your crops are all gone.

This is something that we do not want to think about, but it could happen to any of us, at any time. For many this was a reality when the wildfires swept across the state in April.

Our fellow Oklahomans, our friends, our neighbors were left sorting through the ashes clinging onto loved ones, praying and trying their hardest to save all that they could.

There have been many fires this spring; one of these fires was the “Rhea Fire” near Rhea, Okla. It started on April 12 and burned for nearly two weeks, destroying more than 280,000 acres. Though these fires are now extinguished, the damage remains.

Where there once was thick luscious grass, there are now acres of scorched dirt. It will grow back, perhaps even better than before, but it will take time.

Ranchers who were fortunate enough to have cattle and horses survive now are stuck trying to gather enough hay to keep them fed until the grasses can grow back or to find pasture elsewhere to keep them. There are homes, barns and miles of fence to be rebuilt as well as equipment, furnishings and supplies to replace.

Time has passed; you may no longer be hearing about these fires on the news, but these fire victims still need help. Even though many things were insured, it doesn't mean that the full cost of replacement will be covered. It can be a



It is easy to help fire victims through cash, hay, feed, and other farm and ranch supply donations. (Courtesy photo)

lengthy process collecting insurance claims, and not all losses will be covered.

How can we help? There are many organizations who have set up relief campaigns. Some of these include Oklahoma Cattlemen's Foundation (www.okcattlemen.org), Oklahoma Farmers and Ranchers Foundation (www.okfarmingandranchingfoundation.org), Oklahoma Farmers Union Foundation, and Cowfolks Care (www.cowfolkscare.com) along with many local churches and fire departments.

Cash donations, hay, feed, fencing supplies, household items and other farm and ranch supplies will be greatly appreciated. Local fire departments can always use donations of snacks, drinks, and money to help fix and replace equipment so that they can efficiently work to fight fires and keep us safe. You may even donate your time and

labor by helping to rebuild fence and other structures.

On Saturday July 28, 2018, which just so happens to be the National Day of the Cowboy, an event is being held to help these victims. “OK Wildfire Relief Gathering,” featuring live entertainment, music, silent and live auction, refreshments, food and desserts, will be located at the Rush Springs Lions Club / SBC Family Life Center.


The location of the event is on Second and Blakely, Rush Springs, Okla, and will run from noon to 6 p.m.

The live bands will be competing to see which one can raise the most money and the winner will receive a buckle. This event is a great opportunity to not only enjoy great western music but to help our neighbors in need. All proceeds from the event will go to Oklahoma wildfire victims and

the Rush Springs Fire Department. For more information about this event, contact Ron Secoy at 580-606-9574 or rsecoy@wildblue.net.

We were fortunate enough to not be affected by these fires; however, we have been close before, and it is a terrifying experience.

Not long ago a fire was headed in the direction of our ranch. We rushed to gather a few items that could not be replaced, had a trailer ready to load horses in and were prepared to head to a safe location.

Thankfully the fire was put out before it reached us. We got lucky that time, but we know that at any time a fire could break out and leave us in the situation these victims are in: trying to see what is left, trying to save anything salvageable, trying to decide where and how to begin to rebuild and trying to move on. 



PROFILE

UNCONVENTIONAL





CONVENTIONAL FARMER

BY LACI JONES

John Gosney



UNCONVENTIONAL FARMER

John Gosney

When John Gosney made the transition to becoming a certified organic farmer in the mid- '90s, the owner of John's Farm in Fairview, Okla., did not receive much support.

"The local people here thought I was nuts, so they laughed at me," he recalled.

While many of the other local farmers did not approve of his methods, Gosney and his wife, Kris (Ratzlaff) Gosney, ultimately decided to become an organic farm to meet the consumer's growing desire for organic products and perhaps increase the bottom line of his family's 125-year-old farm.

Gosney's ancestors homesteaded property in northwestern Oklahoma in the 1893 Oklahoma Land Rush. His grandparents experimented with different crops to learn which would grow in Oklahoma and would have the highest yield. They mostly grew wheat, but also tried growing grapes and corn.

"Grapes and corn were usually failures because it was just too dry out here," Gosney added.

With his father ahead of him on the tractor, it was a miracle they made it home safely. His mother, Mary Gosney, was not happy when the father-son duo arrived home after the eight-mile journey through Gloss Mountain country.

"I think she was crying when she found out I drove the pickup," he recalled.

While he enjoyed life on the farm driving pickups with no brakes, Gosney was also active in sports, specifically basketball and baseball.

"I went to a country school, Cheyenne Valley," he explained.

When the school closed its doors in 1964, Gosney transferred to Fairview High School for his senior year. There, he met Kris Ratzlaff, and they were married a few years later in 1967.

After graduation, John attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Okla., pursuing a bachelor's degree in accounting and business administration.

"[College] was just something to age you

ers at a set price."

A few years later, Gosney began farming part of his father's land until he officially retired in the mid- '70s. Because Gosney took the reins of his family's operation and rented other land, he quit the custom farming business.

He purchased his own machinery, purchased his own cattle herd and launched a custom harvest business in 1973. Similar to the custom farming business, he harvested wheat for farmers from Texas to Wyoming for a set price, which supplemented his income.

"It wasn't unusual to have some of the old timers come to me to ask if I'd rent their land," he explained. "It evolved from a small, couple hundred acres to several thousand. Thankfully it was a gradual growth."

As every farmer and rancher knows, the agriculture industry is full of highs and lows, and Gosney had his fair share of both. Farmers and ranchers like Gosney were sometimes met with the wrath of Mother Nature.

"Dry weather was a challenge, that's for sure," he added. "It was dry, the soil was

I FOUND MYSELF ENJOYING THE CHALLENGE OF LEARNING HOW TO GROW ORGANIC. IT MADE MY MIND WORK AGAIN." *John Gosney*

The homestead was handed down to his parents, where they grew wheat and raised cattle. Born on April 25, 1947 in Fairview, Okla., life on the farm became second nature to Gosney. Like most farm kids, he recalled hand-milking cows at 5 a.m. and helping his family fix fences and other field work.

When asked about stories of his childhood, he recalled driving the family's four-speed pickup at six years old. He and his father, John Gosney Sr. were on a farm about eight miles from their house.

"We had an old pickup with a load of oats on it," Gosney recalled. "My dad wanted to get both the pickup and tractor home for night."

His father told him to drive the pickup without brakes home over one of the Gloss Mountains. As the six-year-old boy climbed in the pickup, he could barely see over the dash.

"Dad said to put the truck in first gear and cruise down the road," Gosney said.

I think," he said with a chuckle. "It was four years to mature."

Still, the college student knew he would return to the farm, which he did when he graduated in 1969. He returned to the centennial farm, which his father was still managing.

"Most of what I learned about farming was from my mom and dad," he added. "They used conventional farming practices back then."

Kris' family, the Ratzlaffs, were also farmers. Like Gosney, her great-grandfather staked his claim in the Land Run of 1893. That land has been passed from generation-to-generation. Seven generations have resided on the Ratzlaff Oklahoma Centennial Farm.

Together, Gosney and his in-laws started a custom farming business in 1969. They mostly wheat tilled for farmers in the area, he said.

"It was my father-in-law's idea," the Fairview, Okla., native explained. "We would contract summer field work for different farm-

ers at a set price."

When their prayers were answered, it was sometimes with an excess of rain or snow.

"We had a lot of large range floods 50 to 70 years ago," the farmer recalled. "I remember the creek banks overflowing; the fields were covered with water and the bridges on county roads washed out."

Snow storms throughout the mid and late 20th century also proved to be a challenge for Oklahoma farmers and ranchers.

"I remember as a kid, my dad would have to take the tractor, and mom and I would follow him in a pickup," Gosney added. "Sometimes we shoveled ourselves out to the road and shoveled more when we'd get stuck. It was amazing how much more snow we had when I was a kid. We haven't had a good snow here in years with a foot of snow that blows 10-foot drifts."

Continued on page 34

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UNCONVENTIONAL FARMER *John Gosney*

Continued from page 32

Despite challenges with the weather and the economy, Gosney was able to keep the farm running. He was able to find a routine, but he was seeking a new challenge by the mid- '90s.

With the loss of their only son, John Gosney, III, in a tragic harvest accident at only 27 years old, Gosney needed an outlet. It was in 1995 that a neighbor named Bryan Burrell approached Gosney and his wife, Kris, with the challenge of using unconventional methods.

"I farmed across the fence from his dad until he passed away," Gosney said. "One day Burrell came to me and asked if I'd farm their land organically. I told him I wasn't interested. I didn't know anything about it."

Burrell was persistent and kept "hounding" Gosney to rent their land with the stipulation of growing organic.

"'Diversification' was a big word in farming in the '90s," the wheat producer added. "I thought organic farming would get me into a different market and a way to do things a little differently. I found myself enjoying the challenge of learning how to grow organic. It made my mind work again."

Growing crops without chemicals and fertilizers was a steep learning curve for the former conventional farmer. Gosney also had to learn how to market his new endeavor. Burrell helped him as much as he could, but he mostly learned from trial and error.

In his second year of organic farming, the Fairview, Okla., native was approached by another organic farmer named Alvin Ratzlaff to farm his organic acres.

"All at once, I had about 1,400 acres of organic crop land and I knew little of what to do with it," he stated.

Fortunately, Ratzlaff was a wealth of knowledge. After farming the organic land for several years, Gosney noticed a difference in his bottom line. While the yield from organic crops is less than conventional crops, there is an increase in profits from producing organically.

More than the economic difference, Gosney began to understand the ways-and-means of organic production. He soon realized that organic



was defining his farming practices as well as who he was becoming — an organic farmer. The three-year transition process was difficult as there were some very dry years where they did not have much of a crop.

“I’m sure I was the talk of the coffee shop for many years and probably still am to a certain extent,” he said.

While it bothered him at first that other local producers were not receptive to the transition, he has accepted his own farming practices as well as everyone else’s.

“I accept the fact that organic farming is not for everyone,” the organic farmer explained. “I would recommend making the transition because more consumers are buying everything off the shelves that is organic. They are seeking local and organic products.”

After more than two decades of being an organic farmer, Gosney grows wheat, alfalfa, legumes, grassland and raises livestock. All, of which, is certified organic.

Gosney and his wife, Kris, sell wheat products including organic wheat flour and wheat berries for those who mill their own flour. Semi-trucks come to the Gosney farm, taking wheat to organic flour mills across the United States.

They also offer organic field peas. They have formulated all-purpose seasonings and chili mix under the Fairview’s Best label. The most recent product addition is Gloss Mountain Beef Jerky which is named after the Gloss Mountains that run through the Oklahoma Centennial Farm in Cheyenne Valley.

Instead of stocker steers, which Gosney used to run on wheat pasture, the Gosneys have a cow/calf herd of Black Angus and Red Angus. From this herd, comes Cattle Tracks Organic Beef. Cattle Tracks offers individual cuts, quarters, halves and whole beeves.

John’s Farm products are sold at the Oklahoma State University Oklahoma City Farmer’s Market, through the Oklahoma Food Co-op, at Green Acres in Oklahoma City. In

addition, the Gosney’s make a monthly delivery to customers in Enid, Stillwater, Guthrie and Edmond, Okla., and deliver to customers in Tulsa a couple of times each month.

When starting the organic journey, the Gosney’s goal was to improve their bottom line. Throughout the past 20 years, their goal has changed.

“What matters most on this farm is having healthy soil that will produce healthy plants and animals which becomes healthy food for us and our customers,” Gosney added.

According to Gosney, one common misconception is farmers will only grow weeds without the use of herbicide.

“I tell people to quit overapplying nitrogen because that is what grows weeds,” he added. “Your soil needs to be balanced. Too much of one mineral will sprout one weed and too little of one mineral will sprout another weed. Get the biological life back in soil that the chemicals and commercial fertilizer destroy.”

Some state that organic farming is just a marketing ploy, to which Gosney responded, “Everybody is out to make a living, to make a dollar. You can make it how you want to, and I’m going to make it how I want to. It’s clear the organic industry is growing because of consumer demand.”

For those who want to try organic farming, Gosney suggested gathering as much information as possible before transitioning. Farmers need to contact Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Food and Forestry because they conduct the organic certification inspections. He also suggested farmers understand how to market their products.

The Gosneys have two daughters — Andrea (Gosney) Harman and Lesli (Gosney) Downs and six grandchildren. As for the future of John’s Farm, Gosney hopes to turn the family farm over to the next generation.

For additional information on John’s Farm or to purchase any of their products, visit www.johnsfarm.com.



PHOTO DETAILS

(Opposite page) John Gosney’s ancestors homesteaded property in northwestern Oklahoma in the 1893 Oklahoma Land Rush. The Gosneys began the organic certification process in the ‘90s. This old wagon sits outside the Gosney home in Fairview, Okla. (Photos by Laci Jones)



LACEY'S PANTRY

By Lacey Newlin

Pressure Cooker French Dip Sandwiches

Servings: 8
Total Time: 2 Hours

Ingredients

3 to 4 pound chuck roast or bottom round beef roast
 1/2 tsp salt
 1/4 tsp pepper
 1/2 tsp onion powder
 1 tbsp olive oil
 1 (1.25 ounce) package dry Au jus mix
 1 (12 ounce) can beer
 3 tbsp butter, melted
 1/4 tsp garlic powder
 12 slices of provolone cheese
 8 large hoagie rolls
 1 tbsp chopped parsley



Directions

Let roast rest at room temperature for at least 15 minutes before searing. Add olive oil to pressure cooker and hit sauce button. Season roast with salt, pepper and onion powder. Sear roast on all sides in pressure cooker. Sprinkle Au jus packet over the roast, then pour beer over the roast. Close lid and make sure pressure release valve is set to sealing.

Turn pressure cooker to meat/stew function and set time for 100 minutes. After the 100-minute cooking time is complete, let pressure cooker naturally release for 25 minutes, then turn valve to venting to release excess pressure. Remove lid and transfer meat to serving plate, shred meat. Set oven to broil and place sandwich rolls on a baking sheet. In a small bowl combine butter and garlic powder.

Brush over rolls and broil under low heat for three to four minutes, just until golden brown. Pile meat onto rolls and top with cheese. Return to broiler and heat just until cheese has started to melt. Top sandwiches with freshly chopped parsley. Strain liquid left in pressure cooker with a fine mesh strainer. Serve strained Au ju with sandwiches for dipping. ☞

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WHERE THE PAVED ROAD ENDS

BY BETH WATKINS

→ HELLO, SUNSHINE

Some things just seem so routine in life like filling out paperwork when visiting a new doctor or participating in a survey. We are asked the same old questions: name, address, occupation, etc.

The occupation line gets to me every time, and I would proudly write “housewife.” I did this up until I noticed a copy of my health records, where someone translated my occupation as “housewife” to “unemployed.” To say the least, I was offended.

I have dedicated my life to caring for my husband, raising babies, cooking and cleaning. As with everything I attempt, my goal is to excel. It does not always work the way I plan, but I try.

Early on in our marriage, we decided that I would be a stay at home mom. At first, not working outside the home was a little intimidating. I felt like I was mooching off my husband, so I decided the best way to earn my keep was to be the best housewife and mother that I could possibly be.

I take great pride in the fact that my house is clean, my laundry stays caught up and my dishwasher is empty. Every weeknight my husband has a home-cooked meal sitting on the table when he walks in the door.

If “housewife” was not a sufficient name for my occupation, maybe “Domestic Goddess” would be. I gave it a try, it worked and I’ve been writing “Domestic Goddess” ever since. For fun, ask Siri to read you the definition of “Domestic Goddess.”

On my phone, when I ask Siri, “Who is ‘The Domestic Goddess?’” She answers in her British accent, “Do you mean Beth



Watkins?” That answer always brightens my day.

Others have labeled me with different titles throughout my life. Most of the titles, in some way, hint to the fact that I am a bit high maintenance. “Miss Daisy” refers to the fact that I’m a backseat driver.

I prefer nice things, so I received the title “Duchess.” “Princess” is because I’m girly. I have the title “Queen of Everything,” because my husband says so. When I found out I was going to have a grandbaby, I knew right away I wanted my title to be “Grammy” like the award.

When using the term “high maintenance” to describe myself, the best example I can give is this; whether we are working cows or fixing fence, I have picked out a T-shirt that matches my muck boots, which are pink camo, and I’ll chose a ball cap that will compliment my T-shirt. When I pack

our lunch, it means I have included hand sanitizer, napkins and a straw because I always wash my hands before I eat and a straw because I do not drink straight from a can.

Do not be mistaken when associating “high maintenance” with my character. I go with the flow when relating to people, and I am always kind and giving. I am committed to loving people like Jesus does. I do not gossip, and I do not ask people personal questions.

It is not because I am not interested in them but because I value their privacy. I always treat everyone with the utmost respect, whether it is a server at a restaurant, a cashier in a store or a repairman.

We are all on the same level; we are all human. You never know what someone is dealing with in their private life. I make every effort to be gracious and offer a friendly ray of sunshine.

I am extremely blessed these

days. Our children are all grown with lives of their own, so it’s just me and my sweet man living here at the end of this dirt road. Since moving to southeastern Oklahoma, I have been busy designing, overseeing the building and decorating our new home.

I do all our laundry in four loads once a week, and there is not much to cooking for two people. I do not like to watch TV, but I have discovered I like shopping online, which is beginning to affect our bank account in a negative way.

Needless to say, I have a lot of empty days. I have been kicking around the idea of finding a part-time job for something to do and maybe impact my bank account in a positive way.

A few weeks ago, my sister and I were shopping in an historic part of town and we noticed a “help wanted” sign in the window of Whispering Meadows Vineyards and Winery. We both immediately

pictured Lucy and Ethel from “I Love Lucy” stomping grapes!. With that picture in my head, I inquired within.

You can only imagine the voice of an angel when she explained they were looking for someone to work in the tasting room. At that moment the room got brighter, I could hear birds chirping somewhere near a babbling brook, and the air was filled with the sweet smell of fermented grapes because I was most definitely qualified. I like wine, so I filled out an application and got the job.

The job title “staff member of the tasting room” is a little misleading because I do not taste the wine, but I pour the wine for others to taste.

Another one of my tasks is to turn chalk and a chalkboard into a fun attention-getter. While combing through Pinterest for ideas, I discovered something Benjamin Franklin said, “Wine

makes daily living easier, less hurried with fewer tensions and more tolerance.” When I read that, it felt like the dark clouds were rolling away and the sunshine was breaking through. I thought to myself, “Well Benjamin, that’s very profound, wine equals good, and Benjamin in my bank account equals good.”

One thing I have discovered is the struggle not to shop while at work. Being in the midst of so many cute gadgets, gifts and delicious wine is difficult.

I just knew when my first paycheck arrived, I would owe them. I agree with Galileo Galilei when he penned the words, “Wine is sunlight held together by water” because thanks to wine I deposited a tiny ray of sunshine in my otherwise bleak checking account to the tune of \$10.73. Let the records state I’m not just a Domestic Goddess 24/7, I am also “employed” a couple of days a week! ☺

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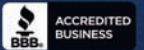
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101 Ranch

THE FINAL DAYS

By Laci Jones



The 101 Ranch Old Timers Association, a non-profit organization, was established in 1968 to preserve what is left of the 101 Ranch. (Photo by Laci Jones)

The 101 Ranch was a great success for several decades under first, G.W. Miller, then his three sons — Joe Miller, George Miller and Zack Miller. As all good things must come to an end, the 101 Ranch was no exception.

“There were, no doubt, many causes contributing to the break-up of the 101 Ranch, but there seem to be at least three major ones: death, debt and depression,” wrote sister, Alma Miller England in the 1937 book “The

101 Ranch.”

After the fatal car accident of George Miller in early 1929 and Joe Miller’s death of carbon monoxide poisoning two years prior, the 101 Ranch was left to the last of the Miller brothers, Zack Miller, and two of his nephews.

It was known among family members that Zack lacked the financial and management capabilities to keep the ranch, the wild west show and their other endeavors afloat. As if the loss of the two Miller brothers were not

enough, Oct. 29, 1929, also known as Black Tuesday, put another nail in the coffin for the 101 Ranch.

Believing the Great Depression would not last long, the only living Miller brother signed the dotted line of a mortgage of more than \$500,000 to fund the daily ranch operations, according to Michael Wallis in “Real Wild West.” Trying to keep the 101 Ranch together, Zack took the 101 Ranch Wild West Show back on the road.

Attendance of the 101 Ranch

Wild West Show decreased, despite great reviews. Zack still continued to sink money into the show. The debts continued to increase as revenue continued to decrease. In a panic, Zack produced the traveling show just one more year in 1931 with the hopes to sell the wild west show.

Meanwhile, the ranch was falling apart with legal battles, economic struggles, debt and closing departments that resulted in the unemployment of loyal 101 Ranch
See RANCH on page 42



The once grand 101 Ranch White House was leveled to the foundation in 1943. (Photo by Laci Jones)

workers. The two Miller nephews, who were dedicated to preserving the ranch their grandfather and fathers built, eventually moved on to establish their own careers.

All alone after the final unsuccessful year of the 101 Ranch Wild West Show, Zack returned to the ranch. As the creditors closed in, Zack's last resort was to hold a conference, where he cried, "Save the ranch, preserve its traditions," according to England. On Sept. 16, 1931, the Miller family lost control of the 101 Ranch, according to Wallis.

"If Colonel Zack Miller could have had the support of his dead

brothers, there is no question but the 101 Ranch would have weathered the world's economic upheaval as it did the panic of 1893," England wrote.

A rancher from Winfield, Kan., Fred C. Clarke, was appointed the general operating receiver of the 101 Ranch. His original intentions included restoring the ranch to its former glory. Instead, Clarke decided to break up the land, leasing to individual farmers and liquidate all other assets in a public auction.

Everything on the ranch including saddles, implements and livestock were set to be auctioned

on March 24, 1932. The only asset not to be auctioned was the White House.

The infuriated Miller brother refused to come out of the White House and referred to the auction as "legal robbery," according to England. The Miller brother threatened to blow up the grand White House and fired a shotgun at the attorneys who tried to console him.

Zack was arrested, posted bond and returned home, where he was treated for his nervous breakdown. He honestly believed he was a victim of a conspiracy. He refused to eat or get out of bed for weeks.

By the summer of 1932, Zack recovered from his nervous breakdown. To keep part of the 101 Ranch alive, the Miller brother met with infamous gangster, Al Capone. Capone was serving time for tax evasion in an Atlanta prison.

The plan was for Capone and his two brothers to purchase sections of the ranch for \$125,000, according to Wallis. The land would be divided into 40 and 80-acre farms, operated by Italian immigrant families. While some were enraged by the potential of Oklahoma land owned by the Chicago criminals, others believed it was



(Top to bottom) This location on the 101 Ranch was once a filling station. The foundation of the 101 Ranch White House still remains today. (Photos by Laci Jones)

just a publicity stunt. Regardless, the scheme was not successful.

The ranch remained in disarray until Clarke was found guilty of gross neglect of the 101 Ranch. Zack along with two trustees became the receiver. Zack was also placed in charge of management under the stipulation of coming up with \$700,000 to pay the lease within less than two years.

Going back to what he knew, he put on various small shows and attempted to partner with various people in the next two years. It was unsuccessful.

The house was foreclosed, and an injunction was filed demanding Zack leave the premises. The injunction was granted on June 3, 1936. On July 25, 1936, everything including furniture, guns and art inside the White House was auctioned off for pennies on the dollar. After his futile attempt at an appeal, he left the beautiful 22-room White House on March 29, 1937.

After he left in 1937, Zack

did not have any plans for his future. In 1951, he was diagnosed with cancer and moved in with his daughter in Valley Mills, Texas. He died on Jan. 3, 1952. He wished for his ashes to be shot from a canon at the 101 Ranch in his final will, but his family did not let that happen. His funeral was held at the 101 Ranch Store, and he was buried on Cowboy Hill on the ranch.

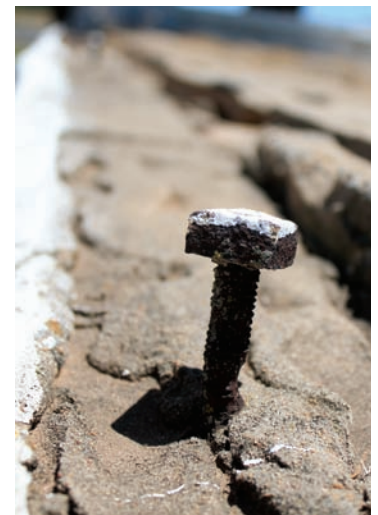
Some locals attempted to establish the ranch as a state park with no success. The land was later sold to the Federal Farm Security Administration and divided into smaller farms. The White House that once held many parties and celebrations was leveled to the foundation in 1943.

More than 80 years after the liquidation of the 101 Ranch, there is little evidence of the 101 Ranch's existence on the banks of the Salt Fork River. The foundation of the 101 Ranch White House remains, along with a couple silos and the captive bear Tony's den.

Today, some historians and collectors attempt to preserve the memory of the 101 Ranch. The 101 Wild West Rodeo Foundation was formed in 1960, and they have produced an annual parade and rodeo for more than 50 years. The 101 Ranch Old Timers Association, a non-profit organization, was established in 1968.

Their mission is "to preserve the history of the Old Timers associated with the 101 Ranch. To accumulate and preserve articles and artifacts which had to do with the history of the 101 Ranch or 101 Ranch Shows, or the era of cowboys and cowgirls of the early 1900s in Kay County Oklahoma. To maintain the 101 Ranch Old Timers Museum and to accept and preserve articles and artifacts loaned to or contributed to said Museum, and further do any and all other things useful or beneficial in connection with the foregoing purposes."

The 101 Ranch collection and 101 Ranch Old Timers Associa-



tion Museum is open to the public at the Marland's Grand Home at 1000 East Grand in Ponca City, Okla. The museum is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.101ranchota.com.^Q

References:

Wallis, Michael. Real Wild West.

Collings, Ellsworth, Miller England, Alma. The 101 Ranch.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NRHA Derby

JUNE 23 - JULY 1 • OKC

Oklahoma State Fair Park. Oklahoma City, OK 73107. Experience a fierce western riding competition, featuring riders guiding elite horses through a precise pattern of lighting-fast spins, circles and toe-curling stops. Watch transfixed as the National Reining Horse Association Derby awards more than \$500,000 to the winners. This premier event for the world's best reining horses will include a wide range of horses and riders. Visit www.nrhad Derby.com for more information.

Tulsa Holiday Summer Circuit

JUNE 30 - JULY 3 • TULSA

Tulsa Expo Square. Tulsa, OK 74114. The Tulsa Holiday Summer Circuit is held at the Ford Livestock Complex at Tulsa Expo Square and is an equestrian event not to be missed. Featuring junior, senior and amateur western pleasure and trail riding, as well as high point and amateur roping among other classes, the Tulsa Holiday Summer Circuit includes a wide variety of activities that showcase the skills of both the horse and rider. Watch the graceful, well-groomed horses and talented riders. See www.tulsa Holiday Circuit.com for details.

Huckleberry Festival

JUNE 30 - JULY 4 • JAY

Citywide. Jay, OK 74346. Hop on over to Jay for the city's annual Huckleberry Festival and celebrate the wild huckleberries that grow wild in the area. The unique berry, more intense in flavor than the common blueberry, has spawned this festival. Visit www.jaychamber.org for additional information.

SOLA Sale

JULY 1 • ADA

Sola Livestock Market. Ada, OK 74821. Come on out every Wednesday at 9 a.m., where we will be selling calves, yearlings, bulls, pairs and cows. For additional information, visit www.solallc.com or call 580-436-5033.

Enlow Ranch Auction

JULY 1 • ENLOW

Enlow Ranch. Tulsa, OK 74131. Come on out to our monthly auction. Enlow auction service has more than 50 years of experience. Call 918-224-7676 for more information.

OKC 4th Fest

JULY 4 • OKLAHOMA CITY

Oklahoma City Boathouse District. Oklahoma City, OK 73102. Celebrate Independence Day in Oklahoma's capital city at the annual OKC 4th Fest. Located at the Riversport Adventure Park in OKC's Boathouse District, the festival will feature plenty of fun activities like whitewater rafting and live music, plus beer specials, fireworks, yard games and delectable food from the Big Water Grill. The fireworks will be visible from anywhere in the surrounding area, so feel free to bring out a blanket or lawn chairs to enjoy the show from around the Boathouse District during this Fourth of July bash in the heart of Oklahoma City.

Freedom Fest

JULY 3-4 • YUKON

Yukon City Park & Chisholm Trail Park. Yukon, OK 73099. Yukon's Freedom Fest celebrates our nation's independence with a full day of holiday fun. Learn more by calling 405-350-8937 or 405-354-8442.

Tulsa Freedom Fest

JULY 4 • TULSA

Tulsa River Parks. Tulsa, OK 74127. Celebrate America's Independence with your family and friends at Tulsa's annual July Fourth celebration.

Blackberry Festival

JULY 6-7 • MCLLOUD

McCloud High School Athletic Complex. McCloud, OK 74851. The McCloud Blackberry Festival, which began in the 1940s, is one of the oldest continual festivals in the state of Oklahoma. Originally, the festival combined the celebration of the annual blackberry harvest with a town picnic, but now it has grown into a larger event.

Terry Don West Bull Riding School

JULY 6-8 • HENRYETTA

31965 Arbeka Rd. Henryetta, OK 74437. Learn the art of bull riding from a seasoned professional and world champion operating out of Henryetta. During three-day bull riding courses at Terry Don West Bull Riding School, PRCA World Champion Terry Don West will pass along priceless tips and bits of wisdom collected over his 25-year bull riding career. Aspiring bull riders can learn the basics, sharpen their skills and correct bad habits with the help of this Bull Riding Hall of Fame bull rider. Visit www.terrydonwest.com for more information about the Terry Don West Bull Riding School.



(JULY 4)

TULSA FREEDOM FEST

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

International Finals Youth Rodeo

JULY 8-13 • SHAWNEE

Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center. Shawnee, OK 734804. The International Finals Youth Rodeo, held at the Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center in Shawnee, is the ultimate rodeo event for up-and-coming cowboys and cowgirls. This six-day event features two performances each day by contestants from all over the United States. Bring the whole family out to watch this exciting youth rodeo that includes barrel racing, pole bending, breakaway roping, goat tying, team roping, calf roping, steer wrestling, bull riding, saddle bronc riding and bareback riding. Visit www.ifyr.com for more information.

Tulsa County Free Fair

JULY 18-20 • TULSA

Fairgrounds. Tulsa, OK 74114. The Tulsa County Free Fair comes to the Exchange Center at the Tulsa Fairgrounds. This event is open to the public and features 4-H and community exhibits as well as learning events and competitions. On Friday night, the Tulsa County 4-H holds the Festival of Fun with entertainment for the entire family.

Porter Peach Festival

JULY 19-20 • PORTER

Downtown Porter. Porter, OK 74454. The Porter Peach Festival celebrates the area crop of peaches with a myriad of activities and events perfect for a bright summer day with the family. Purchase or pick peaches at nearby orchards, or head to Porter's downtown Main Street for arts and crafts, games, live music and a wide variety of fair food. For more information, visit www.porterpeachfestivals.com.

Youth National Arabian & Half-Arabian Championship Show

JULY 21-28 • OKC

Oklahoma State Fair Park. Oklahoma City, OK 73107. The Youth National Arabian & Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show, held annually at the Oklahoma City Fairgrounds, is one of the most prestigious Arabian horse shows in North America. Held in the Jim Norick Arena, this week-long show will feature Arabian, Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian horses, as well as both amateur and professional riders. For more information or to schedule a tour, visit www.arabianhorses.org/ynl.

American Buckskin World Championship Show

JULY 23-28 • TULSA

Tulsa Expo Square. Tulsa, OK 74114. The American Buckskin Registry Association is holding the annual World Championship Show at Tulsa Expo Square. All classes of riders compete in keyhole, showmanship, riding, horsemanship, barrel racing, pole bending and reining. Three sets of American Buckskin Registry Points are up for grabs during these triple-judged equestrian events. The World Championship Show is the premiere event for buckskins, duns, red duns and grullas.

Clinton Rodeo Days

JULY 27-29 • CLINTON

Frisco Ave & Rodeo Grounds. Clinton, OK 73601. Head to Clinton for a full day of fun at Clinton Rodeo Days. Bring the whole family out to this summer festival to shop sidewalk sales and watch the parade make its



(JULY 6-7)
BLACKBERRY FESTIVAL

way through town. Play games like sack races and the egg toss while enjoying live entertainment throughout the day. Call **580-323-2222** for more information.

Ultimate Calf Roping Finals

JULY 28-29 • DUNCAN

Stephens County Fair & Expo Center. Duncan, OK 73533. Watch as ropers show off their skills at the Ultimate Calf Roping Finals, held at the Stephens County Fair & Expo Center in Duncan. The best of the best will be on hand to lasso and tie as quickly as possible, competing against each other's times. Call **580-255-3231** for more information.

National Day of the Cowboy

JULY 28 • DUNCAN

Chisholm Trail Heritage Center. Duncan, OK 73533. Join the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center to celebrate cowboy history with the National Day of the Cowboy

event in Duncan. There will be free family-friendly activities for all ages at this indoor, air-conditioned facility. Visitors will have the chance to see the 4D Experience Theater, watch animatronic Jesse Chisholm near the campfire, listen to live music and meet special guests. Visit www.onthechisholmtrail.com for additional information.

MRCA Youth Rodeo

JULY 28-29 • PAULS VALLEY

Pauls Valley Rodeo Grounds. Pauls Valley, OK 73075. Bring the family to the MRCA Youth Rodeo in Pauls Valley on July 28 and 29 and witness exciting rodeo events. This two-day competition includes all the traditional rodeo events at the Pauls Valley Rodeo Grounds in Pauls Valley, Okla. Watch the MRCA Rodeo to see the best of the best young cowboys and cowgirls in the area compete for top prizes. For additional information on the MRCA Youth Rodeo, call **405-238-2776**.

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BACKROAD BITES

ROSEANNA'S ITALIAN FOOD - KREBS, OKLA. *By Kristi Hawks*

For this issue, I started my day with a trip to my veterinarian to drop off my mini Australian Shepherd dog, Oscar, for a day surgery. He rides okay in my truck as long as he gets to share the front seat with me.

After I dropped him off, I wandered north on Highway 69 and ventured to the town of Krebs, Okla., near McAlester, Okla. It was a peaceful drive and the area had some recent rain because the grass looked plentiful and the cows and calves in the pastures appeared content.

Once in Krebs I noticed the town sign advertised it as “Oklahoma’s Little Italy” and as I drove around, I did see several Italian restaurants and a specialty store. I stopped at this quaint yellow house with a small add-on called Roseanna’s Italian Food.

As I walked into Roseanna’s I could tell it was a family-friendly restaurant and the walls were filled with pictures of the family members, history of the restaurant and previous articles written about the restaurant. The host seated me immediately in the add-on room but as I walked through I noticed a smaller room off the side that was probably used for family parties.

The menu was complete with appetizers, pizzas, salads, sandwiches, specialty dinners, pasta dinners, other entrees, and a children’s menu. On the back was also a listing of lunch specials with



Located in Krebs, Okla., Roseanna’s Italian Food is a family owned and operated restaurant since 1975. (Photos by Kristi Hawks)

smaller portions, combination dinners of the main specialty and entrée dinner choices. The restaurant also offers carry-out ordering and catering.

It took me some time, but I decided to try Frank’s Combination Platter. It came in a half or quarter-size portion, so I opted for the half, knowing I would have some leftovers to take home. The combination plate had a piece of

Clare’s lasagna, Vincent’s hand-made ravioli (beef), Nana’s gnocchi (handmade potato dumplings covered in red sauce), spaghetti and a meatball. The family members all had a hand in creating the dishes in this restaurant.

A house salad was served with their house dressing and a side of garlic bread. The dressing was amazing with great flavor. I did use some of the dressing to dip

the garlic bread in which made the warm bread taste even better.

Everything on the combination plate was covered in Roseanna’s famous red sauce. I tried everything, the meatball had great seasonings. The meat ravioli was probably my favorite on the plate. The spaghetti and lasagna were wonderful, and both were cooked just right.

The gnocchi was handmade



FRANK'S COMBINATION PLATTER

and had great flavor of the potato dumpling. The little dumplings were covered in the red sauce, which added to the flavor. Everything was homemade and a hit with me.

Overall, this is a very friendly place and the staff was kind and attentive. The place was filled with a noon crowd and everyone was greeted and acknowledged by other diners who were obvious neighbors and friends.

As I was dining though, I did look around and it got me to wondering about spaghetti eaters. Do you know how to roll yours on the fork, or do you eat it like me, cut it and eat it neatly with the fork? I have never mastered the fork roll and am amazed at those of you who can.

The server did offer me a dessert of their special cheesecake, but I had to pass. I was too full to eat it that day, and it was too hot to try to take it home without

melting. Plus, I had to swing back by the vet to pick up Oscar, which the surgery went well.

Roseanna's Italian Food is located at 205 E Washington Street. It is on the North side of Highway 31 heading east out of Krebs. Their hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This is a family owned and operated restaurant that has been around since 1975. It offers a great place to take your family, enjoy a great meal and sit and talk.

You can also visit their website at www.roseannas.com for a complete history, complete menu and information about their catering.

If you go to Krebs, there are many options and I hope you try them all, but please be sure to add Roseanne's to your list of places to try. You won't be disappointed.

Enjoy! 



HOUSE SALAD AND GARLIC BREAD

VINTAGE GUYS PLAYING VINTAGE MUSIC

Southwind Band

By Jan Sikes



Mike Music (above) along with the other members of Southwind Band have been playing their instruments for more than 30 years. (Photo by Rosemary Stephens)

Age does not diminish the quality of music the professional musicians who make up the Southwind Band play. With the youngest member in his 50s, these guys have been around. They have seen country music change and morph into something hardly recognizable. They are determined to keep vintage country music alive, and they are doing a fantastic job.

Tom Hall and Mike Music met 30 years ago in Weatherford, Okla. They lived on the same street but did not know each other until introduced by a mutual friend. Both accomplished musicians, they quickly formed a friendship and Southwind Band. Along the way, they gathered up other musicians. David Herreid is on drums, Mackey Kelley on fiddle, Earl Wayne Chaffin plays steel guitar and Antonio Rosales keeps the backbeat on the bass. Occasionally, Lucinda Harrison joins the group on keyboards.

What sets Southwind Band apart?

“This was true back in 1986 and is true now,” Music explained. “We’ve kind of got an “Asleep at the Wheel” sound. Tom has that big deep Ray Benson voice. He’s a strong front guy, and the musicians are really good. We are very fortunate to have really seasoned top-notch guys. Even back in 1986, we had a good solid swing sound that was great for dancing.

“The Urban Cowboy thing was going strong back in those days, so we were a perfect fit for the clubs. Now, we’re still playing a lot of the same music. There’s an absence of that music available. It’s certainly not coming out of Nashville. When people hear us, they hear real country, real honkytonk, real swing music.

“All of us guys have been playing our instruments for 30 years, and we’re just that much better at our craft.

“What you get with a Southwind show is good strong music, and we engage and interact with the crowd and banter back and forth

on stage. The crowd enjoys us. We can make them smile.”

Does Southwind write any original music?

“Southwind Band performs mostly covers,” Music answered. “I’ve been playing guitar for over 30 years, and I’ve never written a single song. But our bass player, Antonio Rosales, has written several and they are top-notch songs.”

At that, I embarked on a search. It took a while to locate Rosales, but the reward of the search was worth it. What a smooth voice. The lyrics were, as Music said earlier, “top-notch.”

He was named Entertainer of the Year in 2005 by the Oklahoma Country Music Association. Rosales also has an album, “Sacrifice to Survival” available at CDBaby.

All the members of Southwind Band share on the vocals, and each brings something different and unique for the audience to enjoy.

This band is dedicated to keeping what they term “real” country music alive. On Southwind posters and the profile picture on their Facebook page “Southwind-Band,” you’ll find a circle with “Fake Country” inside and a line through it. In other words, there is no



The members of Southwind Band are determined to keep vintage country music alive. Members include Mike Music (top), Earl Wayne Chaffin, David Herried, Antonio Rosales, Mackey Kelley and Tom Hall. (Photo by Rosemary Stephens)

fake country.

“In 50 years, people are not going to be talking about Luke Bryan, but they’ll still be playing Bob Wills’ music,” Hall said.

“We’re the real deal,” Music added. “We’re

vintage guys playing vintage music, and we play it well. We still feel like there’s a market for the kind of music we play.”

The men discussed the changing climate of
See BAND on page 52

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The Southwind Band including Earl Wayne Chaffin (left), Lucinda Harrison, Mike Music, David Herried, Tom Hall, and Antonio Rosales performing at the Lost Cowboy Church in Gracemont, Okla. (Photo by Rosemary Stephens)

Band

Continued from page 51

live music venues. Both attributed the demise of many clubs to the rise of the Oklahoma casinos. When club owners can't make money, they have no choice but to close the doors.

They mentioned a couple of major clubs around the Tulsa area that recently shut their doors. They aren't putting their instruments down any time soon or throwing in the towel. They believe there will always be a demand for their brand of real music.

What songs are in your set list?

"Ray Price, George Strait, George Jones, Vince Gill, Antonio Rosales, Bob Wills, Asleep at the Wheel, and the list goes on and on," Music stated.

Hall shared that Southwind

Band was recently asked to play at a cowboy church.

"This woman came to see us at a bar," Music added. "At break, the young lady that runs the church approached me and said she wanted us to play at her church. I told her there were three guys in this band who hadn't seen the inside of a church in 30 years. She kept on, and I finally said I'd think about it. I talked to Tom and the rest of the band and thought about it. I called her a few days later and told her we would play, but she was going to have to let us play some George Strait music because we didn't have a full set of gospel tunes.

"Anyway, we pulled it off. It turned out to be one of the best experiences we'd had. Those three

guys who hadn't been to church got more out of this thing and made some fantastic relationships. It was a really positive thing. Since then, we've added more gospel tunes to our list."

Because there was no preacher, just them, they found that what they had to share was things they'd learned through their life experiences.

While Hall said they were lacking on the prayer end of it, they made up for it with hard-earned wisdom.

What are your future plans?

"We'd like to play private venues," Hall said. "We've played the clubs, the honkytonks for years, but we'd like to play rodeos and private parties."

"The live music scene is no longer flourishing in Oklahoma, but we'd like to see that change," Music added. "We are also very open to playing in Texas. So, if Mr. Texas Rancher sees this article and would like to have us come and play, we'd love it."

If that should turn out to be the case, the best way to contact Southwind Band is through their Facebook page or email Mike Music at mgmusic09@gmail.com or Tom Hall at Tomthall@cox.net.

Southwind Band shows are fun. Not only is their music outstanding, but they have a great sense of humor and keep the audience engaged and smiling.

If you are interested in booking this unique group, contact either Music or Hall. ☞

Youth National



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Grazing Oklahoma

Passionflower

By Mike Proctor, Noble Research Institute research associate / mdproctor@noble.org

Characteristics: Passionflower is a large, herbaceous, perennial vine with tendrils and three-lobed leaves. Foliage tends to be a dark green.

The sepals and petals are white with some additional structures providing the purple coloration. These thread-like structures act as nectar guides and protect the nectar from non-pollinators and dilution by rain. The vines climb to some extent, but tend to sprawl across any other vegetation or support that is available.

Area of Importance: Passionflower occurs in the eastern half of Oklahoma and most of the southeastern United States, extending south into South America. It can be found in fence rows, creek bot-

oms or open areas.

Attributes: Native people throughout the range of this plant used passionflower for a variety of medicinal purposes as well as for food.

There is not much information available about the use of this plant by livestock. I rarely see it inside a fence with cattle, so I suspect they eat it when they get the chance. It is not likely to be abundant enough to consider it a useful forage.

There are more than 400 species in this genus, many of which are cultivated for fruit. Passionflower is an important food plant for the larvae of several butterfly species, especially fritillaries and longwings. Bobwhite quail and song

birds eat the seed. The complexity of the flowers is a pretty good indication of a close relationship with their pollinators. Flower structure restricts access to the nectar to only certain pollinators. This is a strategy seen in plant species that are unable to self-pollinate. This means a successful pollinator is likely to have been at the flower of another individual. Even the pollinators tend to specialize for passionflowers.

Pollinators as a group include several types of bees, hummingbirds and even a couple of bat species.

One species of passionflower (*P. foetida*) is carnivorous. This species has been documented to be victimized by two species of pol-

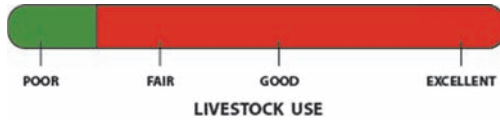
P

N

W

PLANT ID KEY

- A = ANNUAL
- P = PERENNIALS
- W = WARM SEASON
- C = COLD SEASON
- N = NATIVE
- I = INTRODUCED



len thieves that manage to avoid the stigmas and failing to pollinate the flower. I'm not saying there's a connection, but it does sound like an elegant solution. Having problems with thieves? Eat them.

The common name refers to the suffering of Jesus Christ. Several narratives from different sources describe how the arrangement of the floral structures tell the story of Christ and some of his disciples.

Passionflower can be started from seed or cuttings, but it can take a long time for the seed to break dormancy. The leaves on young shoots have lobes that are

rounder than the mature leaves and are somewhat cupped rather than flat.

I have personally transplanted the plant successfully, although not always intentionally. It was not at all shy about growing through the bottom of the pot and taking over the side of my hoop house. I managed to raise more Gulf Fritillaries than tomatoes that year. The fritillaries often consume all the leaves from the vine, but the plant seems to recover and continues to grow without ill effects. It's hard not to like a plant that lets you grow butterflies. ☺

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