



WEYF 2017

WHARTON COUNTY YOUTH FAIR

President's welcome: Enjoy your time at the fair and help support our youth's endeavors

"From Wagon Wheels to Ferris Wheels" is the theme for our 41st annual Wharton County Youth Fair. I think of this as a representation of how much the fair has progressed over the last four decades in our dedication and support of the youth of Wharton County.

The early leaders of this organization had a vision that has allowed subsequent board members and volunteers to carry on the work they began.

The WCYF board of directors continually seeks ways to make our fair more attractive, safer and generate more scholarship dollars for our kids. Because at the end of the day, or at the end of the fair, everything we do is for the youth of this county.



Mark Bain

Last year, the Sale of Excellence generated \$1.2 million and we awarded more than \$98,000 in scholarships to 37 graduating seniors. None of that would be possible without the continued support of our generous donors and countless volunteers.

The official fair festivities begin with our royalty pageants and Go Texan events Saturday, April 22.

All the fair favorites are again on the schedule – bull riding, family fun night, preschool day and senior citizen's day. And of course, the livestock shows and ever-popular Mighty Thomas Carnival. There is truly something for everyone at the Wharton County Youth Fair.

We're especially excited about our closing concert this year. We have a great line up of the Bellamy Brothers, Kyle Park and Roger Creager. Buy your tickets early, don't wait. The concert will be held Friday, April 28 in the Johnson Arena.

I know we say this every year, but this fair would not be possible without the tireless dedication of the many volunteers who work to ensure the success of the fair, year after year.

From the bottom of my heart, a big thank you to all who have supported me during my time as WCYF president.

Enjoy your time on the fairgrounds – and make time for a spin on the Ferris Wheel.

— Mark Bain

WHARTON COUNTY YOUTH FAIR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FAIR WEEK

Thursday, April 20th

3 p.m. – 6 p.m. Creative Arts Check-In

Friday, April 21st

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 22nd

Admission Gates Open - 9 a.m. until 8 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 23rd

Admission Gates Open - 10 a.m. until 10 p.m.

10 a.m. CRC Youth Rodeo (Johnson Arena)
10:30 a.m. Cowboy Church (Midway Stage)
1 p.m. Wee Folks Pet Show (Midway Stage)
1:30 p.m. Ag Mechanics Show (Midway Concrete Slab)
1 p.m. – 6 p.m. Creative Arts Open for Viewing
1 p.m. Go-Texan Dominoes (Beer Garden)
2 p.m. – 6 p.m. Kick Off Dance – Al Sulak (Gym)
3 p.m. Christian Country Music Concert (Midway Stage)
3 p.m. Chute & Barrel Rodeo (Johnson Arena)
3 p.m. Poultry Show (Ammann Barn)
5:00 p.m. Family Fun Night (Johnson Arena)
(Pig Loading only – ages 4-6, Chicken Chase 5 & under,
Pig Chase, Goat Loading, Club Challenge &
Cash Scramble – 6&7 year olds)

Monday, April 24th

Admission Gates Open - 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.

9 a.m. Horse Show (Johnson Arena)
9:15 a.m. Rabbit Show (Crescent Hall)
4 p.m. – 8 p.m. Creative Arts Open for Viewing
4 p.m. Swine Show (Ammann Barn)
5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Learning Center Open
7:15 p.m. Chicken Chase (5 years & under)
TBA. Cash Scramble (6 & 7 year olds)
7:30 p.m. Businessman's Rodeo (Johnson Arena)

Tuesday, April 25th

Admission Gates Open - 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Salute to Our Veterans

11 a.m. Commercial Heifer Show (Ammann Barn)
2 p.m. Lamb Show (Ammann Barn)
4 p.m. – 8 p.m. Creative Arts Open for Viewing
5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Learning Center Open
4 p.m. Steer Show (Ammann Barn)
6:30 p.m. Mutton Bustin' (Johnson Arena)
7 p.m. Chicken Chase (5 years & under)
7:30 p.m. PRCA Xtreme Bulls (Johnson Arena)
TBA. Cash Scramble (6 & 7 year olds)
8 p.m. The Keith Junot Band (Gym)

Daily Admission: Adult \$10 • Ages 6-12 \$5 • 5 & under FREE
SEASON PASSES \$40



Wednesday, April 26th

Preschool and Special Friends Day

Carnival opens 5 – 10 p.m. "Buddy Night" - Wednesday Only

2 ride for price of 1

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)
10 a.m. Goat Show (Ammann Barn)
10 a.m. Pen of Three Heifer Exhibitor Interviews
2 p.m. Pen of Three Heifer Show (Ammann Barn)
4 p.m. – 8 p.m. Creative Arts Open for Viewing
5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Learning Center Open
6 p.m. Ag Day Banquet (Crescent Hall)
6:30 p.m. Mutton Bustin' (Johnson Arena)
7 p.m. Chicken Chase (5 years & under)
7:30 p.m. PRCA Xtreme Bulls (Johnson Arena)
TBA. Cash Scramble (6 & 7 year olds)
8 p.m. A.J. Guel (Gym)

Thursday, April 27th

Senior Citizens Day - 62 & older (Free until 5 p.m.)

Carnival open 5 – 10 p.m.

Admission Gates open - 8 a.m. until 11 p.m.

9 a.m. Sr. Citizen's Day (Crescent Hall)
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)
4 p.m. – 9 p.m. Creative Arts Open for Viewing
4 p.m. Bucket Calf Show (Ammann Barn)
(show will immediately follow the Jr. Breeding Beef show)
5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Learning Center Open
6:30 p.m. Mutton Bustin' (Johnson Arena)
7 p.m. Chicken Chase (5 year & under)
7:30 p.m. PRCA Xtreme Bulls (Johnson Arena)
TBA. Cash Scramble (6 & 7 year olds)

CANCER AWARENESS NIGHT

8 p.m. Tough Enough (Gym)

Friday, April 28th

Student Day (free until 5 p.m.)

Carnival open 9 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Admission Gates open 7:30 a.m. until 11 p.m.

8:30 a.m. Academic Rodeo (Crescent Hall)
9 a.m. Spelling Bee (Office Bldg. Complex)
9 a.m. YOUTH Washer Pitching (Gym)
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Creative Arts Open for Viewing
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Learning Center Open
11 a.m. Livestock Judging Contest (Johnson Arena)
12 p.m. Freezer Sale Opens (Office Bldg)
1 p.m. YOUTH Shuffle Board Tournament (CCC/GYM)
5:30 p.m. Exhibitor's Awards Banquet (Crescent Hall)
6 p.m. ADULT Shuffle Board Tournament (Gym)
6 p.m. ADULT Go-Texan Washer Pitching (Gym)
6 p.m. ADULT Go-Texan Horseshoe Pitching (Gym)
8 p.m. CONCERT (Johnson Arena)
Bellamy Brothers, Kyle Park & Roger Creager

Saturday, April 29th

Carnival open 12 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Admission Gates open - 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.

11 a.m. Buyer's Luncheon (Crescent Hall)
12 p.m. Sale of Excellence (Crescent Hall)
Immediately followed by Freezer Sale and Buyer's Meal
7 p.m. Ranch Rodeo (Johnson Arena)
8 p.m. TEJANO DANCE (Gym)
Max Baca & Los Texmaniacs and Magnifico 7

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Wharton County Youth Fair 2017 Preview

Editor and Publisher
Bill Wallace

Managing Editor
Keith Magee

Contributing Writers
Evelyn Carriere
Shannon Crabtree
Quala Matocha
Casie Kruppa
Pricilla Pena

Production and Design
Rachel Cavazos

Advertising Manager
Jeannie Boone

115 W. Bursleson St.
Wharton, TX 77488
979-532-8840
www.journal-spectator.com

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Wharton Journal-Spectator
East Bernard Express

Sale of Excellence highlights Wharton County Youth Fair

By CASIE KRUPPA
reporter@leader-news.com

The event that every Wharton County youth exhibitor strives to be a part of, the Sale of Excellence, will again close out this year's Wharton County Youth Fair.

Each exhibitor who earned a first or second place in their respective show is invited to the event to sell their prize-winning animals. The majority of the sale price goes to the contestant.

"The fair gets 5 and a half percent commission, but the rest of the sale goes to the exhibitor," Chairperson Penny Kmiec said. "They use their money to pay feed bills, equipment costs or may save some for future projects. A lot of them will put away the rest of the money to save for college."

The percentage of proceeds retained by WCYF is used for the startup of the next year's fair.

Last year's sale raised \$1,255,318, slightly below 2015's total of \$1,321,878. Kmiec said that organizers believe the recent oilfield down turn had a lot to do

with this.

"We are anxious to see if the numbers will raise again from last year. We would like the sale to be higher than the previous year's total," she said. "We think the total may start raising again and are remaining optimistic about it."

Those interested in bidding on and ultimately buying a project need to register prior to the event by calling the fair office or registering the day of the sale.

"They just call the office and we can issue them a buyer number," Kmiec said.

Would-be purchasers can also join a fair fund - the Five Star Fair Fund from El Campo, Louise Buyers Group, Boling Fair Fund, East Bernard Fair Fund and Wharton Fair Fund. Fair funds are set up to help exhibitors get their buyer groups together before the Sale of Excellence.

"Exhibitors send out letters to the potential buyers and invite them to the fair," Kmiec said. "They may choose whom they want to send these letters to. We also have a fair catalog that lists all of the buyers from the previous years

and some base who they write letters to on that."

Letters are either mailed or hand delivered and exhibitors are also requested to write thank you notes as a lesson in courtesy after the sale.

Registered buyers are invited to a luncheon starting at 11 a.m. prior to the sale. The luncheon will be sponsored by Traditions Insurance Services and later, a dinner will be sponsored by Mustang Creek BBQ.

Kmiec added that she would like to thank all the volunteers that help to keep everything running smoothly each year.

The sale begins at noon on the final day of the fair, Saturday April 29.

A total of 275 lots will be auctioned off, filled with award-winning animals and the top creative arts projects.

Those projects that don't make the Sale of Excellence, still have a chance to regain some of the investment from their project through the Freezer Sale. The Freezer Sale is held directly following the Sale of Excellence.



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WCJC to host NIRA Rodeo

Students at Wharton County Junior college are scheduled to compete with a lot at stake at this year's youth fair competition.

"In the past we have usually been close to the top ranking, this year we are around half, all we will have to do is work for it," said Sean Amestoy, WCJC Rodeo team coach.

With the Wharton County Youth Fair approaching, the team has a promising opportunity to stabilize a position for nationals in Johnson Arena.

Currently the men's team is fifth and region and women's is 10th. Among those competing are locally raised students.

- Shelby Bannert of Boling in Barrel Racing.

- Kristen Dierlam of Victoria, in Barrel Racing, Breakaway Roping and Goat Tying.

- Deon Earls of Wharton in Calf Roping.

- Cord Kohleffel of East Bernard, in Team Roping.

- Justin Mire in Redshirt Bulls and Bareback Riding.

- Kaitlyn Owens of Wharton in Barrel Racing.

The showcase begins Friday, April 21, WCJC will host "NIRA" Rodeo kicking off the night at 7 p.m. with slack events.

The next day WCJC will host an "Open Team Roping."



Coach Sean Amestoy

To conclude the WCJC portion of the rodeo, NIRA will reward the winners with a spot at a national rodeo.

Sophomore Paden Hurst is the past College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) qualifier.

Sophomore, Kaine Warnkenis the Team Roping Heeler-past CNFR qualifier and is eighth place currently.

Freshmen, Cord Kohleffel, currently sixth in Team Roping Heading.

Austin Atkinson-Freshman is 13th in calf roping. His accomplishment include champion calf roper, steer wrestler and all around at SWTJC rodeo-Uvalde.

Shelby Bannert, a sophomore, won competition last rodeo and is looking to continue her success.

Kristen Dierlam is ranked 11th overall in Barrel Racing.

Freshmen, Wyatt Sbrusch is ranked 12th in steer wrestling.

Freshmen Joseph Andrus and Brett Garza take the sixth and seventh place for Bull Riding.

—Priscilla Pena

Bull riding event set for April 25

One of Texans' favorite pass times only lasts around eight seconds. Yes, sir, ladies and gentlemen, it is once again fair season, and that means bull riding in the Johnson Arena.

The Wharton County Youth Fair Bull Blowout starts at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 25 with the first round featuring all competitors ready to face the odds.

"Bull riding isn't only a rush for the bull riders, but the spectators as well. We always want to see them perform well and win, but our hearts sink when we see someone get injured," former Fair Queen Hannah Tupa of El Campo said. "It's honestly a rush that is hard to describe, but once you experience the feeling, you chase it."

This year the WCYF welcomes a new bull tour. PRCA showcases the world's top bulls as well as its greatest bull riders.

Every bull weighs at least 1,000

pounds and is fueled with anger.

Every time riders are loaded in the chute, they risk their lives for what is generally considered the most dangerous eight seconds in sports, facing the greatest wild-card, a bucking, unbroken, massive hunk of angry muscle.

Regardless of how the ride ends, the rider must cowboy up and race to the closest fence to secure safety.

Wednesday, the advancing bull riders will compete once again for a chance to compete in the final round for the coveted first place buckle.

Thursday a winner will be announced based off of both style and time. The winner receives prize money that will count towards the Weather Guard PRCA World Standings for the bull riding. This helps determine the qualifiers for the Wrangler National Finals in Las Vegas.

—Priscilla Pena

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Creative arts is alternative to animals

By KEITH MAGEE

kmagee@journal-spectator.com

Not everyone has the time, money or ability to raise animals, but they still can find opportunities to take part in the Wharton County Youth Fair.

One of those places is the youth fair's Creative Arts Department, which always has a large number of participants and even more articles to be put on display.

Grace Glaze again is the committee chair for the department. She has been involved in the program for a long time and has no doubt helped many kids along the way.

"If I help one youngster, I've had a successful year," Glaze said. "This is one of my babies."

This year's show will feature 1,287 exhibitors and 4,075 articles. Exhibitors range in age from 6 months to 75 years.

"This gives boys and girls a chance to participate that wouldn't be able to otherwise," Glaze said. "I really believe in this program."

The program also involves 125 volunteers and 40 out-of-town judges, Glaze added.

Exhibitors will be entering art, baked products, canned products, clothing, crafts, horticulture, photography and the "Go Texan Quilt Contest." The department will have 4-H, FFA and FCCLA members, open youth

and adults entering.

Adult high point exhibitors, who may enter up to 60 articles, receive \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place; Sr. 4-H, FCCLA and FFA high point exhibitors, who may enter up to 60 articles, will receive a belt buckle and a \$250 scholarship for first place; a belt buckle will be awarded for second place along with a \$200 scholarship; third place will be awarded a \$150 scholarship; intermediate 4-H, FCCLA and FFA high point exhibitors, who may enter up to 50 articles, will receive a belt buckle for first place, a belt buckle for second and \$25 for third; and Jr. high point exhibitors, who may enter up to 50 articles, will receive a belt buckle for first place, a belt buckle for second and \$25 for third.

The top two Senior, Intermediate and Junior high point winners sell in the Sale of Excellence.

A number of sponsors support the High Point Awards, including Wharton County Electric Co-op, Wharton County Farm Bureau, Wharton County Youth Fair, Taiton Extension Education Club, Prairie Rose Clothiers, Ivy League Retirement Planning, Louie's Package Store-Edwin and Margaret Bucek and Chris and Donna Merta.

The Ribbon Premium Awards are sponsored by the Wharton County Commissioners Court and Friends of the Creative Arts.

Rosettes, Ribbons and Banners sponsors include Hochheim Insurance, Gary Farms, Barbara and Jodie Socha, Mary Jane and Preston Dornak, Mary W. Johnson-State Farm, Kim and Steve Cooper, New Beginnings, Commercial State Bank and Wadler, Perches, Hundl & Kerlick.

Fair week kicks off with the Creative Arts check-in from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 20.

Judging begins at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, April 21, though the admission gates will not open until 5 p.m., giving judges time to carefully consider the artwork.

Visitors will not be able to see the work until Sunday, April 23 when the Creative Arts is open for viewing from 1 to 6 p.m. in Crescent Hall. Viewing will continue throughout the week. The showcase will be open Monday, April 23, Tuesday, April 26, Wednesday, April 26 and Thursday, April 27 from 4 to 8 p.m., all in Crescent Hall.

The showcase will be open on Student Day, Friday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., also in Crescent Hall, along with check-out from 3 to 5 p.m.

Along with Glaze, other members of the Creative Arts Executive Committee are Barbara Socha, Mary Jane Dornak, Marilyn Sebesta and Lori Schindler.

For more information, contact 979-677-3350.

Ag Day Banquet is April 26

By EVELYN CARRIERE

reporter@journal-spectator.com

This year marks the 35th annual Ag Day Banquet held at Crescent hall to honor outstanding farmers and ranchers in Wharton County.

Brian Duffy, a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel and former NASA astronaut will be the special guest speaker at the event.

Awards that will be presented at this year's banquet on Wednesday, April 26 are:

- Agriculture Man of the Year
- Rice Farmer of the year
- Row-Crop Farmer of the year
- Cattleman of the Year

The banquet will be held at Crescent hall and begins at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Corrie Bowen at 979-532-3310.



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Chicken Fajitas for 1 \$9.99

Five candidates are vying for Queen's crown

Considered the final of four pageants, the Queen's pageant gets under way at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 22 in Crescent Hall. Five young ladies, freshman through junior, will vie for the crown. Other honors will include first and second runners-up, Miss Congeniality and Queen of Ticket Sales. Scores are tabulated based on interviews, stage presence and fair involvement.

Contestants, listed as follows, shared their interests and involvement with the fair.

Hannah Chumchal

Hannah Chumchal of East Bernard is the 16-year-old daughter of Kelly and Sandra Chumchal and a sophomore at East Bernard High School where she is a member of FFA, student council and photograph/yearbook. She is also a member of East Bernard 4-H.

Fair involvement includes heifers, commercial and junior breeding, record book, public speaking, agriculture mechanics and photography. She participates in Food and Nutrition Food Challenge and Food Show and is a member of the Junior Fair Board and Wharton County 4-H Council.

What do you like most about the fair? "To spend the entire week with my cattle and friends while enjoying great food," she said. "This is where all of my hard work throughout the year pays off. I may not win grand champion or even make the sale of excellence, but I made a commitment to my animals, my 4-H club and my FFA chapter that I would follow through with my projects."

Why would you like to be fair queen? "Becoming WCYF Queen is something I have wanted since kindergarten when I competed in the Little Miss pageant," she said. "Now that I am older, I still want to be Queen. However, my reasons have changed a bit. I realize that the queen has a huge responsibility to the youth of Wharton County. The queen must adhere to the ethics and morals of the fair, by always leading in a positive and encouraging manner. The WCYF is an amazing experience and I would be proud to represent it."

Madison Floyd

Madison Floyd of East Bernard, the 16-year-old daughter of Gerald and Glenda Floyd, is a sophomore at Boling High School and a member of Boling FFA. She is a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Student Council, Library Club and varsity athletics, including volleyball, cross country and softball.

She exhibits lambs, goats and rabbits, is an Academic Rodeo participant, was 2010-11 Princess and 2013-14 Jr. Miss. She also participates in livestock judging and Texas Junior livestock goat director

for five years.

What do you like most about the fair? "I like the opportunity for people to come together across the county not just to compete, but to also support one another," she said. "It is a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones."

Why would you like to be fair queen? "To be able to stand up and show the confidence I have in myself, be a role model to the younger generation, meet new people and do my part to promote the WCYF. This is why I would like to be fair queen."

Mackenzie Machicek

Mackenzie Machicek of Louise is the 16-year-old daughter of Peggy and Michael Machicek. She is a junior at Louise High School and a member of Louise FFA. She plays volleyball, basketball and softball and participates in one-act play, band, and Powerset.

Her fair projects include swine, commercial heifer, steer and junior breeding beef.

What do you like most about the fair? "The thing that I love most about the fair is being able to see and talk to my friends from other schools and making new friends," she said.

Why would you like to be fair queen? "I would love to be fair queen because

being fair queen means that I have responsibility, being respectful to others, caring for others and spreading love and putting a smile on everyone's faces."

Amber Sutton

Amber Sutton of El Campo is the 16-year-old daughter of Donald and Fredia Sutton and a sophomore at El Campo High School. She is a member of El Campo FFA and El Campo Prairie Switch 4-H Club. She is a student council member and FFA chapter historian. She is a member of ECHS STARS, Anchor and Interact Clubs and a Derby Doll. She is a 4-H club officer, has won reserve champion roaster and various showmanship awards and participates in Creative Arts, county and district photography and WCYF pageants.

What do you like most about the fair? "The one thing I like most about the fair is having the opportunity to raise and show an animal," she said. "It teaches great responsibility and is very rewarding."

Why would you like to be fair queen? "It would be an honor to represent Wharton County as the 2017 fair queen," she said. "I would like to be an inspiration and a role model to future generations involved in the fair."

Zoey Zahn

Zoey Zahn of El Campo, the 16-year-old daughter of David and Michele Zahn, is a sophomore at El Campo High School and a member of El Campo FFA and the FFA meat judging team. She is also a member of Hillje-Louise 4-H.

She is a Derby Doll and takes art and floral design classes at ECHS. She is a blue ribbon winner of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo's Rodeo Art contest. She has received the FFA Greenhand award, chapter degrees and outstanding leadership awards.

Her fair projects include rabbits, high-point Creative Arts, Junior Fair Board, 4-H Food Show and Challenge, livestock judging, photography, 4-H Fashion Show and Duds to Dazzle.

What do you like most about the fair? "I like so many things about our fair, from showing my projects I worked so hard on, to spending time with friends, celebrating our accomplishments and being part of the Junior Fair Board."

Why would you like to be fair queen? "I would like to be fair queen because it would be an honor and privilege to represent and promote our great fair," she said. "It would also give me the opportunity to be a stronger role model to the youth of our county."

Wharton County Youth Fair presents...

The Mighty Thomas Carnival

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Queen Contestants until April 23rd.



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2017 Wharton County Youth Fair Queen Pageant contestants



Hannah Chumchal



Madison Floyd



Mackenzie Machicek



Amber Sutton



Zoey Zahn

2017 Wharton County Youth Fair Princess Pageant contestants



Sydney Blair



Kasey Burns



London Cavness



Megan Collins



Kaylie Hodge



Zoey Johnson

2017 Wharton County Youth Fair Jr. Miss Pageant contestants



Lorilei Cessna



Lana Foyt



Erica George



Kynedy Johnson



Kennedy Klatt



Hailey Peters



Tanna Primrose



Madison Rose



Bailee Snow



Hannah Sutton



Leslie Zahn

2017 Wharton County Youth Fair Princess Pageant contestants



Myla Paige Mahalite



Riley Meyen



Camie Lyn Riha



Sarah Spitzmiller



Suri Lynn Weaver

Junior Miss Pageant includes 11 contestants

Crescent Hall is the place to be Saturday, April 22, as the Wharton County Youth Fair's Junior Miss Pageant gets under way at 5 p.m. This is the third of four pageants to be held on a single day, with the Queen's Pageant bringing the evening to a close starting at 7 p.m.

Chaired by Keith Ermis, this year's Junior Miss will feature 11 contestants, sixth through eighth grade, who are enrolled in Wharton County schools.

Girls must complete individual interviews and while on stage, give self-introductions and model western attire of their choice. In addition to points tallied from these three areas, points will also be tabulated for fair and 4-H involvement.

The girls will also acquire points for selling raffle tickets benefiting the fair. Points are awarded for selling a minimum number of raffle tickets and prizes will be awarded to the highest ticket salesperson.

The winning Jr. Miss will receive a buckle, leather sash and prizes. Other prizes will be awarded to the first and

second runners-up, as well as Easiest To Get Along With and Queen of Ticket Sales.

This year's contestants are as follows:

- Lorelei Cessna of East Bernard, daughter of Erin and Cody Cox
- Lana Foyt of Wharton, daughter of Dana Foyt
- Erica George of El Campo, daughter of Dickie and Susan George
- Kynedy Johnson of Wharton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Ashton Jr.
- Kennedy Klatt of El Campo, daughter of Dwayne and Amanda Klatt
- Hailey Peters of El Campo, daughter of Shawn and Angela Peters
- Tanna Primrose of East Bernard, daughter of Justin Primrose and Stephanie Fajkus
- Madison Rose of El Campo, daughter of David and Karen Rose
- Baylee Snow of Wharton, daughter of Taft Snow III and Nicole Snow
- Hannah Sutton of El Campo, daughter of Donald and Fredia Sutton
- Leslie Zahn of El Campo, daughter of David and Michele Zahn

Princess Pageant also features 11 contestants

As the second contest taking place at the Wharton County Youth Fair, the Princess pageant will be held at 3 p.m. in Crescent Hall. The girls are third through fifth grade students enrolled in Wharton County schools.

Prior to the festivities, each of the 11 contestants will be interviewed by judges.

Fair involvement will also be considered in the scores being tallied for Princess, and first and second runners up. The Princess will receive a buckle, crown and other prizes.

During the pageant, each will provide self-introductions on stage as well as model in Western attire.

Finalists will be announced and each answer an impromptu question on stage before the final scores are tallied.

Gerald Floyd will be the emcee and Brooke Burns is the chairman.

"I look forward to seeing the girls shine onstage every year," Burns said. "It takes a lot of courage to get on stage and speak. Wharton County always

has some outstanding contestants."

This year's contestants are:

- Sydney Blair of El Campo, daughter of Kenneth and Sally Blair
- Kasey Burns of El Campo, daughter of Chris and Jennifer Burns
- London Cavness of East Bernard, daughter of Jarrod and Ryan Cavness
- Megan Collins of El Campo, daughter of Tim and Dawn Collins
- Kaylie Hodge of Wharton, daughter of Dustin and Miranda Chudalla
- Zoey Johnson of Wharton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Ashton Jr.
- Myla Paige Mahalite of Eagle Lake, daughter of Tommy and Holli Mahalite
- Riley Meyen of Louise, daughter of Amie Collins
- Camie Lyn Riha of El Campo, daughter of Tiffany Riha and Troy Riha
- Sarah Spitzmiller of Wharton, daughter of Kelley and Robert Spitzmiller
- Suri Lynn Weaver of Wharton, daughter of Ryan and Rachel Weaver

CONGRATULATIONS WCYF PARTICIPANTS



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Wee Folks Pet Show is April 23

By EVELYN CARRIERE
reporter@journal-spectator.com

It's that time of year again, the cutest show at the Wharton County Youth Fair is rolling through town on Sunday, April 23.

It's all about the kids at the Wee Folks Pet Show at 1 p.m. on the Midway stage.

Sponsored each year by KULP radio, the Wee Folks Pet Show is open to kids ages 2 to 12 and their pets.

For dogs, the categories up for grabs include best costume, best trick, looks like owner, best on leash and largest and smallest.

If, perhaps, you're not a dog person, the contest is open to other animals as well, though officials ask that no fish be included in the pageant. These titles include best costume, best trick, most unusual and largest and smallest.

Trophies and carnival wristbands will be awarded to first place and Best in Show.

All other contestants will receive ribbons. Entry forms are available at KULP and on the fair's website.

Although a form is not required, participants are encouraged to show up early, as organizers expect a packed parade.

For more information, contact the fair office at 979-677-3350.

Little Miss, Little Mister kicks off lineup and features 22 girls, 13 boys

Twenty-two girls and 13 boys will be vying for Wharton County Youth Fair Little Miss and Little Mister title when they take the stage Saturday, April 22. Festivities begin at 1 p.m. in Crescent Hall.

Chaired by Ryan Cavness, girls and boys will be presented on stage, then the finalists will be announced and be interviewed on stage for final tabulation of points. Prior to the pageant, each will be interviewed by judges.

Contestants are listed as follows:

Little Miss: Presley Grace Bacak of El Campo, daughter of Bart and Heather Bacak; Kaylee Baca-Law of Wharton, daughter of Melanie Baca; Mia Fitzgerald of Boling, daughter of Jess and Kristen Fitzgerald; Taylor Givens of El Campo, daughter of James and Heather Givens; Gabrielle Gutierrez of Wharton, daughter of Ericka Norris; Taylor Kalina of Wharton, daughter of Clint and Heather Kalina; Kolbie Claire Klatt of El Campo, daughter of Dwayne and Amanda Klatt; Codi Klatt of El Campo, daughter of Keith

and Amy Klatt; Kynlee Kocurek of East Bernard, daughter of Larry and Bonnie Kocurek; Ellasyn Milliff of East Bernard, daughter of Justin and Megan Wilcox and Brandon Milliff; Skylar Mobley of Wharton, daughter of Mikey and Amanda Mobley; Stella Nohavitz of El Campo, daughter of Clay Nohavitz and Stephanie Kleinecka; Presley Poncik of El Campo, daughter of Dustin and Ashley Poncik; Kendall Riha of El Campo, daughter of Todd and Alicia Riha; Callie Schubach of Boling, daughter of Troy and Melanie Schubach; Lyla Seymour of El Campo, daughter of Brian and Gretchen Seymour; Corynn Shelton of East Bernard, daughter of Russell and Shelly Shelton; Macy Stavino of East Bernard, daughter of James and Laura Stavino; Devin Leann Treybig of El Campo, daughter of Derek and Debi Treybig; Sadie Tyler of Wharton, daughter of Shane and Sara Tyler; Abby Nicole Wallis of El Campo, daughter of Kyle and Andrea Wallis and Malory Zabodyn of El Campo, daughter of

Brandon and Jenna Zabodyn.

Little Mister: Luke Anel of Wharton, son of Erin and Darryl Anel; Quinn Burns of Wharton, son of Taylor and Brooke Burns; Teagan Faas of El Campo, son of Jason and Natalie Faas; Lincoln Hubenak of El Campo, son of Brad and Jennifer Hubenak; Stran Jimenez of Wharton, son of Stephen and Brandi Jimenez; Brayden Kudelka of El Campo, son of Duane and Jennifer Kudelka; Jayden Maldonado of Wharton, son of Amanda Jurek and Paul Maldonado; Clint McKeon of El Campo, son of Denise McKeon and the late Jeffrey McKeon; Creed Nohavitz of El Campo, son of Clay Nohavitz and Stephanie Kleinecka; David Reck III of El Campo, son of David Reck II and Melissa Mulford; Karter Sweat of Wharton, son of Cody and Kelly Sweat; Seth Tyler of Wharton, son of Shane and Sara Tyler and Ace Wyatt Daniell of Eagle Lake, son of Shea Daniell and Jake Daniell.



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FAIR ENTERTAINMENT

CHRISTIAN / COUNTRY CONCERT

Jeff Gore

Sunday, April 23
3 p.m. • Midway Pavilion

CRESCENT COMMUNITY CENTER

Beer Garden

Sunday, April 23
Go Texan Dominoes @ 1 p.m.
Kick-off dance Al Sulak @ 2-6 p.m.

Tuesday, April 25
The Keith Junot Band @ 8 p.m.

Wednesday, April 26
SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY
Brian Svetlik - DJ @ 9 a.m.
A.J. Guel @ 8 p.m.

Thursday, April 27
Senior Citizens Polka Dance
@ 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Tough Enough @ 8 p.m.

Friday, April 28
Youth Washer Pitching @ 10 a.m.
Youth Shuffleboard Tourney @ 1 p.m.
Adult shuffleboard Tourney, Go Texan Washer Pitching & Horse Shoe Pitching @ 6 p.m.

TEXAS COUNTRY CONCERT

Friday, April 28

8:00 p.m. • Johnson Arena

THE BELLAMY
BROTHERS

ROGER
CREAGER

KYLE PARK

Saturday, April 29
8:00 p.m. • Beer Garden

Tejano Night

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MIDWAY ENTERTAINMENT

Kids Celebration • Marty Westerman - Magician • Artistry in Wood
"Rainbow the Clown" • Great American Petting Zoo

TICKETS: SEASON PASSES \$40
(Advance from Queen Contestants)
Adult \$10 • Child 6-12 \$5 • Child 5 & under FREE

Fair Office (979) 677-3350
whartoncountyyouthfair.org

Midway offers variety of entertainment for all

The Midway is a great place for fun at the Wharton County Youth Fair. With a variety of entertainment from a magician to the Great American Petting Zoo, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

The Great American Petting Zoo says they are "a different kind of petting zoo." Once inside the enclosure, there are no barriers. People can interact freely with the animals, which include llamas, Bennett Wallabies, Vietnamese Potbellied Pigs, Bantam Chickens and much more.

The Great American Petting Zoo, which has been providing family entertainment to America since 1984, hand-raises all of their animals at their farm in Oregon.

Artistry in Wood will create their chainsaw sculpted masterpieces at the fair. Father and son duo Dayton and Kenny Scoggins will be at work during the fair doing their custom carvings. They will carve custom furniture such as beds, chairs, coffee tables and end tables, but customers can request whatever is on their mind, because Dayton and Kenny can carve everything. You can order a carving and watch them

create it right in front of you.

Marty Westerman the magician is bringing his "high-energy, explosive personality" to the fair. Marty incorporates comedy and wit into his sleight-of-hand so his act is one to check out if you're looking for laughs and amazement.

Rainbow the Clown will celebrate her 22nd year at the fair. Rainbow was born and raised in Wharton County, and currently lives in El Campo. In addition to being on the Midway during the fair week, Rainbow will be on hand for Little Mr. and Miss, the Wee Folks Pet Show, Preschool Day, Free School Day and Sale Day. Rainbow is introducing some new tricks this year and funny walk-around gags especially for the fair-goers.

The Learning Center helps educate children and adults about agriculture in Wharton County. It provides activities to inform the public about basic agriculture information such as hatching eggs, cuts of meat and rice production.

The Learning Center is open Monday through Thursday, April 24-27 from 5 to 8 p.m. and Friday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Old school rides still popular at the fair

They may be old school, but the Ferris Wheel and bumper cars are still top draws when the carnival comes to the Wharton County Youth Fair.

For those who want a little more heart-pounding action, however, Mighty Thomas Carnival President John Hanschen says it can be found on the fair grounds.

The Mighty Thomas expects to have about 25 rides on site during its four-day tour, about the same as always.

In that mix, attendees will find attractions for just the little ones, a few for the want-to-be screamers and several for all to enjoy.

"The most popular ones are the ones families can ride together," Hanschen said.

Up, Up and Away (a hot air style balloon ride) and Dizzy Dragons (think big grinning lizards) are for all ages with the option to spin as fast as the riders choose while circling, rising and falling.

"The Thunderbolt is going to be there.

It's a nice thrill. A real experience," Hanschen said.

Other returning rides are Starship, the ever popular Century Wheel, a family roller coaster, house of mirrors, Pharaoh's Fury and the fair must of a carousel.

Carnival Midway food selections include corn dogs, popcorn, cotton candy, caramel and candy apples, funnel cakes, lemonade and sno-cones.

And, while buying food and drink throughout the rest of the fair requires tokens, the carnival takes cash or credit cards.



The carnival opens at 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 26 with \$22 Buddy Night (two rides for the price of one).

Regular price wrist bands are available for \$23 after that for designated time blocks.

Single ride tickets are also available.

Pre-sale bands can be found at the fair office and assorted businesses throughout the county.

WCYF RODEO SCHEDULE

Friday & Saturday, April 21 & 22
Wharton County Junior College Hosts
"NIRA" COLLEGE RODEO 7:00 P.M.



Sunday, April 23
10:00 A.M. • CRC
3:00 P.M. • CHUTE & BARREL JR. RODEO CLUB
EVENTS: STICK HORSE RACE • GOAT RIBBON PULLING
5:00 P.M. • FAMILY FUN NIGHT
CHECK THE FAIR SCHEDULE FOR THESE FUN RODEO EVENTS FOR KIDS!

Monday, April 24
7:30 P.M. • BUSINESSMAN'S RODEO

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, April 25-27
PRCA XTREME BULLS
7:30 P.M. PERFORMANCE
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Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: MUTTON BUSTIN' 6:30
Thursday: CANCER AWARENESS NIGHT

Sunday, April 29
7:00 P.M. • RANCH RODEO
CHICKEN CHASE: Children ages 5 yrs and under
CASH SCRAMBLE: Children ages 6 & 7 year olds

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

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Good Luck to All WCYF Exhibitors!



Cowboy Church, Christian concert set April 23

By KEITH MAGEE

kmagee@journal-spectator.com

Each year, the Wharton County Youth Fair sets aside time for Cowboy Church. This year's service is set for Sunday, April 23 at Crescent Hall.

In addition to Cowboy Church, something new was added last year and will continue again this year with a Christian music concert that afternoon.

The 9th annual Cowboy Church is a non-denominational service, and everyone is invited to come and listen to some "good country gospel." The service is led by Pastor Jim Bo Warren of the Coastal

Plains Cowboy Church.

It's a great way to start the fair, and everyone is urged to dress casual and "come as you are." Most folks will be dressed in jeans, cowboy hats and boots.

After a break for lunch, the Christian music concert will start up at 3 p.m. at the Midway Pavillion and feature the music of Jeff Gore, who lives just south of Abilene in West Texas.

Gore began singing at age 4 and began cowboyboying when he was 10 years old.

Those two interests were joined together when he turned 15 and began writing his own songs and performing

for audiences around the country.

During the last 35 years, he has recorded seven albums of traditional and original cowboy and gospel music. He has won awards for his music from the Academy of Western Artists and the American Cowboy Culture Association.

He has appeared in movies and television as well as producing and appearing in programs for The Outdoor Channel and RFDTV.

Gore and his wife Donna, who have been married for more than 35 years, stepped out in faith in 1992 to begin a ministry to ranching and rural communities — traveling the country, preaching, singing and working on ranches.

They have two married daughters and three grandsons. He began Jeff Gore Ministries in June 1992.

More information is available on his website, www.jeffgore.org.

Family Fun Night moves to fair opening weekend

The Wharton County Youth Fair gets the action rolling early this year, moving Family Fun Night to opening weekend.

Kicking off at 5 p.m. Sunday, April 23 in the Johnson Arena, the event includes several rounds of chicken and pig chasing as well as goat and pig loading competitions and ever-popular Club Challenge.

"We thought it would help get things started," Assistant WCYF Coordinator Trisha Potts said.

Challenges include team efforts to corral both pigs and goats into assorted carts for a short ride (sounds simple but both can prove wily) as well as the always fun to watch pig chase. In that event, greased little oinkers are set loose only to be chased down by scrambling youngsters.

"It's one of our bigger nights," Fair Coordinator Cindy Blaha said, adding the family-friendly events are sure to delight

parents, grandparents, neighbors and those who laugh as serious youth competitors cross wits with animals not always interested in cooperating.

Four different groups of youngsters will participate in the pig chase — ages six to seven, eight to nine, 10 to 11 and 12 to 13 years old. Winners earn an armband for the Mighty Thomas Carnival.

Goat loading and pig loading follow the same principles, just bigger animals for bigger folks. The goal is to get the animal inside the wheel barrel and take it for a brief but non-to-easy ride.

The Club Challenge pits assorted non-profit groups, typically from FFA groups, student council and the like, with prize dollars on the line.

Teams of six members 8 to 18 years of age, square off for non-animal related events including a sponge race, wheel barrel race and sack race.



WEE FOLKS PET SHOW

Wharton County Youth Fair Midway Stage
SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017 @ 1 p.m.
Children Ages 2-12

Pre-registered entries are preferred.

ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE:
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Trophies and Carnival Wristbands will be awarded to First Place in each category.
All participants will receive a ribbon.

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This year's fair dedicated to 'Computer Chicks'

Penny Kmiec and Jeanine Kutach, the team fondly called the Computer Chicks, have been in charge of the Wharton County Youth Fair computer room since 2007.

Under the guidance of Diana Cospers and Susan Waters, and after many years of serving as extra eyes for report checking, they learned to run the Showworks fair program and all the other skills needed to be Computer Chicks.

Kmiec knows many people throughout Wharton County, is a very persuasive volunteer recruiter and ensures that one will always find a sweet treat in the computer room. Kutach is a data entry expert and an Excel whiz.

Together, their abilities and show knowledge make a complete package. Between the two women, their children, who continue to serve the fair as volunteers, have shown every fair project except horses and lambs.

The Chicks start their fair year in January, coming to the fairgrounds weekly with a few dedicated volunteers to enter and check entries.

Exhibitor packet information must be updated and printed, letters must be written and mailed, and exhibitor eligibility must be verified before the fun begins.

Kutach and Kmiec provide the WCYF

livestock committees with all the lists, notices, paperwork and show results required to run their shows with efficient, professional and personalized service.

After the shows have concluded on Wednesday, the longest night of fair week begins for the Chicks.

The rule books come out and the search to make the Sale of Excellence order perfect starts. Scratch lists are checked and exhibitors are hunted down (sometimes with a 1 a.m. phone call) to ensure that the sale rules are followed to guarantee the exhibitors' best interests are served.

The Sale Order is set, the reports are created, "prettied up" and sent to the print shop.

Thursday night provides time for the Chicks to reconnect with family and friends, leaving the computer room dark.

Early Friday morning, Kmiec heads to the Livestock Judging Contest and Kutach keeps an eye on the Freezer Sale which is run by a dedicated group of women.

In the evening, under the direction of the Chicks, Crescent Hall is set up for the Sale of Excellence with the help of many loyal volunteers.

On Saturday, Sale Day, the two can be found in their red shirts answering ques-

tions, directing the army of volunteers required to run the Sale, hassling Fair Fund workers, etc.

After the Sale ends, it's time to return all the equipment to the computer room and begin the Stuffing Party.

The Chicks print out buyer information, envelope labels and release lists for the exhibitors' check out on Sunday, and the show chairmen help stuff the exhibitor envelopes for each division. The Stuffing Party has been known to last until the wee hours of Sunday morning.

Two weeks later, they return to the computer room to verify add-on's and sale totals and to create and print close to 1,000 buyer bills. Several return trips are required to correct and reprint bills.

The fair year ends for the Chicks in July when they come back to prepare exhibitor checks and accounting documents and set up the database for the new fair year.

Married to WCYF 2007-2010 president Darrel Kutach for 36 years, Jeanine Kutach is the mother of five children: Joshua, Jeanette, Thomas and wife Lisa, Stephanie Boullion and husband Michael, David and wife Michelle, and Gigi to 10 grandchildren, Alyssa, Aaron, Evelyn, Logan, Kate, Hope, Harper, Rylee, Dawson and Dylan.

Kutach's WCYF involvement began with her husband in the mid-1980's. If she wanted to see him from February to May, she had to be out at the fairgrounds.

She started out slowly, helping between her children's livestock shows wherever she was needed, providing an extra pair of eyes to check reports, or handing out sale numbers to exhibitors.


As time went by, she settled in the computer room.

Married to WCYF livestock co-chairman, Donald Kmiec for 35 years, Penny Kmiec is the mother of two children, Andrew and wife Sammie, and Mindy Merta and husband Tim, and Gram to three grandchildren, Makala, Case and Maggie.


Kmiec's WCYF involvement began when her son began showing animals and she helped with livestock judging and sorting awards.

Later, WCYF 1998-2001 president John Cospers, approached the Wharton County Farm Bureau, her employer, for extra help in the computer room. They approved allowing Kmiec to work at the fairgrounds during Fair Week, a decision which began a long-term commitment for her.

They started out for a three-hour tour, but now are stranded in the computer room.



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Bellamy Brothers will 'Let Love Flow' at concert

This year's feature concert at the Wharton County Youth Fair is billed as "where classic country meets the best of Texas country."

The event, which will be held at 8 p.m. Friday, April 28 will feature The Bellamy Brothers, Kyle Park and Roger Creager.

The Bellamy Brothers

Howard and David continue to prove that the trail they've ridden to fame has been as unique as their music itself — music that is celebrating 40 years of success.

The Bellamys officially lifted off the launch pad in 1976 when their single, "Let Your Love Flow," became an instant smash in both the U.S. and Europe. It stayed on the international charts long enough to build a huge international fan base for the hip young brothers that endures to this day.

True to their musical roots, their style and songwriting was moving steadily more towards their raising. By the late 1970s The Bellamys were emerging on the country charts with another bonafide smash. "If I Said You Had A Beautiful Body (Would You Hold It Against Me)," originally scrawled on a dinner napkin by David, rocketed them to the top of the country charts the way "Let Your Love Flow," had done in the pop market a few years earlier. It proved to be the first of a string of 14 No. 1 singles in the U.S. alone.

Success followed success: "Dancing Cowboys," "Sugar Daddy," "You Ain't Just Whistlin' Dixie," "Lovers Live Longer," "Do You Love As Good As You Look," "Red-neck Girl," "For All The Wrong Reasons," "I Love Her Mind," "I Need More Of You," "Old Hippie," "Too Much Is Not Enough," "Kids Of The Baby Boom," "Reggae Cowboy" and "Crazy From The Heart,"...all have lined the corridors of the Bellamy's musical history and their walls with platinum and gold.

The Bellamy Brothers' latest project is their new album titled "40 Years" is an ambitious project that celebrates their career with 20 of their biggest hits and then



The Bellamy Brothers

Courtesy photo

adds 20 new songs in this 2 CD anniversary collection.

Roger Creager

Roger Creager is an adventurer; he does not like to sit still while the world passes by. Whether it's climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, jumping off his boat to snorkel with wild dolphins, snow skiing in the Rockies, catching tuna 100 miles from shore, piloting his airplane to far-off concerts, spear-fishing around oil rigs, scuba diving coral reefs, surfing in Costa Rica, or playing music through the Italian countryside, he tries to get the most out of what the world has to offer.

All of this finds its way into Roger's music and live shows. His passion for life invigorates those around him including his fan base. Those who get hooked on his charisma and high energy come back show after show.

Roger is very fortunate that his music career allows him this lifestyle. But he gives it back by putting his life experiences and his infectious high energy and zeal for adventure right back into his songwriting and performances. Creager

may travel the world, but he never strays far from his small-town South Texas roots and his music encompasses all of him.

The new EP "Gulf Coast Time" is certainly a slice out of Creager life. Roger grew up outside of Corpus Christi and has always maintained a love of saltwater. Whether he's happy, sad, bored, or just in need of inspiration, you can bet this artist

will be somewhere breathing sea air.

Kyle Park

Kyle Park, born and raised outside of Austin, started playing country venues when he was 15 years old. Since then, he's impressively had 10 singles on the Texas Music Chart's Top 10, including two No. 1 singles ("The Night Is Young" and "True Love").

His 'Fall EP' peaked at No. 1 in 2010 on the Billboard Heatseekers South Central list. Park's latest album, 'The Blue Roof Sessions' is out now via Thirty Tigers.

Known for his clever songwriting and guitar-heavy tracks, he's reaped consistent national press coverage from CMT, ZUUS, Taste of Country, Country Weekly, All Music, Guitar World and more.

Park has shared with the stage with numerous notable and legendary artists including George Strait, The Band Perry, Gary Allan, Clint Black, Eli Young Band and more.

Tickets, information

Tickets are \$18 pre-sale and are available online at the Wharton County Youth Fair webpage. Tickets are \$20 at the gate.

For more information, call the youth fair office at 979-677-3350.

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