

2022

WHARTON COUNTY YOUTH FAIR

Preview



Wharton Journal  Spectator



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Supporting Wharton County Youth Fair 2022



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Youth Fair dedicated to WCYF volunteers

I would like to thank the board of directors of the Wharton County Youth Fair for re-electing me as President last July. I have been honored and humbled to lead this organization through some interesting times, an extreme honor to which I do not take lightly.

Since March of 2020, all of our lives have changed in many ways. All of these happenings have directly impacted the Wharton County Youth Fair. Responsible decisions and prudent actions by your board and executive board are being made to ensure the survival of this organization. The decision to cancel the 2020 fair, and only allow the youth to exhibit and then sell their animals in 2021 has demanded us to practice fiscal responsibility in a manner that was tighter than we ever imagined. During this time, the board did stand true to our commitment to the youth by giving scholarships to the graduating seniors in our county who had participated in the WCYF. Thank you to all of the

board for voting to honor our commitments to our seniors.

The 46th annual fair will be dedicated to David Rose. David was a former board member and longtime volunteer with Rockin W committee. David served tirelessly to help the fair grow to what it is today. Whenever work needed to be done, David always found a way to be there and chip in where needed. David lost his long battle with COVID in March of 2020.

David is survived by his wife Karen and their two children, Carson and Madison. Karen can always be seen at the fair-grounds, especially on sale days. Her head is usually buried in paperwork at the add-on table ensuring every child receives their correct amount. Carson and Madison have shown animals and



WEINHEIMER

participated in tractor restoration competitions at our fair and across the state over the years; they have since moved on to the class of "former exhibitors". Carson is a 2020 graduate of Texas A&M and Madison is now a freshman studying at Texas A&M. It is my honor to have the 46th annual Wharton County Youth Fair dedicated to David Rose. Our prayers continue for Karen and the kids, thank you all for

allowing David to spend precious time out here to make the fair the icon that it is today. Without his time and dedication, we would not be in the position that we are today.

To the sponsors who have generously donated to the fair, we thank you. Without your assistance every year, we would not be able to provide the opportunities

on our fairgrounds for all citizens of our county. In 2021, our sponsors stepped in and continued to support WCYF even though many events were cancelled. Because of their generous actions, the lights are still on and the doors are still open. We truly appreciate your donations and impact for making a better county.

Our fair would not be where it is today without Cindy Blaha, Tricia Potts and Jody Wied in the office. In April of 2021, our beloved fair coordinator Cindy had a life-changing event resulting from a kidney stone. I call it life-changing because it affected everyone who came out to our fairgrounds. Not only was Cindy's life altered but it prompted us all to see the best in ourselves and others. Random acts of kindness out-poured to the Blaha's and to WCYF. As president, this was a very humbling experience to watch our county come together. Lot #1 in our Sale of Excellence, donated her project to benefit Cindy, which started a landslide of people bidding and buyers donating the lots back to be re-sold again. This is exactly why I love small town America. We continually watch the news or social media and think there is no goodness left in the world. Wharton County continues to come out and show the world there is goodness and our blessings are appreciated. There is no bigger person who exemplifies her blessings everyday than our Cindy. During this time, Tricia wore two hats and literally held the office down and made sure daily issues were handled. We also received an enormous hand from volunteers until we were able to employ Jody part time. Jody has been a great help with an awesome "can-do" attitude. A big thank you to all of them for keeping our fair moving forward. Keeping our grounds tidy is a never-ending job. Many thanks to Junior, our grounds keeper, for his tireless efforts.

I appreciate the associate directors, directors, executive board, president's staff, president's council and volunteers who make up this organization. It is a privilege to work with all of you. It is only by your hard work and efforts that we continue to grow.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve again as President of the Wharton County Youth Fair. Our common goal to help the youth of our county grow to be the complete men and women of our future is inspiring. I look forward to the days ahead and watching this organization bloom through all of your efforts. Enjoy every moment of the 2022 WCYF by doing your part in "Bringing back the fun!"

FAIR ENTERTAINMENT

**MEET YOUR FRIENDS
AT THE WINE DOWN TENT**

Wednesday, April 27 • 5 - 11 p.m.
Thursday, April 28 • 5-9 p.m.

**CRESCENT
COMMUNITY CENTER
Gym**

Sunday, April 24
Al Sulak & The Country Sounds
2:30-6:30 p.m.

Mon., Tues. & Wed. April 25-27
Barnyard Fun, Washers, Dominos,
Wahoo, Shuffleboard, Etc.
will be played 3-6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 27
SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY 9 a.m.

Thursday, April 28
Senior Citizens Polka Dance
2:30-4:30 p.m.
Steel Country 8 p.m.

Friday, April 29
Washer, Cornhole & Shuffleboard
Tournaments 6 p.m.

PRCA EXTREME BULLS

7:30 Johnson Arena
Wednesday, April 27
Thursday, April 28

Saturday, April 30

6:00 p.m. • Gym

Tejano Night

Los Emeralds, Conjunto Cats,
Impozible, DJ Jammin Ray

**MIDWAY
ENTERTAINMENT**

Good Karma K9Z Stunt Dogs
Rorring Entertainment-Racecars
Noah's Way Exotic Petting Zoo
Ag Adventures

TICKETS

SEASON PASSES \$40

(Advance from Jr. Miss Contestants)

Adult \$10 • Child 6-12 \$5
Child 5 & under FREE

WCYF CONCERT

Friday, April 29
7:30 p.m. • Johnson Arena
Read Southall Band, Josh Ward
& Bubba Westly

FAIR OFFICE

(979) 677-3350

whartoncounty
youthfair.org



Traditional fair fare awaits hungry visitors

Hamburgers, corn dogs, French fries and all the traditional fair food will be there to savor at the 2022 Wharton County Youth Fair, but not from the same sources long-time attendees expect.

The tokens are gone too.

“The food booths will be taking cash. We will have an ATM machine on site. Some may be taking credit cards,” assistant fair coordinator Trisha Potts said.

Long’s Mobile Cafe, Backyard BBQ & Catering of Wharton, Louise Educational Opportunities of Louise, Munchoes Bakery in El Campo and Shaved Ice Paradise of El Campo will have a long menu of tempting tastes for fairgoers to

consider.

Some of the booths will be offering breakfast early as well.

“Some of the (previous) concessions were having a lot of trouble finding workers,” Potts said.

The Louise booth will be frying up a WCYF attendee favorite – gizzards – each day.

Long’s will be located not on the Midway, but rather in the Johnson Arena where bull riding and other rodeo style events will be held.

Others may be offering daily specials – and Potts said she’s confident people will enjoy the fare.

WCYF RODEO SCHEDULE



Friday & Saturday, April 22 & 23

Wharton County Junior College Hosts
"NIRA" COLLEGE RODEO 7:00 P.M.
OPEN TEAM ROPING 9:00 A.M. SATURDAY



Sunday, April 24

9:30 A.M. • CRC YOUTH RODEO
3:00 P.M. • CHUTE & BARREL RODEO
6:00 P.M. • FAMILY FUN NIGHT

CHECK THE FAIR SCHEDULE FOR THESE FUN RODEO EVENTS FOR KIDS!
 CHICKEN CHASE: Sunday- Thursday - Children ages 5 yrs and under
 CASH SCRAMBLE: Sunday - Thursday - Children ages 6 & 7 year olds

Monday, April 25

7:00 P.M. • BUSINESSMAN'S RODEO

Wednesday & Thursday, April 27 & 28

PRCA XTREME BULLS

7:30 P.M. PERFORMANCE
 PRODUCER: FOLTYN & SONS

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: MUTTON BUSTIN'

TUE-6:30 P.M. WED/THUR-8:15 P.M.

Saturday, April 30

6:30 P.M. • RANCH RODEO



TUESDAY, APRIL 26
VETERANS DAY



www.whartoncountyyouthfair.org

General Admission: Adults \$10.00 • Ages 6-12 \$5.00 • Age 5 & Under FREE • Season Pass \$40



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Youngsters present pets for prizes at WCYF

Fur and feathers fly at the Wharton County Youth Fair and its wee folk events and games.

Opening 1 p.m. April 24 Sunday, the Wee Folks Pet Show puts center focus on children and their family pets for ribbons and carnival wristbands.

“We’ll have about 40 entries at the end of the process and the deadline will be extended through April 21,” Ricki Johansen said, adding “I’m thinking this year will blow us out of the water, because we haven’t had it in three years”.

Contestants are split into two main groups, Dogs and Other Animals.

Dogs can place in Best Costume, Best Trick, Looks like Owner, Best on Leash along with Largest and Smallest. Other animals can place in Best Costume, Best Trick, Most Unusual in addition to Largest and Smallest.

First place and Best in Show win trophies and wristbands for the carnival. Judges ask that no fish be entered.

“We’re always really ready. There’s always so many kids involved in the



(See PETS, Page 17)

WE’RE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE WHARTON COUNTY YOUTH FAIR 2022

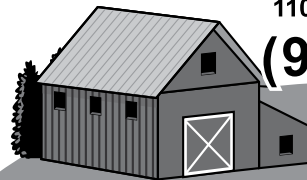


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Congratulations to the 2022 Wharton County Youth Fair Kids!



Puppy power, RC car races new Midway offers in 2022

Racing cars, flying puppy dogs and cuddly, friendly animals will be on the Wharton County Youth Fair Midway this year.

Fair organizers have signed new acts – RORRring Entertainment and The Good Karma K9Z Stunt & Trick Dog Show – for fairgoers enjoyment.

“We actually chose these acts in January 2020,” fair administrator Cindy Blaha said. COVID, however, forced directors to cancel the fair that year and put on only an abbreviated event in 2021.

Directors, she said, are hoping the two along with long-time favorite Noah’s Way Exotic Petting Zoo will help entertain the younger crowd.

RORRring Entertainment lets children of all ages explore their need for speed safely with RC car racing.

“It’s four kids at a time in a competi-

tion, I think it’s (going to be popular),” Blaha said.

The Good Karma K9Z Stunt & Trick Dog Show features high-flying pups, leaping over barriers and into the air to catch objects among other activities.

Unlike many petting zoos, Noah’s Way isn’t just a wandering pack of always hungry goats.

“They bring a good variety,” Blaha said. “It’s always crowded in there.”

The business’ hand-raised animals vary each year depending on what’s small on the farm. Past visitors have included a camel, pot-bellied pigs, llamas, deer, Wallabies, a bison, antelope and exotic cattle.

There will not be a hypnotist this year.

“Over the last couple of years, (the act) just didn’t seem to be drawing the crowds,” Blaha said.






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Free Passes To WCYF



TUESDAY, APRIL 26

Salute to Veterans Day

Active duty, retired and honorably discharged service personnel along with their families invited to enter free of charge through 5 p.m. Special recognition for service will take place in the Johnson Arena during bull riding.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

Pre-school Day

Little ones admitted free in the morning to experience hands-on activities and special programming.



Special Students Day

Program welcomes special visitors in the morning for an assortment of activities including a dance, lunch and more.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

Senior Citizens Day

Admission free for those 62 and older through 5 p.m.

Senior events start at 9 a.m. with an assortment of booths, a complementary chicken soup meal served at 11 a.m., entertainment and more followed by a polka dance at 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

Student Day

All Wharton County school age children and Wharton County Junior College students admitted free through 5 p.m.



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Top bulls, riders coming to Bull Blowout

By **JOE SOUTHERN**
news@journal-spectator.com

The Wharton County Youth Fair will have the best of the best and that's no bull!

Correct that, it's all bull – and their riders – when the PRCA Xtreme Bulls Tour comes to Johnson Arena on April 27-28.

“We will have 35 riders each night,” said Carola Foltyn, who, along with her husband Lane Foltyn, has been coordinating the bull riding event for many years.

The cowboys will be competing for \$26,000 in prizes, which includes \$12,000 in added money from the Wharton County Youth Fair.

“The top eight win money,” Foltyn said.

The Bull Blowout is a PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association) event, so it draws some of the top bull riders on the circuit, according to Foltyn.

“We'll have riders from the U.S., Canada, and I think Australia,” she said.

Money won on the PRCA Xtreme Bulls Tour counts toward the PRCA World Standings for bull riding, which

determine the qualifiers for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, but it does not count toward the PRCA's all-around standings.

In addition to top riders, Foltyn said the event will feature some of the best bulls from top stock contractors in the country.

Another favorite of fans of the sport are the bullfighters, often called clowns because of the makeup and outrageous outfits they wear. Among the bullfighters coming this year is Bryce Redo, who was most recently seen locally at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Along with Redo will be barrel man/fun-nyman Robbie Hodges.

Each evening the bull riding will take an intermission for some mutton busting. The event features local youngsters who ride sheep.

On a more solemn note, there will be an empty saddle ceremony at the event on Thursday, April 28.


“This is to pay respect to the fair directors who have died in the past few years,” Foltyn said.

To learn more about the Bull Blowout and other events at the fair, visit www.whartoncountyyouthfair.org.



Photo by Joe Southern

Professional bullfighter Bryce Redo springs into action to challenge a bull to keep a rider safe during action at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in March. Redo will be at the Wharton County Youth Fair for the Bull Blowout on April 27-28.




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Photo by Joe Southern

Professional bullfighter Bryce Redo challenges a bull to keep a rider safe during action at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in March. Redo will be at the Wharton County Youth Fair for the Bull Blowout on April 27-28.

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New carnival brings classics, thrillers to fair

The Wharton County Youth Fair will offer new carnival rides at the Crescent fairgrounds next week.

Moore's Greater Shows replaces the Mighty Thomas Carnival on the northside of the Midway.

"We felt like we weren't getting rides that attracted the older kids," fair administrator Cindy Blaha said. "We're hoping they will be a good fit."

Moore's has been in business 75 years and will bring a mix of classics,

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thrillers and kiddie rides.

The exact offerings had not been released as of press time, but Blaha said to expect always-popular attractions like the century wheel and Starship as well as new adventures like the Top Gun for those brave of heart and strong of stomach.

"I'm not really sure how to describe it. It rocks," Blaha said.

Another ride directors hope teens will enjoy is the El Loco. "Four sections go up in the air and it's twisty-turny," Blaha said.

Pre-sale carnival bands are available for \$30 per section (roughly a five hour time period) presale or \$35 at the gate.

The carnival will be open Wednesday and Thursday for one section each day 5 to 10 p.m.

Friday will have two sections as rides get going early for Students Day. There will be two sections of ride times on Saturday as well.

Assorted businesses throughout the county are offering the pre-sale bands.

WCYF
CARNIVAL

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY
APRIL 27-30
ADVANCE SALE \$30
Available at the following locations until
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022
First State Bank Of Louise
(Wharton, El Campo & Louise)
Lowe's Foods (East Bernard)
Texas Gulf Federal Credit Union
(El Campo & Wharton)
Wharton Co. Youth Fair Office
\$35 AT THE CARNIVAL

Tickets

The purchase of a season pass or gate tickets does NOT include carnival rides.
Season Pass - \$40 • Adult - \$10
Children (6-12) - \$5 • Children under 5 - FREE
Concert admission is \$20 after 5 p.m. Friday
Season passes can be purchased from
Jr. Miss Contestants until April 27

WHARTON COUNTY YOUTH FAIR & EXPOSITION
2022 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

BBQ COOK-OFF
Friday, April 8th
Admission Gate Opens - 5 p.m. until 11 p.m.
9 a.m. - 6 p.m. BBQ Cook-off Team Check-In
8 p.m. BBQ Cook-off Team Most Colorful Judging

Saturday, April 9th
Admission Gate Opens - 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.
11 a.m. Judging starts
4 p.m. BBQ Cook-off Awards (Crescent Hall)
5 p.m. Youth Bull Riding (Johnson Arena)

FAIR WEEK
Thursday, April 21st
3 p.m. - 6 p.m. Creative Arts Check-In

Friday, April 22nd
Admission Gates Open - 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.
9:30 a.m. Judging of Creative Arts
12 p.m. Rodeo Slack (Johnson Arena)
7 p.m. WCJC host "NIRA" Rodeo (Johnson Arena)

Saturday, April 23rd
Admission Gates Open - 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.
9 a.m. Open Team Roping (Johnson Arena)
1 p.m. Little Mr/Miss Pageant (Crescent Hall)
3 p.m. Princess Pageant (Crescent Hall)
5 p.m. Jr. Miss Pageant (Crescent Hall)
7 p.m. Queen Pageant (Crescent Hall)
7 p.m. WCJC host "NIRA" Rodeo (Johnson Arena)

Sunday, April 24th
Admission Gates Open - 8 a.m. until 8 p.m.
9 a.m. Cowboy Church (Midway Stage)
9:15 a.m. Rabbit Show (Crescent Hall)
9:30 a.m. CRC Youth Rodeo (Johnson Arena)
1 p.m. Wee Folks Pet Show (Midway Stage)
1 p.m. - 6 p.m. Creative Arts Open for Viewing
& Creative Arts Country Store Open
1:30 p.m. Ag Mechanics Show (Midway Concrete Slab)
2:30 p.m. - 6:30 pm ...Al Sulak & the Country Sounds Dance" - (Gym)
3 p.m. Chute & Barrel Rodeo (Johnson Arena)
3 p.m. Poultry Show (Ammann Barn)
6:00 p.m. Family Fun Night (Johnson Arena)
Pig Loading (ages 4 to 6); Chicken Chase (ages 5 & under);
Pig Chase; Goat Loading
Cash Scramble (ages 6 & 7)

Monday, April 25th
Admission Gates Open - 8 a.m. until 8 p.m.
9 a.m. Horse Show (Johnson Arena)
4:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Creative Arts Open for Viewing
& Creative Arts Country Store Open
2 p.m. Swine Show (Ammann Barn)
5 p.m. - 8 p.m. AgAdventures Open
6:45 p.m. Chicken Chase (ages 5 under)
TBA. Cash Scramble (ages 6 & 7)
7 p.m. Businessman's Rodeo (Johnson Arena)

Tuesday, April 26th
Admission Gates Open - 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.
Salute to Our Veterans
10 a.m. Commercial Heifer Show (Ammann Barn)
2 p.m. Lamb Show (Ammann Barn)
4:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Creative Arts Open for Viewing
& Creative Arts Country Store Open
5 p.m. - 8 p.m. AgAdventures Open
6 p.m. Steer Show (Ammann Barn)
6:30 p.m. Mutton Bustin' (Johnson Arena)
8:00 p.m. Team Challenge Tuesday (Johnson Arena)
TBA. Cash Scramble (ages 6 & 7)

Wednesday, April 27th
Preschool and Special Friends Day
Moore's Greater Shows Carnival
Carnival opens 5 - 10 p.m.
Admission Gates Open - 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.
9 a.m. Special Friends Day (Gym)
9 a.m. Extra Special Livestock Show (Ammann Barn)
9 a.m. Pen of Three Heifer Exhibitor Interviews
10 a.m. Goat Show (Ammann Barn)
2 p.m. Pen of Three Heifer Show (Ammann Barn)
4:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Creative Arts Open for Viewing
& Creative Arts Country Store Open
5 p.m. - 8 p.m. AgAdventures Open
5 p.m. - 11 p.m. Wine Down Open
6 p.m. Ag Day Banquet (Crescent Hall)
7 p.m. Chicken Chase (5 & under)
7:30 p.m. PRCA "Extreme Bulls" (Johnson Arena)
8:15 p.m. Mutton Bustin' (Johnson Arena)
TBA. Cash Scramble (6 & 7year-olds)

Thursday, 28th
Senior Citizens Day - 62 & older (Free until 5 p.m.)
Carnival opens 5 - 10 p.m.
Admission Gates open - 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.
9 a.m. Sr. Citizen's Day (Crescent Hall)
9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Creative Arts Country Store Open
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Creative Arts Open for Viewing
10 a.m. Dairy Show (Ammann Barn)
10:30 a.m. Dairy Merit Show (Ammann Barn)
2 p.m. Jr. Breeding Beef Show (Ammann Barn)
2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sr. Citizen's Polka Dance (Gym)
3 p.m. Bucket Calf Show (Ammann Barn)
5 p.m. - 8 p.m. AgAdventures Open
5 p.m. - 9 p.m. Wine Down Open
7 p.m. Chicken Chase (5 & under)
7:30 p.m. PRCA "Extreme Bulls" (Johnson Arena)
8:15 p.m. Mutton Bustin' (Johnson Arena)
TBA. Cash Scramble (ages 6 & 7)
8 p.m. Steel Country (Gym)

Friday, April 29th
Student Day (free until 5 p.m.)
Carnival opens 9 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Admission Gates open 8 a.m. until 11 p.m.
8:30 a.m. Academic Rodeo (Office Bldg Complex)
9 a.m. Spelling Bee (Crescent Hall)
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. AgAdventures Open
11 a.m. Livestock Judging Contest (Johnson Arena)
12 p.m. Freezer Sale Opens (Office Bldg)
5:30 p.m. Exhibitor's Awards Banquet (Crescent Hall)
6 p.m. Washer, Corn Hole & Shuffle Board Tournaments (Gym)
7:30 p.m. Concert (Johnson Arena)

Read Southall, Josh Ward & Bubba Westly

Saturday, April 30th
Carnival opens 12 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Admission Gates open - 10 a.m. until 10 p.m.
12 p.m. **Sale of Excellence (Crescent Hall)**
Immediately followed by Freezer Sale and Buyer's Meal
6:30 p.m. Ranch Rodeo (Johnson Arena)
6 p.m. **TEJANO DANCE (Gym)**
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www.whartoncountyyouthfair.org

Creative Arts bouncing back, number of entries still down

This year's fairgoers will find the Creative Arts Department entries bouncing back from previous years, and have the opportunity to purchase the exhibitors' crafts in the new country store.

Melinda Gary, chairperson of the executive committee for Creative Arts, says entries are below the 2019 numbers but still above last year's figures.

"We have 2,633 entries this year, and some divisions have more than the previous year," Gary said.

Almost 1,000 entries are from schools and club organizations and more from individual participants, she added.

"There are quite a few craft categories, but one category that's been increasing this year is horticulture," Gary said. "It seems it's just exploded in popularity this year."

The clothing category, where people submit a completed article of clothing, is not as prominent this year – only two adults entered the category this year.

This year is the inaugural year for the Country Store at the fair. Depending on the number of articles submitted, participants will have items entered in the show available for sale in the store.

The creative crafters will receive some of the funds obtained through the store sales, but a percentage will go to the WCYF.

For example, the store will work this way: Senior Division participants must produce 60 articles, of which 30 must be brought to the fair, 15 of those can be exhibited in the store. Junior, intermediate and high divisions have to enter 50

Students Sell Projects,
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Continued on Next Page



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CASE IH
AGRICULTURE



L-N File Photo

Kally Jo Johnson, Boling FFA, stands as 2018 Sr. High Point Champion. WCYF displays creative art pieces from hundreds of local entrants every year.

articles and bring 25 to show.

The categories range from canned and baked goods to photography, painting and drawing, wood, fiber arts and many others.

The open youth category invites participants who are not part of the FFA or 4H organizations.

This is Gary's first year as chairperson of the committee but she has the backing of past executives and members who she says all work as a team.

"We work together very well to do what's needed for the fair," Gary said, "we all help one another."

Located in Crescent Hall, Creative Arts Department, the country store will be open from 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday, April

24; from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 25 through Wednesday, April 27 and 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, April 28

The store will accept cash, checks or credit cards. Call (979) 677-3350 if you have any questions.



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L-N File Photo

Got Ya

Wharton County Junior College freshman Connor Atkinson of Needville throws a lasso over a calf during the Wharton County Youth Fair last year.

Pioneers home rodeo offers chance to earn Nationals spot

By JOSHUA REESE
sports@leader-news.com

On the road to qualifying for the National Finals in June, the Wharton County Junior College Pioneers rodeo team has a stop at home during the Wharton County Youth Fair Friday and Saturday.

The local fair is the second to last rodeo of the season for the Pioneers.

“We’re coming down to the end of the year and it’s a last ditch effort to try and get some qualifications for the College National Finals Rodeo,” Pioneer rodeo coach Sean Amestoy said.

Coming into the youth fair, Wharton has six Pioneers ranked in their events in the Southern region.

Only the top three at the season’s end will qualify for nationals.

The Pioneers mens’ team is ranked ninth in the 11-team region with 836 points.

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-PETS

(Continued from Page 7)

pet show and they're always so excited," Johansen said.

Some of the entries so far are a pair of chickens, a horse, a goat and a kitten named Kitty Unicorn Mermaid.

Continuing at 3 p.m. on Sunday is the Chute and Barrel Rodeo Club hosting a stick horse race and their goat ribbon pull. Contestants are split into three and under, between four and five and six to seven. One contestant from

each group will win an All-Around belt buckle.

As the week continues, contestants between four and eight get their own rodeo at Mutton Bustin. The first 20 entries are accepted and the following 10 will be alternates. Helmets and protective jackets will be provided, long sleeves are required and no ropes or spurs are allowed.



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Junior Miss girls aim for scholarships in season pass contest

The Jr. Miss contestants will be required to sell season passes for the WCYF this year. They must sell a minimum of 50 season passes to receive season pass points. Contestants selling more than 100 passes will be eligible for additional scholarship money.

The contestant selected as Jr. Miss will appear on behalf of the fair as requested.

Jr. Miss Contestants:

- Presley Bacak of El Campo, daughter of Bart & Heather Bacak.
- Mia Fitzgerald of Boling, daughter of Jess & Kristen Fitzgerald.
- Kolbie Klatt of El Campo, daughter of Dwayne Klatt & Amanda Klatt.
- Emily Parker of Boling, daughter of Phillip & Shannon Parker.
- Anyssa Perez of East Bernard, daughter of Richard & Mary Ann Perez.
- Sophie Porter of El Campo, daughter of Melanie & Mike Porter.
- Abigail Porter of El Campo, daughter of Melanie & Mike Porter.
- Eliska Shumbera of Wharton, daughter of John & Dee Ann Shumbera.
- Macy Stavinoha of East Bernard, daughter of James & Laura Stavinoha.



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EL CAMPO



ABIGAIL PORTER
EL CAMPO



ANYSSA PEREZ
EAST BERNARD



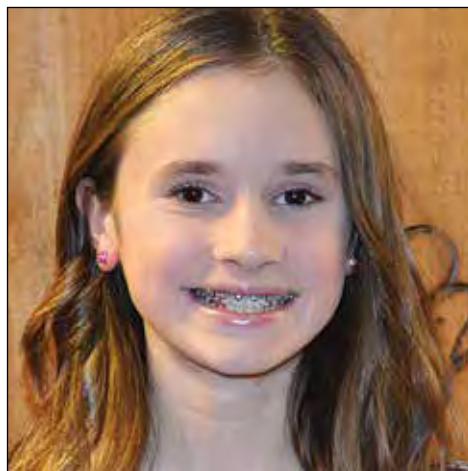
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EL CAMPO



MACY STAVINOHA
EAST BERNARD



MIA FITZGERALD
BOLING



EMILY PARKER
BOLING



ALISKA SHUMBERA
WHARTON



PRESLEY BACAK
EL CAMPO

*See Queen
Contestants
Page*

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Kiddos, kids face off in Family Fun Night

Kids, kids, chickens and pigs will be on tap Sunday, April 24, as Family Fun Night returns to the Wharton County Youth Fair.

Beginning at 6 p.m. in Johnson Arena, the night features four contests – the pig chase, pig loading, goat loading, and the chicken chase.

“These are fun little events the kids can sign up for,” said Melanie Schubach, who coordinates the event with her husband, Troy Schubach.

The registrations have closed, the

(See FAMILY, Page 23)

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Young ladies seek princess crowns at fair

The pageant for Princess of the WCYF begins at 3 p.m. on April 23 for these contestants. All winners will receive awards and prizes and the Princess will receive her crown and buckle at the end of judging.

The contestants will go through individual interviews, self-introductions and modeling of western attire consisting of jeans and a white button-down shirt. Additional points will be awarded for fair and 4-H involvement.

The winner of Princess of this pageant will be required to appear on behalf of the fair as requested.

The princess contestants are:

- Jaci Lee Ashton of Wharton, daughter of Gary Ashton Jr. & Crystal Hauff.
- Channing Bacak of El Campo, daughter of Bart & Heather Bacak.
- Faith Cerny of El Campo, daughter of Brent & Sarah Cerny.
- Ashlyn Eversole of Damon, daughter of William & Che' Eversole.
- Taylor Givens of El Campo, daughter of James & Heather Givens.
- Sadie Hensley of Wharton, daughter of Chad & Robin Hensley.
- Callie Kitzmiller of Boling, daughter of Cody & Amanda Kitzmiller.
- Maysen Kocian of Boling, daughter of Stuart & Ashley Kocian.
- Addison Koudela of El Campo, daughter of Jason & Ashley Koudela.
- Alli Koudela of El Campo, daughter of Jason & Ashley Koudela.
- Brooklyn Leopold of Louise, daughter of Russell & Raelyn Leopold.
- Elizabeth Leopold of El Campo, daughter of Amanda & Greg Leopold.
- Makala Merta of El Campo, daughter of Tim & Mindy Merta.
- Alyssa Parker of Boling, daughter of Phillip & Shannon Parker.
- Bailey Schubach of Boling, daughter of Troy & Melanie Schubach.
- Raegan Leanne Vallet of El Campo, daughter of Jason & Stephanie Vallet.
- Alleigh Wittig of Boling, daughter of Kim & Keith Wittig.



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ALLEIGH WITTIG
BOLING



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ALYSSA PARKER
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BAILEY SCHUBACH
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BROOKLYN LEOPOLD
LOUISE



CALLIE KITZMILLER
BOLING



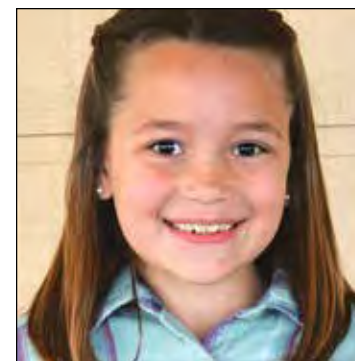
CHANNING BACAK
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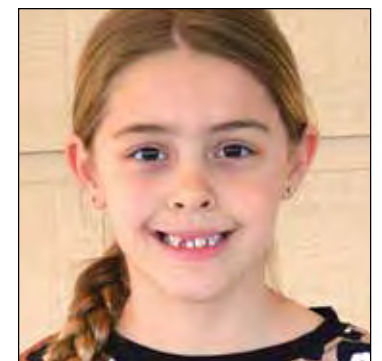
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WHARTON



SADIE HENSLEY
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TAYLOR GIVENS
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REAGAN LEANNE VALLET
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-FAMILY

(Continued from Page 20)

events are full, and the fun is about to begin for those who enjoy watching intense pint-sized competition.

Pig chase

The pig chase has four age categories – 6-7-year-olds, 8-9-year-olds, 10-11-year olds, and 12-13-year-olds. All participants receive a free T-shirt and each winner will be awarded an arm-band for the carnival. The participants try to catch a pig, and when they catch one they must take it to a judge and stay with the judge until the prizes are awarded.

Goat loading

The goat loading features teams of three youngsters between the ages of 5 to 16, but the combined ages cannot add up to more than 35 years. Each team pushes a wheelbarrow to a goat that is staked. They must unclip the goat, load it, and wheel it to the finish line without the goat getting out. The first team in each round to cross the line will return for a final round.

Pig loading

Pig loading is a three-person contest for children ages 4-6 years. One team member holds a pig at the fence while



the other two race to him or her with a wagon. They load the pig and holder into the wagon and then push and pull it to the finish line. Prizes are awarded to the first and second place teams overall.

Chicken chase

The chicken chase is for youngsters age 6 and under. Much like a calf scramble, the kiddos are turned loose to try and round up a chicken.

Cash scramble

A fifth and very popular event is the cash scramble. Ping pong balls are shot out across the arena and the contestants run around and collect them. They get to exchange each ping pong ball for a dollar bill.

"This is a fun way for families to come out and enjoy the fair," Schubach said.





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Little Mr., Miss contestants strive for titles

The first of four pageants to be held at the Wharton County Youth Fair, the Little Mr. and Miss contest gets under way at 1 p.m. in Crescent Hall on Saturday, April 23. There are 14 little girls vying for the Little Miss crown and nine boys hoping to be the next Little Mr.

Contestants, all from Wharton County, range from Kindergarten through second grade. Points are tallied from personal interviews with judges prior to the pageant. Then on stage, each must give a selfintroduction and answer some personal questions. Those who make the finalist list are then asked additional questions for a final tally of points before the winners are revealed.

All winners will receive awards and prizes with the Little Mr. and Miss earning additional prizes along with a trophy, a sash and more.

Little Mr. contestants are:

Jackson Ashton of Wharton, son of Mr & Mrs Gary Ashton Jr.

Wade Cerny of El Campo, son of Brent & Sarah Cerny.

Emmett Downs of Boling, son of Clint & Alyssa Downs.

Weston Kocian of Boling, son of Stuart & Ashley Kocian.

William McManus of El Campo, son of Kelly Popp & Michael Drewett.

Caleb Porter of El Campo, son of Mike & Melanie Porter.

Wyatt Gilbert Vallet of El Campo, son of Jason & Stephanie Vallet.

Judd Wilcox of East Bernard, son of Justin & Megan Wilcox.

This years Little Miss contestants are:

Kelbie Baca of Wharton, daughter of Michael & Krystal Baca.

Raeleigh Boone of East Bernard, daughter of Skylar Morales.

Olivia Grace Braune of Wharton, daughter of Cara Braune Garcia.

Aubree Drozd of El Campo, daughter of Amanda Davenport & Kyle Drozd.

Savannah Hensley of Wharton, daughter of Chad & Robin Hensley.

Maggie Kmiec of Wharton, daughter of Andrew & Sammie Kmiec.

Whitley Kocian of Boling, daughter of Stuart & Ashley Kocian.

Aubri Koudela of El Campo, daughter of Jason & Ashley Koudela.

Kinley Kunz of Louise, daughter of Chris & Kristin Kunz.

Addelyn Leopold of El Campo, daughter of Amanda Leopold.

Shaleigh Tjerina of East Bernard, daughter of Marc & Stephanie Tjerina.

Sophia Hope Uribe of Wharton, daughter of Andrew & Rayann Uribe.

Jordan Wrobliski of Wharton, daughter of David & Kirby Wrobliski.

Lauren Yeamans of Boling, daughter of Doug & Amy Yeamans.



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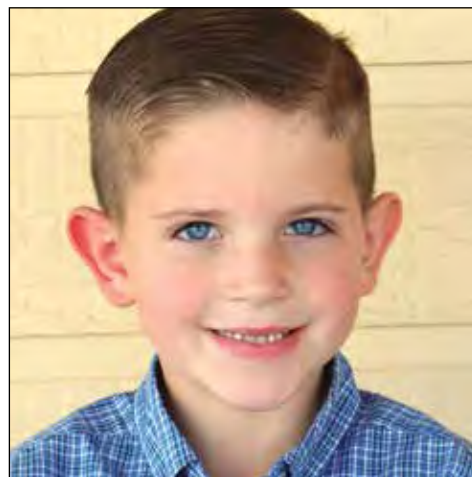
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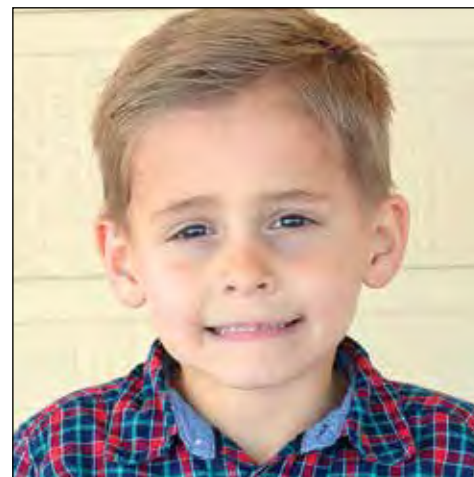
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Mommy**



Vying for Queen of the WCYF candidates smile for victory

The contest for Queen of the WCYF is open to all high school freshmen, sophomore and junior students in the Wharton County schools. Home schooled students are welcome as long as they live in Wharton County.

The contestants are required to sell Heifer Raffle tickets for the fair. The young lady who sells the most raffle tickets will be named Queen of Ticket Sales.

The contestants for Queen of the WCYF are;

- Kasey Burns of El Campo, daughter of Chris & Jennifer Burns.
- Meredith Gold of El Campo, daughter of Thomas & Annie Gold.
- Zoey Johnson of Wharton, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Gary Ashton Jr.
- Alyssa Jones of Louise, daughter of Jerett & Keri Jones.
- Jolie Konarik of El Campo, daughter of Jay & Amy Konarik.
- Aubrey Matula of Boling, daughter of Kim & Keith Wittig.
- Kamryn Till of Nada, daughter of Kevin & Tammy Till.



ALYSSA JONES
LOUISE



AUBREY MATULA
BOLING



JOLIE KONARIK
EL CAMPO



KAMRYN TILL
NADA



KASEY BURNS
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