

# Wharton County Youth Fair

**2016  
PREVIEW**

CELEBRATING  
**40**  
YEARS

**DENIM &  
RUBY STYLE**



## WHARTON COUNTY YOUTH FAIR

# President: Welcome to the 2016 Youth Fair, and remember — it's all about the kids

Welcome to the 40th Annual Wharton County Youth Fair. This year's theme is "Celebrating 40 Years — Denim and Ruby Style."

The fair takes thousands of people and volunteers to make it work.

I would personally like to thank all the volunteers for making the fair what it is today. If you were to ask the past and present presidents or volunteers "Why you do it?" — the one most important phrase always heard



Mark Bain

is "it's for the kids."

In the 2014-15 year, the WCYF gave out 66 scholarships totaling \$84,634.00 to students to help start their careers. We also collected a total of \$1,331,729.88 in the Sale of Excellence for projects the kids raised.

Like every year, we strive to continue to work on improving the parking lots, buildings, barns and the arena; we most importantly focus on making our county fair safer and easier for everyone.

This year the WCYF kicked off with the annual cook-off and several concerts. East Bernard's own "The Washers" opened for "Turnpike Troubadours" followed by "Mike and the Moon Pies."

Sunday, April 24, we will start off our fair with Cowboy Church followed by a Christian Country Band called "Crossfire." They will be performing in our Crescent Hall.

We will continue with our three nights of bull riding, Family Fun Night, creative arts, pageants, midway entertainment, Special Friends Day, Senior Citizens Day, our livestock shows and the carnival.

We are very excited for another fair filled with family fun for everyone.

A huge "thank you" to all the supporters of the Wharton County Youth Fair for helping make it what it is today.

With your help, we can keep making it bigger and better for the kids and the community.

— Mark Bain

## WHARTON COUNTY YOUTH FAIR

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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

SEASON PASSES \$30

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27TH**  
*Preschool and Special Friends Day*

Carnival opens 5 – 10 "Buddy Night" Wed. Only 2 ride for price of 1  
*Admission Gates Open - 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.*

9 am ..... Special Friends Day (Beer Garden)  
9 am ..... Extra Special Livestock Show (Ammann Barn)  
10 am ..... Goat Show (Ammann Barn)  
11 am ..... Pen of Three Heifer Exhibitor Interviews  
3 pm ..... Pen of Three Heifer Show (Ammann Barn)  
4 pm – 8 pm ..... Creative Arts Open for Viewing  
5 pm – 8 pm ..... Learning Center Open  
6 pm ..... Ag Day Banquet (Crescent Hall)  
6:30 pm ..... Mutton Bustin' (Johnson Arena)  
7:30 pm ..... Bull Blowout (Johnson Arena)  
7 pm ..... Chicken Chase (5 years & under)  
TBA ..... Cash Scramble (6 & 7 year olds)  
8 pm ..... **The Keith Junot Band** (Beer Garden)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 28TH**  
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 am ..... Sr. Citizen's Day (Crescent Hall)  
10:30 am ..... Dairy/Dairy Merit Show (Ammann Barn)  
2 pm ..... Jr. Breeding Beef Show (Ammann Barn)  
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm ..... Sr. Citizen's Polka Dance (Beer Garden)  
4 pm – 9 pm ..... Creative Arts Open for Viewing  
4 pm ..... Bucket Calf Show (Ammann Barn)  
(show will immediately follow the Jr. Breeding Beef show)  
5 pm – 8 pm ..... Learning Center Open  
6:30 pm ..... Mutton Bustin' (Johnson Arena)  
7 pm ..... Chicken Chase (5 year & under)  
7:30 pm ..... Bull Blowout (Johnson Arena)  
TBA ..... Cash Scramble (6 & 7 year olds)

**BUCKIN' FOR THE CURE NIGHT**

8 pm ..... **Tough Enough** (Beer Garden)  
9 pm ..... **Dance – D.J.** (Crescent Hall)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 29TH**  
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 am ..... Academic Rodeo (Crescent Hall)  
9 am ..... Spelling Bee (Office Bldg. Complex)  
10 am ..... YOUTH Washer Pitching (CCC/Gym)  
10 am – 2 pm ..... Creative Arts Open for Viewing  
10 am – 4 pm ..... Learning Center Open  
12 pm ..... Freezer Sale Opens (Office Bldg)  
12:30 pm ..... Livestock Judging Registration (Johnson Arena)  
1 pm ..... YOUTH Shuffle Board Tournament (CCC/GYM)  
1:30 pm ..... Livestock Judging Contest (Johnson Arena)  
5:30 pm ..... Exhibitor's Awards Banquet (Crescent Hall)  
6 pm ..... ADULT Shuffle Board Tournament (Beer Garden)  
6:30 pm ..... Family Fun Night (Johnson Arena)  
(Pig Loading only – ages 4-6 & Chicken Chase 5 & under)  
7:30 pm ..... Family Fun Night (Johnson Arena)  
(Pig Chase, Goat Loading, Wild Hog Tying, Club Challenge & Cash Scramble – 6&7 year olds)  
8 pm ..... **Matt Kopycinski of the Washers** (Beer Garden)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH**  
*Admission Gates Open - 10 a.m. until 10 p.m.*  
Carnival open 12 p.m – 11 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  
8 pm... **FAMA & Tough Enough - TEJANO DANCE** (Beer Garden)

**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 8 p.m.*  
9 a.m. .... Open Team Roping (Johnson Arena)  
12:30 pm ..... ADULT Go-Texan Washer Pitching (Beer Garden)  
1 p.m. .... Little Mr/Miss Pageant (Crescent Hall)  
3 pm ..... ADULT Go-Texan Horseshoe Pitching (Beer Garden)  
3 p.m. .... Princess Pageant (Crescent Hall)  
5 p.m. .... Jr. Miss (Crescent Hall)  
7 p.m. .... Queen Pageant (Crescent Hall)  
7 p.m. .... WCJC host "NIRA" Rodeo (Johnson Arena)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH**  
*Admission Gates Open - 10 a.m. until 8 p.m.*  
10:30 am ..... Cowboy Church (Midway Stage)  
1 pm ..... Christian Country Music Concert (Crescent Hall)  
1 pm ..... Wee Folks Pet Show (Midway Stage)  
1 pm ..... Ag Mechanics Show (Midway Concrete Slab)  
1 pm – 6 pm ..... Creative Arts Open for Viewing  
1 pm ..... Go-Texan Dominoes (Beer Garden)  
2 pm-6 pm..Polka Fest—Charles & Fabulous Four (Beer Garden)  
2 pm ..... Kolache Bake-Off (Beer Garden)  
3 pm ..... Chute & Barrel Rodeo (Johnson Arena)  
3 pm ..... Poultry Show (Ammann Barn)  
6:45 pm ..... Chicken Chase (5 years & under)  
7 pm ..... Ranch Rodeo (Johnson Arena)  
TBA ..... Cash Scramble (6 & 7 year olds)

**MONDAY, APRIL 25TH**  
*Admission Gates Open - 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.*  
9 am ..... Rabbit Show (Crescent Hall)  
9 am ..... Horse Show (Johnson Arena)  
4 pm – 8 pm ..... Creative Arts Open for Viewing  
4 pm ..... Swine Show (Ammann Barn)  
5 pm – 8 pm ..... Learning Center Open  
5:30 pm ..... CRC Youth Rodeo (Johnson Arena)  
6:45 pm ..... Chicken Chase (5 years & under)  
TBA ..... Cash Scramble (6 & 7 year olds)

**TUESDAY, APRIL 26TH**  
*Admission Gates Open - 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.*  
**Salutes to Our Veterans**  
11 am ..... Beef Merit Heifer Show (Johnson Arena)  
2 pm ..... Lamb Show (Ammann Barn)  
4 pm – 8 pm ..... Creative Arts Open for Viewing  
5 pm – 8 pm ..... Learning Center Open  
4 pm ..... Steer Show (Ammann Barn)  
6:30 pm ..... Mutton Bustin' (Johnson Arena)  
7:30 pm ..... Bull Blowout (Johnson Arena)  
7 pm ..... Chicken Chase (5 years & under)  
TBA ..... Cash Scramble (6 & 7 year olds)  
8 pm ..... **D.J. Saby** – (Beer Garden)

www.whartoncountyyouthfair.org

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## Wharton County Youth Fair 2016 Preview

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**Wharton Journal-Spectator**

**East Bernard Express**

# Sale of Excellence highlights fair

By JODY LARIMER  
news@journal-spectator.com

Closing out the Wharton County Youth Fair again this year is the Sale of Excellence, where all the hard work finally pays off for county youth.

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

"Exhibitors use the money they receive from the sale of their projects for future projects, feed bills, equipment and improvement of their projects," Chairperson Penny Kmiec said. "They also put it back for college savings."

The fair board retains 5 percent of the proceeds, which is used for the start-up of the next year's fair.

Last year's sale raised \$1,331,729.88, a little more than \$150,000 over 2014, bringing the total raised since 1977 to \$18,188,927.75.

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.

"New buyers may call the fair office and we can set them up or they may reg-



ister at the sale," Kmiec said. "They also can check out our website about how the Sale of Excellence works."

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.

"The Fair funds are set up to help the exhibitors get their buyer groups together before the Sale of Excellence," Kmiec said. "Exhibitors, prior to the fair and the week of the fair, write letters to buyers inviting them to the fair and to the sale

on Saturday, April 30."

Letters are either mailed or hand-delivered, she said, adding exhibitors are also requested to write thank you notes as a lesson in courtesy.

Registered buyers are invited to a luncheon starting at 11 a.m. prior to the sale, this year catered by Mustang Creek BBQ.

As with most of the fair, those willing to lend a helping hand are what makes the event successful.

"The Sale of Excellence takes a lot of volunteers to run smoothly each year and to raise lots of money for the kids of Wharton County," Kmiec said. "Thank you to the many volunteers that help make the Sale of Excellence great each year."

The sale begins at noon on the final day of the fair, Saturday, April 30.

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

Those whose projects don't make the final sale, have a chance to recoup some of their investment through the Freezer Sale, which is held directly following the Sale of Excellence.

In 2015, the Freezer Sale generated \$63,541.00.



*Good Luck to  
All Participants of the  
2016 Wharton County  
Youth Fair!*

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**Holy Cross Catholic Church  
would like to wish the 2016  
WCYF participants a blessed,  
safe & successful season.**

*Pastor and Parishioners of Holy Cross Catholic Church*

# Creative arts keeps on growing each year

By KEITH MAGEE  
kmagee@journal-spectator.com

The Wharton County Youth Fair's Creative Arts Department continues to grow each year. Not everyone is able to raise animals, so this provides another outlet to be a part of the fair.

"This gives boys and girls a chance to participate that wouldn't be able to otherwise," said Grace Glaze, the committee chair for the department who has a long-time involvement in the program. "I really believe in this program. That's why this old lady is still there."

This year's show will feature 1,471 exhibitors and 5,491 articles. Exhibitors range in age from 9 months to 74 years.

"It's a big, huge production," Glaze said. "We get all of that into Crescent Hall in the Creative Arts Department."

The program also involves 125 volunteers and 40 out-of-county 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, Friends of the Creative Arts and Doug and Charlotte Light.

Rosettes, Ribbons and Banners sponsors include Hochheim Insurance, Gary Trust, 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 21.

Judging begins at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, April 22, 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 24 when the Creative

Arts Open begins at 1 to 6 p.m. in Crescent Hall and will continue throughout the week. The showcase will be open Monday, April 24, Tuesday, April 26, Wednesday, April 27 and Thursday, April 28 from 4 to 8 p.m., all in Crescent Hall.

The showcase will be open on Student Day, Friday, April 29 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 and Marilyn Sebesta.

For more information, contact 979-677-3350.

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Good Luck to All WCYF Exhibitors!



# Midway will feature variety of entertainment

By SHAINA BOWEN  
reporter@journal-spectator.com

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 chain-

saw 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 be celebrating her 21st 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.

Ron the Hypnotist will be present to weave his hypnotic spells and hi-jinks. Ron, who has over 17 years of experience, delivers good, clean, interactive and hilarious fun. Ron will choose lucky participants to join him on stage for his act.

If you’re looking to bring home a unique souvenir from the fair, Matty the Caricature Artist will be present. Matty can create a cartoon likeness of you or a family member that will be perfect to frame and hang on the wall to remember your fair experience by.



Rainbow the Clown

# Kids get chance to show pets at Wee Folks event

By SHAINA BOWEN  
reporter@journal-spectator.com

The Wharton County Youth Fair is an event for all ages, so there is still plenty to do for those who don’t meet the minimum height requirement for the carnival rides.

The Wee Folks Pet Show hosted by KULP at the Midway Stage on Sunday, April 24 is a great contest for kids who’ve always dreamed of showing animals at the fair. Instead of livestock, though, kids get to show off their pets.

Children with dogs can enter their companion into categories including best costume, best trick, looks like owner, best on leash, largest and smallest. If cats or other pets are more your style, there are categories that all other types of pets can enter. These categories include best costume, best trick, most unusual, largest and smallest.

Trophies and carnival wristbands

will be awarded for 1st Place and Best of Show winners. All other participants will receive a ribbon. Entry forms are available at KULP and on the fair’s website.

The fair classic Mutton Bustin’ will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 26-28. Kids between the ages of 4 and 8 will test their cowboy or cowgirl skills by hanging on tight to a sheep as it races down the track. The event has reached the maximum number of contestants, but it will be an entertaining show for everyone to watch.

All area daycares, preschools and individual families with young children are invited to visit the fairground on Wednesday, April 27 for Preschool Day. The learning center will provide educational activities such as “To Market,” which helps educate children on how a farmer takes his product from seed to market; from hatching eggs to baby chicks, from picking cotton to home spun cloth, and milking a cow and churning

butter. There be activities in the arena including stick bull riding, stick horse races and riding a saddle. Each child will also be able to ride two carnival rides and tour the livestock barns and creative arts building.

Friday, April 29 all Wharton County school age kids are allowed free entrance into the fair until 5 p.m.

For more information on any of these events, you can contact the fair office at 677-3350.



**Edward Jones** | INVESTMENTS

*Derek J. Macha*  
Wishing all of the 2016 Wharton County Youth Fair participants  
*Good Luck!*





# VOTE

## TIM BARKER

For Mayor

**Wishing all the 2016  
fair participants  
GOOD LUCK!**

# Queen's Pageant includes 11 vying for crown

By **QUALA MATOCHA**  
lifestyle@journal-spectator.com

The final selection of royalty for the 2016 Wharton County Youth Fair will conclude with the Queen's pageant as 11 young ladies vie for the crown at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 23 in Crescent Hall.

The girl chosen as queen will represent the fair and Wharton County during the coming year. The queen, first and second runners-up as well as Queen of Ticket Sales and Miss Congeniality will each receive trophies, awards and other prizes.

Contestants, listed as follows, shared their interests and views on being the next WCYF Queen.

## Shelby AuBuchon

Shelby AuBuchon of East Bernard, a sophomore at East Bernard High School, is the daughter of Kenneth and Tiffany AuBuchon. Her hobbies include cheerleading, writing and reading. This is her fourth year to show rabbits and her second year to serve on the Junior Fair Board.

AuBuchon's favorite subjects are English and History ... "because I enjoy reading and writing and also the past interests me," she said. "U.S. history and Texas history also interest me because I want to be a lawyer some day."

The person who has been her primary role model is her dad ... "because he is always there for me and always encourages me to follow my dreams no matter what."

AuBuchon feels she should be chosen queen because ... "I have the heart and personality. I would be very encouraging to all the exhibitors. I am a cheerleader and love being a role model to everyone."

AuBuchon says the fair is important because ... "it teaches the youth important qualities useful for life."

## Savannah Cessna

Savannah Cessna of East Bernard is the daughter of Erin and Cody Cox and a junior at East Bernard High School. She enjoys cooking. Cessna has shown pigs at the fair for two years.

Her favorite subject in school is history ... "because I love learning about where we came from and where we are going. History repeats itself."

Cessna's main role model is her mother.

"My mom has been my primary influence," she said. "She has always had my back and has done her best to teach me Christian values by her actions."

If she were chosen queen, Cessna says, "I would be honored to hold the title of Wharton County Fair queen. I have become passionate about what the fair stands for. I thoroughly enjoy helping others and would love to be able to represent Wharton County."

When asked why the fair is important to the youth of Wharton County, Cessna said, "To teach them responsibility and to continue on the legacy of future farmers of America."

## Bailey Clark

El Campo High School junior Bailey Clark is the daughter of Travis Clark and Cassie Clark. She enjoys horseback riding, showing rabbits and working with the El Campo EMS. She has been showing rabbits at the fair for five years.

Clark's favorite subjects are "science, but mainly biology, because I love learning how the body works and learning about life," she said.

Her parents are her primary role models.

"They show me how to be a great leader and kind person," she said.

Clark believes she should be fair queen for several reasons.

"I am good leader," she said. "I have led the El Campo Fire and EMS Explorers since eighth grade. I have an outgoing personality and willingness to lead by example."

She says the fair "teaches kids leadership skills and responsibility through hard work of showing their projects and pageants are rewarding the kids with scholarships."

## Madison Floyd

Madison Floyd of East Bernard, a freshman at Boling High School, is the daughter of Gerald and

Glenda Floyd. She plays select softball and loves spending time with family and friends. She also loves being outdoors, shopping and being a member of the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

Floyd has participated in the fair for seven years. This year she is exhibiting rabbits and lambs. In previous years, she has shown goats and entered projects in the Creative Arts Department.

Her favorite subject is biology ... "because I am interested in the sciences and the basic order of the life cycle. I am amazed at how all of creation works. It is also in line with my field of interest in nursing."

Floyd's main influence in life has been her dad.

"My dad has influenced me and my choices in life by being present and involved in it. He also teaches me to never give up in life and always strive to reach my goals. Most importantly, he puts God first and leads our family in a Christian life."

Crowned as WCYF Princess in 2010-11 and Jr. Miss in 2013-14, Floyd feels confident she has the experience necessary to be queen.

"I feel I should be chosen fair queen to be able to stand up and show the confidence I have in myself," she said. "And to be a role model to the younger generation, meet new people and have a better overall awareness of what a wonderful fair Wharton County has to offer."

She believes the fair is important for our youth today for various reasons.

"The fair is a great place to meet new friends," she said. "There are a lot of things to do, including carnival rides, rodeo, family fun night, showing animals, but most of all it's important because of what it represents ... the hard work and dedication can take you a long way in life. This is shown in the show ring, rodeoing, Creative Arts, volunteering. It is important for the youth of Wharton County to experience these things."

## Paiton Kalina

Boling High School junior Paiton Kalina is the daughter of J.T. and Melissa Kalina of Wharton. She enjoys playing golf, running, track and playing basketball. Her fair projects include goats, rabbits, Creative Arts, the food show, food challenge and fashion show. This her ninth year to show a project.

Kalina's favorite subject in school is history. "History is interesting and it's a valuable thing to know so you can keep passing the information down the line."

Her mother plays a major role in her life. "My mom is smart, selfless and very caring," she said. "She's always putting people before herself which I feel is a good quality to have and look for in a WCYF queen."

Kalina is a previous Jr. Miss, so being chosen queen would be a dream come true. "Being queen has been a goal of mine for a long time," she said. "I would be absolutely honored to be able to represent the fair once again. I love talking to people and interacting with others."

I want to be able to represent the WCYF and be able to encourage and set a good example for the youth of the fair."

## Shyann Kocurek

Shyann Kocurek, a junior at Louise High School, is the daughter of Mike and Lisa Kocurek. She likes to hunt, fish, hang out with her friends and ride horses. Her favorite subject in school is horticulture ... "because it is what I study for CDEs."

Kocurek looks up to her father and says he has been more influential in her life. "My dad is a very hard worker and he does everything to make sure his family is taken care of."

Kocurek hopes to become the next WCYF queen. "I feel I should be chosen for fair queen because I work hard," she said. "I always give my best effort and when I am chosen for something, I dedicate my full attention and see the project through."

She believes the fair is important to the youth of today because ... "it teaches them responsibility, time management, good social skills and dedication."

## Dustie Koudela

El Campo High School freshman Dustie Koude-

la is the daughter of James and Heather Givens. She enjoys dancing, cheering, tumbling, fishing and taking care of her animals. Her favorite subject is history because ... "I believe it's important to know where we have come from and what we have accomplished and what our weaknesses are."

Koudela has been showing animal projects at the fair for the past 11 years. She has two dairy heifers this year. Other projects include a tractor restoration, round bale hay feeder, tractor attachment wire roller, a 16-foot cattle gate and a 16-foot entry gate.

Her parents have been a major influence in her life, as well as her dance instructor, Tammy May. "Because all of them are strong individuals that have overcome many trials and continue to push forward. They have taught me I can reach any goal."

Koudela, who has been second runner-up in the Jr. Miss Pageants, hopes to claim the title of WCYF queen this year.

"I feel if chosen fair queen for 2016, I would be sure to inform people about all the great projects and activities when I am showing my animal and ag mechanic projects. I enjoy teaching individuals all about them and allowing them to touch and explore them."

"The WCYF teaches responsibility, leadership skills and teaches kids how to handle themselves while working."

## Mackenzie Machicek

Louise High School sophomore Mackenzie Machicek has been a fair participant for eight years. She is the daughter of Peggy and Michael Machicek. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, as well as working with animals and participating in sports.

Machicek is exhibiting a beef merit heifer, junior breeding beef and swine.

Her favorite subject is history ... "because I love to learn about the past." Other favorites are chemistry and math.

Her mom, Machicek says, is a positive influence in her life. She is her role model because "she has taught me so much. She has been there for me," she said. "She is and always will be my rock."

Machicek believes she has the tools and personality to be the next fair queen.

"I feel like I should be chosen for fair queen, because I'm very organized, good with time and I love to be around new people," she said. "I know how to get jobs done. My qualities are organization."

In addition to knowing how to use her time she has social skills and the ability to interact with people, she says.

To Machicek, she believes the fair helps students understand the role of agriculture.

"The WCYF is important because this is the best opportunity for youth to understand and learn about the life of FFA and agriculture," she said.

## Chelsey Ott

Chelsey Ott, the daughter of Daniel Ott and Teresa Ott, is a sophomore at El Campo High School. Her hobbies are showing cattle and broilers, shopping and dancing.

She has been exhibiting animal and Creative Arts projects at the fair for the past eight years. This year, her projects are junior breeding beef, broilers and Creative Arts. She is also a member of the Junior Fair Board.

Ott's favorite subject in school is ag ... "because I get to meet new people and experience new things through FFA."

Ag teacher Craig Hardin has influenced Ott the most of any role model, she says. "Mr. Hardin has taught me to never give up on my dreams and that

See **CONTESTANTS**, Page 8

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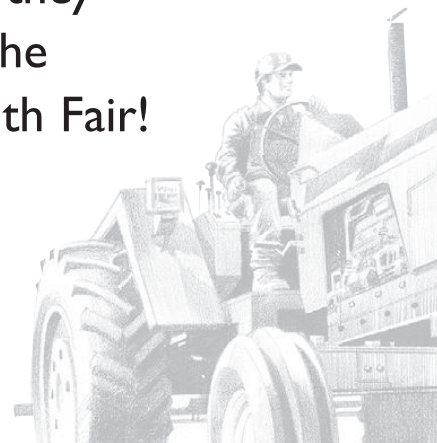
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## — Contestants

Continued from Page 7

I can accomplish anything as long as I work hard for it," she said.

She believes the fair is important for today's youth because of its many opportunities.

"The fair gives us a chance to branch out and meet new people, as well as teaching valuable skills such as responsibility and discipline through our projects," Ott said. "It also provides scholarships to help with our future."

Ott feels she is the best choice for fair queen.

"I should be chosen as fair queen because I can be a role model for the youth just like the queen was for me when I was younger," she said. "It would give me the chance to give back to the county that has already done so much for me."

### Amber Sutton

This is Amber Sutton's seventh year to participate in the fair. The El Campo High School freshman is the daughter of Donald and Fredia Sutton. Her hobbies include competition dance, archery, singing, drama and photography.

Her favorite subject in school is commercial photography.

"I have always enjoyed taking pictures and this class has helped me learn so many things," she said. "It has taught me about lighting and techniques needed to be a good photographer."

Sutton is exhibiting roasters and has entries in the Creative Arts Department. Her previous pageant experience includes being named Easiest to Get Along With in the 2014 Jr. Miss pageant.

She believes the fair is important for the youth today because ... "it teaches the youth about agriculture. It also teaches them responsibility and dedication," she said. "The fair has opportunities for all ages to learn and be involved."

Sutton believes her outgoing personality is one of many reasons she should be chosen fair queen.

"I feel I would be a good role model," she said. "I have been involved with the fair since I was little being around my older siblings' projects before I was able to have my own projects. I am a fun, outgoing person and just love to be involved with the fair and our youth."

Her older sister, Michelle, has been an important influence in her life.

"Michelle was the 2014-15 WCYF queen and I would like to follow in her footsteps. She is a very outgoing and loving person ... always ready to help anyone and I aspire to be like her."

### Zoey Zahn

El Campo High School freshman Zoey Zahn is the daughter of David and Michele Zahn. She has been a fair participant for 11 years. Zahn enjoys dancing, sewing, hunting and cooking.

Her fair involvement includes Creative Arts, rabbits, food show and food challenge, fashion show,

Jr. Fair Board, Duds to Dazzle, photography, livestock judging, record books and bucket calf when she was in the first and second grade.

Favorite subjects in school are biology and geometry ... "because they are fun and interesting and I am good at both," she said.

Zahn would like to be fair queen because ... "I could be a positive role model for the youth of our county. I am a good leader and have many experiences I could share with others," she said.

Previously, Zahn has been high point ticket salesperson for Jr. Miss in 2013-14 and was second runner-up Jr. Miss in 2014. Being involved in the fair builds character, she believes.

"It builds responsibility and offers many opportunities for youth and to become a better person," she said.

Zahn's parents have been most influential in her life.

"My parents stand by me and support me in everything I do," she said.



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# Ten girls to compete for Jr. Miss title

The Wharton County Junior Miss Pageant is set to get under way at 5 p.m. in Crescent Hall. It is the third of four contests to be held Saturday, April 23.

Ten young ladies, from grades six through eight, enrolled in Wharton County schools will vie for the title, crown and prizes.

The pageant will consist of individual interviews, self-introductions and modeling of western attire consisting of jeans and a button down shirt of the con-

stant's choice. In addition, points will be awarded 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 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 Jr. Miss contestants include:

- Lana Foyt of Wharton, daughter of Dana Foyt
- Savannah Tyler of Wharton, daughter of Shane and Sara Tyler
- Kendal Klatt of El Campo, daughter of Dwayne and Amanda Klatt
- Paige Romero of Eagle Lake, daughter of Jacob Romero and Natasha Romero

• Leslie Zahn of El Campo, daughter of David and Michele Zahn

- Hannah Sutton of El Campo, daughter of Donald and Fredia Sutton
- Caitlyn Fuechec of East Bernard, daughter of Jody and Sandra Fuechec
- Taylor Watz of El Campo, daughter of Michael and Jackie Watz
- Kynedy Johnson of Wharton, daughter of Gary and Cassidy Ashton
- Baylee Snow of Wharton, daughter of Taft Snow III and Nicole Snow

# Princess Pageant includes 16 contestants

The Princess Pageant will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 23 at Crescent Hall.

This year, 16 young ladies — third through sixth graders — will have a chance for the Princess title in the second of four pageants.

The pageant consists of individual interviews prior to the contest, then self-introductions and modeling of western attire on stage during the pageant.

Points are also awarded for fair and 4-H involvement.

This year's contestants are:


- Kasey Burns of El Campo, daughter of Chris and Jennifer Burns
- London Cavness of East Bernard, daughter of Jarrod and Ryan Cavness
- Bridget Dorotik of El Campo, daughter of Brian and Denise Dorotik
- Haley Fojtik of Hungerford, daughter of Jerry and Jennifer Fojtik

• Roxy Gilley of Wharton, daughter of Brent and Kay Gilley

- Kaylie Hodge of Wharton, daughter of Dustin and Miranda Chudalla
- Samantha Hubert of El Campo, daughter of Bo and Lacey Hubert
- Brianna Jensen of El Campo, daughter of Brian and Stephanie Jensen
- Zoey Johnson of Wharton, daughter of Gary and Cassidy Ashton
- Alyssa Jones of Louise, daughter of Jarret and Kerri Jones

• Jolie Konarik of El Campo, daughter of Jay and Amy Konarik

- Myla Mahalitic of Eagle Lake, daughter of Tommy and Holli Mahalitic
- Gracie Page of Boling, daughter of Luke and Holly Page
- Hailey Peters of Boling, daughter of Shawn and Angela Peters
- Amie Vasquez of East Bernard, daughter of John and Bianca Vasquez
- Riley Wallis of El Campo, daughter of Kyle and Andrea Wallis



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**Good Luck to All Y'all!**  
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**Watch for the Wharton County Youth Fair Results Special Section to publish in May.**

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# 2016 Wharton County Youth Fair Queen Pageant contestants



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Savannah Cessna



Bailey Clark



Madison Floyd



Paiton Kalina



Shyann Kocurek



Dustie Koudela



Mackenzie Machicek



Chelsey Ott



Amber Sutton



Zoey Zahn

# 2016 Wharton County Youth Fair Princess Pageant contestants



Kasey Burns



London Cavness



Bridget Dorotik



Haley Fojtik



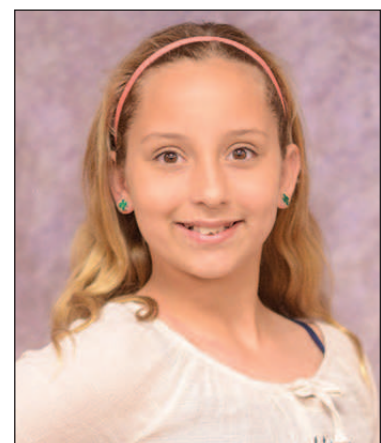
Roxy Gilley



Kaylie Hodge



Samatha Hubert



Brianna Jensen

## 2016 Wharton County Youth Fair Jr. Miss Pageant contestants



Lana Foyt



Caitlyn Fuechec



Kynedy Johnson



Kendal Klatt



Paige Romero



Baylee Snow



Hannah Sutton



Savannah Tyler



Taylor Watz



Leslie Zahn

## 2016 Wharton County Youth Fair Princess Pageant contestants



Zoey Johnson



Alyssa Jones



Jolie Konarik



Myla Mahalitc



Gracie Page



Hailey Peters



Amie Vasquez



Riley Wallis

## Livestock shows are big part of fair for students like East Bernard's Howard

By SHAINA BOWEN  
reporter@journal-spectator.com

One of the biggest features of the Wharton County Youth Fair is the livestock shows. It's a great opportunity for area students to gain experience raising livestock and a chance for them to earn scholarships for college.

Courtney Howard, a junior at East Bernard High School and member of the FFA, is one of the exhibitors at the fair this year. Howard will be showing a gilt pig at the Swine Show on Monday, April 25.

Howard has been working hard raising her pig since early December. She spends about one to two hours every day to get it into the best shape for the show.

In addition to learning livestock techniques, raising animals gives students the opportunity to learn many other valuable skills.

"My favorite thing is the lessons you learn, like the responsibilities you will have," said Howard. "Time management is a big thing. You have to balance school work and extracurriculars."

The work may be hard, but with the potential to earn scholarships and gain valuable skills, it's worth it.

"Work hard and don't get discouraged," Howard advises students raising animals for the first time.

## On the cover

East Bernard High School junior Courtney Howard tends to her gilt pig at sunset.

Photo courtesy of her sister, EBHS freshman Chloe Howard

# Pageant lineup kicks off April 23 with Little Mr. and Miss Contest

As the Wharton County Youth Fair celebrates 40 years since its beginning, four pageants will kick off the Denim and Ruby Style theme with the Little Mr. & Miss contest at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 23.

All pageants take place in Crescent Hall.

### Little Miss Contestants

Contestants vying for the title of Little Miss are Laney Arriaga of Boling, daughter of Tim and Carole Arriaga; Presley Bacak of El Campo, daughter of Bart and Heather Bacak; Ally Ernest of Boling, daughter of Wyatt and Jenny Ernest; Sadie Favors of Wharton, daughter of Derek and Paula Favors; Mia Fitzgerald of Boling, daughter of Jess and Kristen Fitzgerald; Liberty Gilley of Boling, daughter of Brent and Kay Gilley; Mackenzie Hranicky of El Campo, daughter of Chris Hranicky and Emily Janca; Taylor Kalina of Wharton, daughter of Clint and Heather Kalina;

Kolbie Klatt of El Campo, daughter of Dwayne and Amanda Klatt; Mayleigh Martinez of El Campo, daughter of Javier and Sarah Martinez; Riley Meyen of Louise, daughter of Amie Collins and the late David Meyen; Ellasyn Milliff of East Bernard, daughter of Megan and Justin Wilcox and Brandon Milliff; Allie Page of Boling, daughter of Luke and Holly Page; Presley Poncik of El Campo, daughter of Dustin and Ashly Poncik; Kendall Riha of El Campo, daughter of Todd and Alicia Riha; Simone Riha of El Campo, daughter of Toby and Megan Riha; Callie Schubach of Boling, daughter of Troy and Melanie Schubach; Lyla Seymour of El Campo, daughter of Brian and Gretchen Seymour; Macy Stavinoha of East Bernard, daughter of James and Laura Stavinoha; Suri Weaver of Boling, daughter of Ryan and Rachel Weaver; Raley Wied of El Campo, daughter of Ladd and Jody Wied and Bethani Wittig of Boling, daughter of Daniel and Tiffany Wittig.

### Little Mr. Contestants

Those competing for the Little Mr. title are as follows: Luke Anderson of East Bernard, son of Andy and Rhonda Anderson; Levi Anderson of El Campo, son of Hal and Densie Anderson; Kase Baca of Boling, son of Michael and Krystal Baca; Caleb Bram of Louise, son of Craig and Tanya Bram; Quinn Burns of Boling, son of Taylor and Brooke Burns; Ace Daniell of Eagle Lake, son of Dena Shea Daniell and Jake Daniell; Jett Garrett of Boling, son of Melanie Goff; Nathan Henke of El Campo; son of Chris and Sheila Henke; Chase Hillman of East Bernard, son of Calvin and Donna Hillman; Lincoln Hubenak of El Campo, son of Brad and Jennifer Hubenak; Stran Jimenez of Boling, son of Stephen and Brandi Jimenez; Canyon Jones of Louise, son of Jarret and Keri Jones; Karter Sweat of Boling, son of Cody and Kelly Sweat; Seth Tyler of Boling, son of Shane and Sara Tyler and Gage Zahn of Boling, son of Brandon and Fawn Zahn.

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**Thursday, April 28**  
Senior Citizen's Polka Dance  
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Tough Enough @ 8 p.m.

**Friday, April 29**  
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**Sunday, April 24**  
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Kolache Bake-Off @ 2 p.m.

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**Thursday, April 28**  
8 p.m. • Crescent Hall

**Saturday, April 30**  
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**Tejano Night**  
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# 2016 Fair dedicated to longtime volunteer Broesche

The 2016 Wharton County Youth Fair is dedicated to longtime volunteer Billy “Bubba” Broesche.

Bubba Broesche started volunteering when he was a member of the Hungerford Volunteer Fire Department in 1980. He started parking cars and volunteered in the “original” beer garden. Broesche began working with the cook-off when Carolyn Gertson was chairman.

He continues to serve on the cook-off committee to this day.

Broesche has assisted several committees including hog, queen, sign and sale — just to name a few. He also helped to make the improvements to the Ammann Barn by laying hot mix.

His most notable accomplishment is the Polka Fest, which he was instrumental in establishing in 2006. He chaired the event until 2010 when his health would no longer allow him to dedicate the time he wanted toward it.

He was diagnosed with can-

cer in 2007, but continued to volunteer as much as he could.

Broesche and his bride Bonnie were married March 10, 1979, and together have two sons, Kevin and Keith. Kevin was killed in an automobile accident in 2004. Keith is married to wife Amanda and they have two children, Delanie and Brayden.

Broesche resigned as a board director in 2013 to be able to spend more time with his family and grandchildren.

Not only has Broesche volunteered at the WCYF, there are many organizations that he has been a part of over the years including Hungerford Volunteer Fire Department, American Legion Post 226, and Relay for Life — just to name a few.

When asked why he volunteers so much of his time and talents, Broesche said, “Because I love to see the kids, parents and grandparents spending time together while smiling and having a good time.”



Bubba Broesche assists cooks turning in their brisket entries during Saturdays’ Youth Fair Cook-off.

Staff photo by Keith Magee

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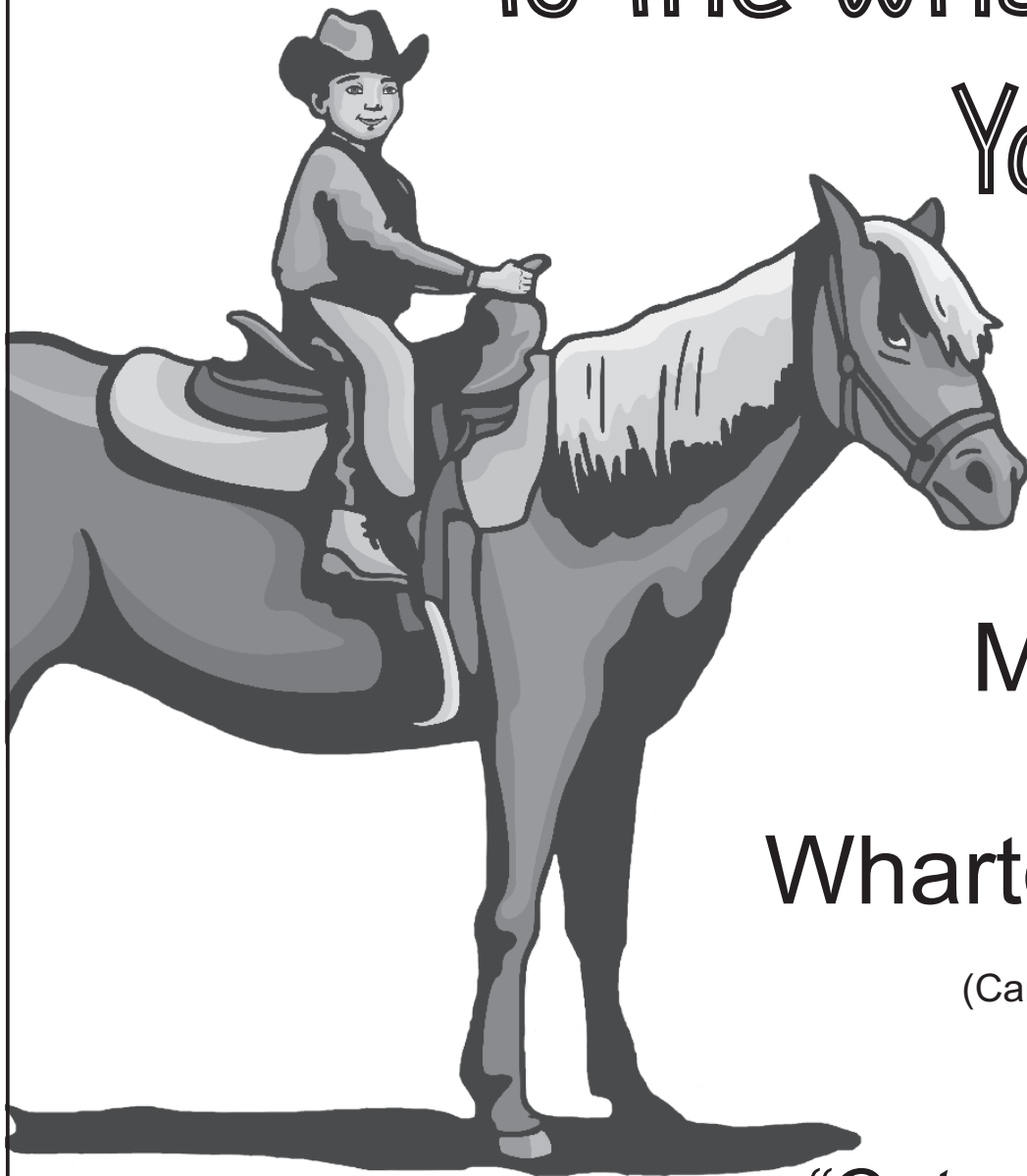
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# Christian concert planned after Cowboy Church

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 24 at Crescent Hall.

In addition to Cowboy Church, something new has been added this year with a Christian music concert that afternoon.

The 8th 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.

Warren said 88 people attended the service last year, but he is expecting up to 150 people this year. This year, Coastal Plains Cowboy Church members are expected to attend the Cowboy Church service as they aren't having a separate service at their church like last year.

After a break for lunch, the Christian music concert will start up around 1

p.m., also in Crescent Hall, and feature the music of the Crossfire Gospel Band from Tyler.

"They are really spectacular," Warren said. "I'm really impressed with them. I know everyone will really enjoy Crossfire."

Warren expects the concert to last until around 3 p.m. but it they could he said they would probably keep playing. But most of them have jobs to go to on Monday morning.

"We'd have to tell them to go home," Warren joked.

The group's music has been described as "Jesus music with an attitude," and that pretty much sums it up. Randy Reeves, Ron Pardue, David Brooks, Brad Allen and Albert Garcia, along with Stephen Freeman and the Parrish family (Dena, Penyson, Caleb and Jamie) make up the ministry of Crossfire Gospel Band.

In 2009 Reeves and former bassist Chris Bigley formed the new band around the mandate of "Ministry First."

In 2010 they recorded their first CD entitled "Walk with Me," 10 songs written primarily by Reeves. The rest of the

year was spent playing and ministering in Cowboy Churches, rodeos, parks, biker rallies, outreach events and anywhere else they could set up and play.

By the middle of 2011 they recorded their second CD entitled "Wings of My Salvation" which included three hits. "Jesus is Knocking" climbed to No. 18, "Cowboy for Jesus" went to No. 10 and the title track "Wings of My Salvation" topped out as the band's first No. 1 song.

A video for the song followed, and the ministry really began to take off.

The end of 2014 marked the release of their third CD entitled "Lean on the Lord" with the title track climbing the charts that year.

More information about the band is available on their website, [www.crossfiregospelband.com](http://www.crossfiregospelband.com).

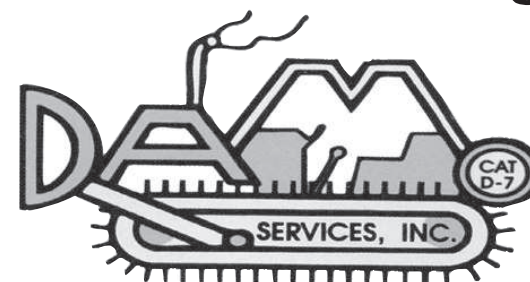
Copies of their CDs will also be available during the concert.



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**Good luck to all youth participants!**



*Good Luck*

**WCYF Participants**

*Mayor Domingo Montalvo, Jr.,  
Wife Sarah Hudgins and  
daughter Lilli commend you on  
all for your hard work and dedication.*

**You are our Leaders of Tomorrow!**

# Learning Center has 'hands-on' activities for kids

By KEITH MAGEE  
 kmagee@journal-spectator.com

The Learning Center usually brings about different reactions from folks, depending on how old you are.

When kids see how things were done in the old days, they think it's cool. When the older folks remember the past, they don't

recall the fun but rather chores and work. The Learning Center is designed for children, but it's also open to adults and city slickers as well.

"It's got a variety of things," said Peggy Glaze, who is chair of the Learning Center along with Ross Glaze. "The older folks will come and reminisce, but it's really designed for the children."

The Learning Center opens Monday, April 25 from 5 to 8 p.m. in the old Crescent schoolhouse next to the gym.

The Learning Center is an area set up to educate children and adults about agriculture in Wharton County.

"It's all hands-on for the children to do," Glaze said.

It provides activities to inform the pub-

lic about basic agriculture information such as hatching eggs, cuts of meat and rice production.

"We explain how cotton is grown," Glaze said. "We explain about milking a cow and hatching chicken."

The Learning Center will be open Monday through Friday, April 25-29. Hours are 5 to 8 p.m. each day.

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Congratulations to All  
 2016 WCYF Participants

## WCYF RODEO SCHEDULE

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APRIL 22 & 23**  
 WHARTON COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE HOSTS  
**"NIRA" COLLEGE RODEO**  
 7:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 24**  
 3:00 P.M. • CHUTE & BARREL JR. RODEO CLUB  
 EVENTS: STICK HORSE RACE • GOAT RIBBON PULLING  
 7:00 P.M. • RANCH RODEO

**MONDAY, APRIL 25**  
 5:30 P.M. • CRC RODEO

**TUESDAY, APRIL 26**  
 VETERANS DAY

**TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, APRIL 26-28**  
**PBR TOURING PRO DIVISION**  
**BULL "BLOWOUT"**  
 7:30 P.M. PERFORMANCE • 30 HEAD PER NIGHT  
 PRODUCER: FOLTYN & SONS  
**TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY: MUTTON BUSTIN' 6:30**  
**THURSDAY: "BUCKIN' FOR THE CURE"**

Check the Fair Schedule for These Fun Rodeo Events for Kids!  
 CHICKEN CHASE: Children ages 5 yrs and under  
 CASH SCRAMBLE: Children ages 6 & 7 year olds

[www.whartoncountyyouthfair.org](http://www.whartoncountyyouthfair.org)  
 General Admission: Adults \$10.00 • Ages 6-12 \$5.00 • Age 5 & Under FREE • Season Pass \$30

## WEE FOLKS PET SHOW

Wharton County Youth Fair Midway Stage  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2016 @ 1 p.m.**  
 Children Ages 2-12

Pre-registered entries are preferred.

ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE:  
[www.whartoncountyyouthfair.org](http://www.whartoncountyyouthfair.org)

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