



WHARTON COUNTY YOUTH FAIR 2015 PREVIEW

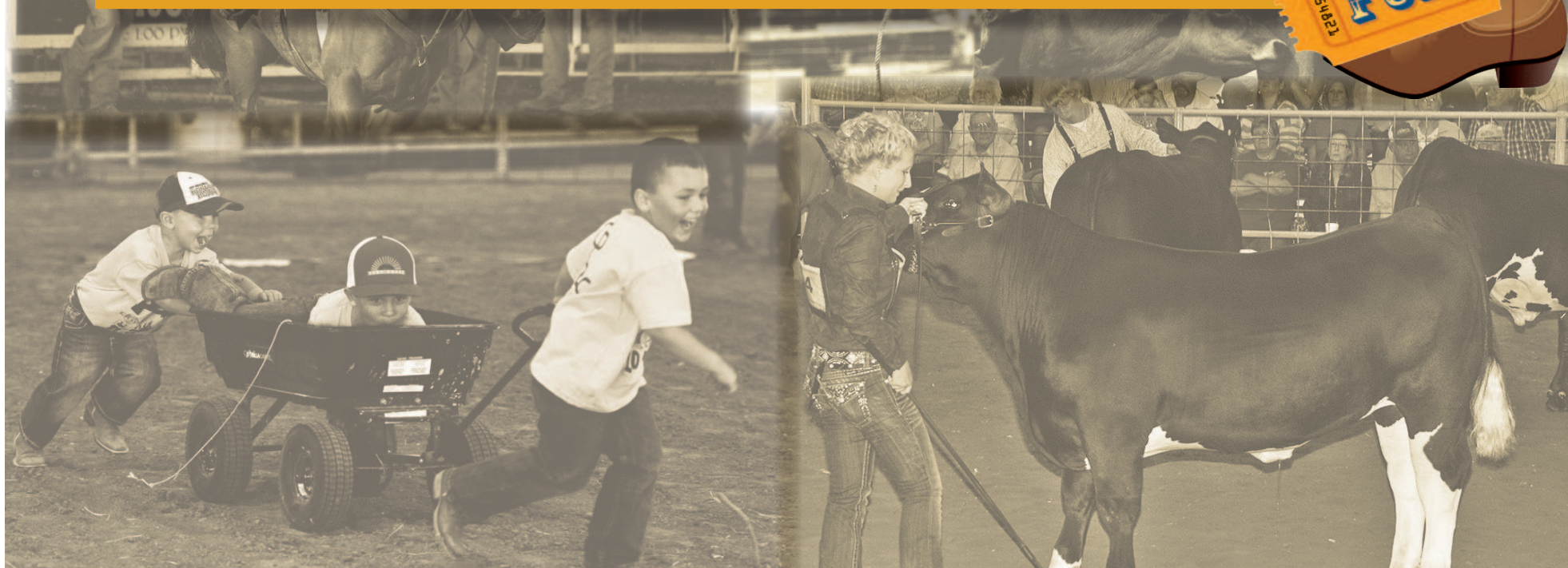
Wharton Journal  Spectator

April 22, 2015



East Bernard
Express

April 23, 2015



President: Welcome to the 2015 Youth Fair

Welcome to the 39th Wharton County Youth Fair. This year's theme is "Peace and Love at Our County Fair."

The fair requires thousands of people and volunteers to make it work. I personally would like to thank all the volunteers, even the ones that have passed on, for making the fair what it is today.

Our first President was John Joyce in 1977. Because of him, and all



Mark Bain

the great presidents through the years, the fair has grown to what it is today. If you were to ask any of the past/present presidents or volunteers, "Why do

you do it?" the one phrase you always hear is, "It's for the kids."

In the 2013-14 year, the WCYF gave out 61 scholarships totaling \$71,735 to the students. We also raised \$1,266,534 in sales for the exhibitors.

We, at the WCYF, would like to thank you for all the support we receive from individuals and businesses that donate to the fair. We are always looking for more supporters, no matter how small, to help our youth.

Last year, the board of directors voted for and had built a covered pavilion in the midway along with parking lot improvements. This year's project is to get new concession stands built with a covered area.

The WCYF kicked off with the Annual Go Texan Cook-Off.

This year the Youth Steer Saddling will take place with the three nights of bull riding. Other events are Family Fun Night, livestock shows, Creative Arts exhibits, Ag Mechanics competition, The Learning Center, pageants, Special Friends Day, Senior Citizens Day, Tough Enough to Wear Pink, dances for all from polka to country & western, and plenty of other outdoor entertainment.

Thanks to all the supporters for making the WCYF what it is today.

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

—Mark Bain

WHARTON COUNTY YOUTH FAIR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, April 23rd

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

Friday, April 24th

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 25th

Admission Gates Open - 8 a.m. until 9 p.m.

9 a.m. Open Team Roping (Johnson Arena)
12:30 p.m. ADULT Go - Texan Washer Pitching (Beer Garden)
1 p.m. Little Mr/Miss Pageant (Crescent Hall)
3 p.m. ADULT Go-Texan Horseshoe Pitching (Beer Garden)
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)
8 p.m. DANCE - ZACH WALTHER BAND (Beer Garden)

Sunday, April 26th

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

10:30 a.m. Cowboy Church (Midway Stage)
1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Wee Folks Pet Show (Midway Stage)
1 p.m. Ag Mechanics Show (Carnival Parking Lot)
1 p.m. - 6 p.m. Creative Arts Open for Viewing
1 p.m. Go-Texan Dominoes (Beer Garden)
1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Polka Fest-New Texas Plainsmen (Beer Garden)
2 p.m. Kolache Bake-Off (Beer Garden)
3 p.m. Chute & Barrel Rodeo (Johnson Arena)
3 p.m. Poultry Show (Ammann Barn)
7 p.m. Ranch Rodeo (Johnson Arena)
TBA Chicken Chase (5 years & under)
TBA Cash Scramble (6 & 7 year olds)

Monday, April 27th

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

9 a.m. Rabbit Show (Crescent Hall)
9 a.m. Horse Show (Johnson Arena)
4 p.m. - 9 p.m. Creative Arts Open for Viewing
4 p.m. Swine Show (Ammann Barn)
5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Learning Center Open
6:30 p.m. CRC (Johnson Arena)
TBA Chicken Chase (5 years & under)
TBA Cash Scramble (6 & 7 year olds)
7 p.m. AL SULAK & THE COUNTRY SOUNDS (Beer Garden)

Tuesday, April 28th

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

Salute to Our Veterans

11 a.m. Beef Merit Heifer Show (Ammann Barn)
3 p.m. Lamb Show (Ammann Barn)

4 p.m. - 9 p.m. Creative Arts Open for Viewing
5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Learning Center Open
6 p.m. Steer Show (Ammann Barn)
6:30 p.m. Mutton Bustin' (Johnson Arena)
7:30 p.m. Bull Blowout (Johnson Arena)
TBA Chicken Chase (5 years & under)
TBA Cash Scramble (6 & 7 year olds)
8 p.m. STEEL COUNTRY (Beer Garden)

Wednesday, April 29th

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 (Beer Garden)
9 a.m. Extra Special Livestock Show (Ammann Barn)
10 a.m. Pen of Three Heifer Exhibitor Interviews
10 a.m. Goat Show (Ammann Barn)
4 p.m. Pen of Three Heifer Show (Ammann Barn)
4 p.m. - 9 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)
7:30 p.m. Bull Blowout (Johnson Arena)
TBA Chicken Chase (5 years & under)
TBA Cash Scramble (6 & 7 year olds)
8 p.m. BUBBA WESTLY (Beer Garden)

Thursday, April 30th

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)
10:30 a.m. Dairy/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 (Beer Garden)
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)
7:30 p.m. Bull Blowout (Johnson Arena)
TBA Chicken Chase (5 year & under)
TBA Cash Scramble (6 & 7 year olds)

TOUGH ENOUGH TO WEAR PINK!!

8 p.m. HORIZON (Crescent Hall)
8 p.m. BUBBA WESTLY (Beer Garden)

Friday, May 1st

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.

8:00 a.m. Academic Rodeo (Crescent Hall)
9 a.m. Spelling Bee (Office Bldg. Complex)
10 a.m. YOUTH Washer Pitching (CCC/Gym)
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Creative Arts Open for Viewing
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Learning Center Open
12 p.m. Freezer Sale Opens (Office Bldg)
12:30 p.m. Livestock Judging Registration (Johnson Arena)
1 p.m. YOUTH Shuffle Board Tournament (CCC/GYM)
1:30 p.m. Livestock Judging Contest (Johnson Arena)
3 p.m. YOUTH Horseshoe Pitching (CCC/Gym)
5:30 p.m. Awards Banquet (Crescent Hall)
6 p.m. ADULT Shuffle Board Tournament (Beer Garden)
6:30 p.m. Family Fun Night (Johnson Arena)
(Pig Loading only - ages 4-6 & Chicken Chase 5 & under)
7:30 p.m. Family Fun Night (Johnson Arena)
(Pig Chase, Goat Loading, Club Challenge & Cash Scramble - 6&7 year olds)
8 p.m. NO LIMIT (Beer Garden)

Saturday, May 2nd

Carnival open 12 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Admission Gates open - 10 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
6:30 p.m. TEJANO DANCE (Beer Garden)



Fair Office: (979) 677-3350
www.whartoncountyyouthfair.org

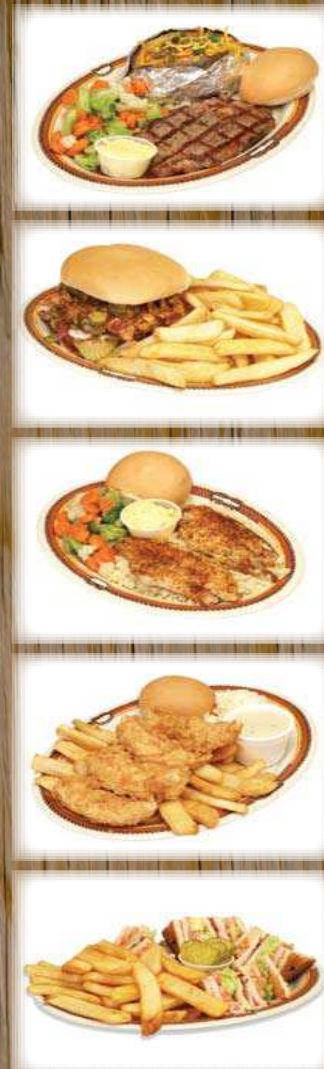
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Photo courtesy of Mindy Hanson

Alec Valenta, son of Mindy Hanson and David Valenta of Wharton and a Boling High School freshman, is in anticipation before being chosen as the first in his class during the 2014 WCYF steer show. He said, "Last year I won first in my class and fourth overall and I want to try my hardest to make sure I have another successful year." Valenta will be showing his American Crossbred steer, Alejandro, at this year's WCYF steer show on Tuesday, April 28 at 6 p.m. in the Ammann Barn.

Valenta following dad's footsteps at Youth Fair

By JESSICA DUNN
jdunn@journal-spectator.com

Alec Valenta, son of Mindy Hanson and David Valenta of Wharton and a freshman at Boling High School, hopes all his hard work pays off big time at this year's Wharton County Youth Fair Steer Show.

This will be Valenta's second year in the show arena with his steer on Tuesday night during fair week. Valenta is no stranger to competitive showing. He has raised Pen of Three Heifers three years prior to the decision to raise steers with the Boling FFA.

"My dad showed steers all throughout school as a child, and I really wanted to follow in his footsteps. I felt it was time to try my hand at another project," Valenta said.

Valenta spends one hour each day walking, combing and setting his steer.

"Last year I won first in my class and fourth overall and I want to try my hardest to make sure I have another successful year," he said.

Valenta will be in the same category as 2014 with his American Crossbred steer, Alejandro.

Valenta hopes the nerves and atmosphere don't play a factor during the steer show.

"Alejandro has been easy to work with

thus far and I hope he continues to follow my lead, but the feel of competition can bring out nervousness and all you can do is prepare for a smooth show to the best of your ability," he said.

Valenta enjoys the competition that comes with showing. "It's a feeling you can't really explain, but I can tell you it's awesome," he said.

Valenta expressed his joy in seeing old friends, meeting new people and the friendly competition.

"We all work toward winning, but I like seeing all the friends I have met along the way and learning from them," he said. The fair also creates a way for youth to build up their confidence and responsibility. "Working with my animals isn't always fun, but it's something that my family and I have invested in and I have to follow through. My parents, friends and Ag teachers have helped a lot, which makes it easier."

If he makes this year's Sale of Excellence, Valenta said he plans to put it toward college and another project to the next year. "I hope to be in that arena at the end of the night during the Champion Drive," he said.

The 2015 Wharton County Youth Fair Steer show will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 28 in the Ammann Barn.

Kids get chance to show pets at Wee Folks event

By NATALIE FRELS
nfrels@journal-spectator.com

It's all about the kids during the annual Wharton County Youth Fair. And even if you can't rope or ride, there are a number of ways to join in on the fun.

Hosted by KULP, Wee Folks is a pageant to give contestants a chance to show off their furry best friends.

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.


WCYF RODEO SCHEDULE



FRI. & SAT. APRIL 24TH & APRIL 25TH
WHARTON COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE HOSTS
"NIRA" COLLEGE RODEO
7:00 p.m.




SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH




We Salute Our Veterans

3:00 P.M. • CHUTE & BARREL JR. RODEO CLUB
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7:00 P.M. • RANCH RODEO


MONDAY, APRIL 27TH




6:30 P.M. • CRC RODEO
TUESDAY, APRIL 28TH
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Season Pass \$30.00

www.whartoncountyyouthfair.org

Creative Arts continues to grow each year

By NATALIE FRELS

nfrels@journal-spectator.com

The Creative Arts Department of the Wharton County Youth Fair continues to grow each year and transform the expo into an all inclusive renaissance for local youth to showcase their diverse talents.

Since its humble beginnings in 1998, almost 17 years later it has proved to be a staple in the annual event.

"Years ago, it was just the 4-H, FFA & FCCLA children," said Grace Glaze, co-chair of the Creative Arts Department. "We decided to get all of Wharton County to participate."

With 5,491 articles and 1,471 exhibitors, Glaze is excited to see the program expanding year after year.

"It's the most we've had in about three years," Glaze said.

The department will have FFA & FCCLA members, 4-H, open youth and adults entering. The showcase is open to everyone, not just youth. This year's exhibitors range in age from 1 to 73 years old.

The department is special because it is inclusive — not everyone has the opportunity or the desire to raise livestock and show their animals.

"The department is very important because it gives boys and girls the opportunity to still be able to participate," Glaze said.

"They are learning life-long skills."

It gives the youth, and the young at heart, the chance to showcase their talents.

Glaze said, "When our pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children come out, it's all smiles. When they see their art, they have a feeling of accomplishment."

Exhibitors will be entering art, baked products, canned products, clothing, crafts, horticulture, photography and the "Go Texan Quilt Contest."

"The quilts and those kinds of things are absolutely fantastic," she said. "Recycled materials have also been some real interesting articles. I've seen wind chimes out of old silverware, purses out of jeans and there are some really interesting articles in the clay pots class."

Creative Arts is a big production — about 125 volunteers assist with check-in and judging. "It's just a lot of teamwork and a host of volunteers that make this all possible," Glaze said.

Forty out-of-town judges will critique the art and award a number of titles to the best exhibitors: 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.

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 & 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.

The Wharton County Youth Fair Jr. Fair Board also donates each year.

Fair week kicks off with the Creative Arts check-in from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 23. Judging begins at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, April 24, 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 26 when the Creative Arts Open begins at 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Crescent Hall and will continue throughout the week. The showcase will be open Monday, April 27, Tuesday, April 28, Wednesday, April 29 and Thursday, April 30 from 4 to 9 p.m., all in Crescent Hall.


The showcase will be open on Student Day, Friday, May 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., also in Crescent Hall, along with check-out from 3 to 5 p.m.

Participants in all events in the Youth Fair total approximately 500 and will be honored for their hard work and dedication on Friday, May 1 in Crescent Hall.

Exhibitor registration begins at 5 p.m., with the banquet at 5:30 p.m.

High Points exhibitors — first and second place in the senior age, intermediate and junior groups — will also have six items in the Sale of Excellence on Saturday, May 2 beginning at noon in the Crescent Hall.

For more information, contact 979-677-3350.




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**Holy Cross Catholic Church
would also like to wish the 2015
WCYF participants a blessed,
safe & successful season.**

Pastor and Parishioners of Holy Cross Catholic Church

Scholarship planned in Joyce's memory

By NATALIE FRELS
nfrels@journal-spectator.com

Since the Wharton County Youth Fair's inception, proceeds have benefitted the area's youth through numerous scholarships.

This year, organizers are doing something special in memory of one life-long participant.

Justin Joyce was only 16 when he died due to injuries sustained in a car accident in November.

A junior at Boling High School, Joyce was very active in FFA, showing animals at numerous fairs and judging teams.

He was raising a steer at the time of his death, said Boling Fair Fund treasurer Keith Jedlicka. The steer will be featured



Justin Joyce

at the Sale of Excellence, where buyers may bid on Joyce's steer, with all proceeds going to a scholarship in his name.

"Justin has shown

since the third grade," said Carrie Lopez, assistant fair coordinator. "They were very involved in the fair."

Joyce was the grandson of Johnny Joyce — a co-founder of the youth fair and the first president.

His father, Kevin Joyce, is also involved as the assistant treasurer.

"We're all a big family out here," Lopez said. "And it's hard when you lose a kid. These scholarships are a big part in helping the kids as much as possible."

A sheet will be available on the day of the sale at the Boling Fair Fund table.

Buyers who would like to bid prior to the sale may contact Jedlicka at 979-559-1258.



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Brooke Petrenella



Amerie Melendez



Savannah Tyler



Amber Sutton



Taylor Watz



Zoey Zahn

Fourteen girls to compete for Jr. Miss crown

The Jr. Miss Pageant, the third of four contests at the Wharton County Youth Fair on Saturday, April 25, takes place at 5 p.m. inside Crescent Hall.

Sixth through eighth grade girls entering the contest have an opportunity at winning the title and representing Wharton County over the next year. The girls will also be selling raffle tickets and proceeds from that will benefit the fair.

Individual interviews, self-introductions and modeling in Western wear on stage, plus fair and 4-H involvement will all be considered in determining who the 2015 Jr. Miss will be. Points will also be awarded for selling a minimum number of raffle tickets and a prize will be awarded to the person selling the most tickets.

Jr. Miss contestants are as follows:

- Laelah Bickham of Boling, daughter of Chad and Laura Bickham.

- Hannah Chumchal of East Bernard, daughter of Kelly and Sandra Chumchal.

- Lana Foyt of Wharton, daughter of Dana Foyt.

- Erica George of Louise, daughter of Richard and Susan George.

- Samantha Henke of Louise, daughter of Chris and Sheila Henke

- Kendal Klatt of El Campo, daughter of Dwayne and Amanda Klatt.

- Kennedy Klatt of El Campo, daughter of Dwayne and Amanda Klatt.

- Dustie Koudela of El Campo, daughter of James and Heather Givens.

- Brooke Petrenella of East Bernard, daughter of Craig and Rebecca Schmidt and Joe Petrenella.

- Amerie Melendez of El Campo, daughter of LaShawna Thomas.

- Savannah Tyler of Boling, daughter of Shane and Sara Tyler.

- Amber Sutton of El Campo, daughter of Donald and Fredia Sutton.

- Taylor Watz of El Campo, daughter of Mike and Jackie Watz.

- Zoey Zahn of El Campo, daughter of

David and Michele Zahn.

The Jr. Miss pageant is being chaired by Keith Ermis.

The Jr. Miss will receive a buckle, leather sash and prizes.



*Good Luck to
All Participants of the
2015 Wharton County
Youth Fair!*

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**Congratulations to All
2015 WCYF Participants**



2015 Queen Pageant has 10 contestants

Ten young ladies will be vying for the Wharton County Youth Fair Queen's title Saturday, April 25. The pageant starts at 6 p.m. inside Crescent Hall. Each contestant will have an individual interview with the judges and then while on stage, they will introduce themselves and model Western wear of their choice.

This year's contestants are as follows:

Sanae Brandes

Sanae Brandes of Louise, daughter of Daryl and Michelle Brandes, is a freshman at Louise



High School where she is a member of the Louise FFA. She plays sports and is a varsity cheerleader. She is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and One Act Play.

Brandes will be showing a goat this year at the fair.

She enjoys mudding, riding four-

wheelers, fishing and texting and hanging out with her friends.

While at the fair, she also enjoys "hanging out with friends," she said. She also likes showing her animal project and attending the pageants. This is her first year to compete in the queen contest, but she has prior experience, as she has served as Little Miss, Princess and Jr. Miss.

If she were chosen fair queen, she would "love to teach the younger generation about the fair and tell everyone it's fun and a great learning experience."

Brandes says her role model is her mom, "because she takes me anywhere and does anything for me. She is there for me no matter what."

When describing herself using the first letter from her first name, she chose the word shining, because, "I feel like I can shine and represent myself well."

Brandes hopes to pursue a career in radiology for ultrasound. "I have always been interested in the medical field," she said.

Abigail Kalina

Abigail "Abby" Kalina of Wharton, daughter of Gary and Rosemary Kalina, is a junior at Wharton High School and is a member of the Wharton FFA. She

runs track and is a member of the Student Council, FFA, FCA and is a student trainer.



Kalina serves on the WCYF Junior Fair Board and, in her spare time, she enjoys fishing, hunting, dancing and reading.

Kalina says she loves the fair because it brings the community together ... from

all across Wharton County. If she were chosen fair Queen, she would like to help others.

"The community does so much for the youth of Wharton County, and by being Queen, this would give me an opportunity to give back even more," she said.

This is her second year to show an animal. Last year, she showed a beef merit heifer.

Kalina looks up to both of her parents, but says her dad has been her rock.

"My dad has been supportive in helping me with my animals," she said. "He is my pageant dad."

When asked to describe herself using the first letter from her first name she said: "Active. I am involved in a lot of things. The list I gave the fair office doesn't cover it all. I am also involved in YLT, Youth Leadership Training with the Diocese of Victoria."

Kalina is active in her church, Holy Family Catholic Church in Wharton. After high school she hopes to pursue a degree in physical therapy and work her way into becoming an NFL trainer.

Paiton Kalina

Paiton Kalina of Boling, daughter of J.T. and Melissa Kalina, is a sophomore at Boling High School. She is a member of the Boling FFA, Student Council and FCA. She plays volleyball and runs track.



This is her second year to show a goat. She started out showing rabbits. Altogether, she has been showing animals at the fair for seven years.

She enjoys sports, watching movies and spending time with family and friends.

Her favorite part of the fair is the Thursday night dance and the carnival rides.

Kalina wants to be fair queen because she wants to be a positive role model for other young girls.

"When I was Jr. Miss, I saw how much of a role model the queen was," she said. "And I think it would be a fun and unique experience."

Kalina was Jr. Miss in 2012.

Her role model is her mom, "because she is my biggest supporter. And because she is very successful and a very smart woman."

When Kalina was asked to describe herself using the first letter from her first name, she said: "Perky ... I am always energized!"

As far as a career choice, Kalina is considering working in real estate.

Shyann Kocurek

Shyann Kocurek of Louise, daughter of Mike and Lisa Kocurek, is a sophomore at Louise High School and a member of the Louise FFA. She plays volleyball and softball. She also enjoys hanging out with her family, hunting and fishing.



Kocurek's favorite part of the fair is meeting new people, the animals and just the excitement of helping people at the fair.

If she were chosen fair queen, she says she would enjoy the "experience and being a positive

role model for younger girls, someone to look up to," she said.

Her role models are her friend Savannah Hopson because of her inspirational words, and Audrey Anderson, who "is good at giving encouraging words." Last year, when Kocurek participated in the fair queen pageant for the first time and was nervous, Anderson helped her through it.

When asked to describe herself in one word using the letter "S" (the first letter of her first name) she said, "Shy. I am shy only when I do not know the person, but when I get to know someone, I am not shy."

Kocurek wants to pursue a career in nursing or as a masseuse. She is especially interested in the field of pediatric nursing.



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Good Luck
All Y'all

Cheyenne Novicke

Cheyenne Novicke of East Bernard, daughter of Kyle and Kelly Novicke, will be showing a swine this year at the fair. This is her eighth year to show animals at the fair.



She previously has shown chickens.

Novicke is a sophomore at East Bernard High School. She is a member of the East Bernard FFA, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and serves as class reporter. She

also plays volleyball and softball and enjoys hunting, sports and reading.

Her favorite part of the fair is show day. "I like going into the ring and showing my animal ... seeing all my hard work is being paid off."

Novicke wants to be fair queen, because she feels it would be a great experience.

"It would be a really good opportunity to educate others, to get more experience and to better myself and others," she said.

Because Novicke loves spending time on the beach, she is interested in becoming a "marine biologist and work as an environmentalist out on the oil rigs," she said.

Her role models are her mom and grandmother, "because my mom has always been there for me. She has done a lot with her life ... and my grandma, she has a business of her own and has prospered throughout her life."

Novicke chose the word caring to best describe herself (using the first letter of her first name).

"I like to make sure everybody is okay in whatever they are dealing with in their life," she said.

Chelsey Ott

Chelsey Ott of El Campo, daughter of Daniel Ott and Teresa Ott, is a freshman at El Campo High School. She is a member of the El Campo FFA, Anchor Club, FFA and Derby Doll Prep. She also plays volleyball.



Ott will be showing broilers and entering items in the Creative

Arts division at the fair this year.

She enjoys, dancing, shopping and working with her fair animals.

Carly Simpson

Carly Simpson of Boling is a fresh-

man at Boling High School. She is the daughter of Craig and Shauna Simpson and Rob and Lesley McIntyre.

Simpson is a member of the Boling FFA and the Texas High School Rodeo Association. She plays volleyball, runs track and is on the yearbook staff.

This is her second year to show a swine. Her first year animal project was a goat. She will also be showing a horse



and riding in the CRC this year. She enjoys barrel racing, pole bending and hunting.

What she enjoys most about the youth fair, "is watching all the other participants show their animals and to see how

hard they have worked and how they do at the fair."

Simpson wants to become fair queen because she feels "it would be a good opportunity." It would also allow her the opportunity to expand her leadership role.

Her two role models are her father and her grandfather.

"My grandpa used to rodeo in his prime years." And now she finds herself following in his footsteps in the arena. And her dad, she says, "has always been there for me as well as through the tough times."

Using the letter "C" from her first name, she describes herself as caring. "I am caring, because even if I don't know someone and they are having a bad day, I will give them a compliment to make them feel better. You never know what a difference it would make."

Because Simpson loves animals, she hopes to become a veterinarian someday.

Gabbie Svatek

Gabbie Svatek of Boling, daughter of Jerry Svatek Jr. and Leah King, is a freshman at Boling High School. She is a member of the Boling FFA and a varsity cheerleader. Svatek is a member of the Student



Council, FCA, Art Guild and FFA.

She will be showing a swine at the fair. While she enjoys working with her fair animals, she also likes to camp and fish.

Svatek's favorite part of the fair is showing animals. This is her third year to have an animal project.

"Working with animals gives me a sense of responsibility, a sense of success and achievement in knowing all my hard work has paid off," she said.

If she were chosen fair queen, she would want to serve as a positive role model for others.

"When I was little I always looked up to the fair royalty and I thought they were royalty," she said. "I would love to be a role model to girls in Wharton County, someone to look up to."

When talking about her role models, Svatek spoke of her late grandmother, Delores Svatek.

"Nanie was so giving, she would give the shirt off her back to a total stranger," she said. "I hope I can be that giving one day and help others out as much as I can."

When asked to described herself using one word that starts with the letter of her first name, she said, "Giving."

"Sometimes people get so self-centered, I try to give, like give hope to someone taking a test, or I help them financially sometimes."

After high school, Svatek plans to attend Texas A&M University to become an ag teacher.

Hannah Tupa

Hannah Tupa of El Campo, daughter of Danny and Shawn Tupa, has been showing animal projects at the fair since she was in the third grade. She has also



entered the Wee Folks Pet Show.

She is a junior at El Campo High School. She is a member of the Outdoor 4-H Club, El Campo FFA, Interact, yearbook and Anchor Club.

Tupa will be showing a pen-of-three heifers at the fair. She is also a member of Junior Fair Board.

She enjoys photography and dancing.

Tupa says she enjoys meeting new

people, especially at the fair. She loves showing her animal projects each year, and the Thursday night dance.

She would like to be fair queen because she feels she "would be a good role model and represent the fair well," she said. "I feel I could execute the spirit of the fair."

Selecting a word that begins with the first letter of her first name to describe herself, she chose "happiness, because when you are happy, you radiate happiness," she said. "Happiness can brighten your day a little bit. Happiness can power the world."

Tupa would like to pursue a career in ag business or photography.

Danielle Vacek

Danielle Vacek of East Bernard, daughter of Joe and Linda Vacek, is a sophomore at East Bernard High school. She is a member of the East Bernard FFA, Student Council, Green Team and FBLA.

Vacek will be showing a goat and broilers at the fair.

She enjoys dancing, arts and crafts and being outdoors taking care of animals.

The contestant chosen as queen will represent the fair



and Wharton County during the coming year. The queen, first and second runners-up, Queen of Tickets Sales will each receive a prize award and prizes.

The Queen will also receive a \$500 scholarship, crown and belt buckle; first runner-up will receive a \$300 scholarship; second runner-up will receive a \$200 scholarship; Queen of Ticket Sales will get a \$250 scholarship, as well as the contestant who receives the Director's Award who will also receive a belt buckle and prizes. Miss Congeniality will receive a prize award and prizes.

—Quala Matocha



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Senior Citizens' Day set

By KEITH MAGEE

kmagee@journal-spectator.com

Each year, the Wharton County Youth Fair honors its older citizens with Senior Citizens' Day. This year's special event is planned for Thursday, April 30.

Admission is free for all senior citizens age 62 and older until 5 p.m.

The program begins at 9 a.m. in Crescent Hall. There are a number of booths set up on such topics as health care, insurance, education and more. Senior citizens can stop and visit all of the booths and pick up some free goodies, too.

A chicken noodle soup meal will be served around 11 a.m., and entertainment will be provided by the East Bernard Elementary School third grade choir.

There will also be music provided by Lawrence, Brian Svetlik & Friends. The Cotton Square Dancers will also perform, and there will be bingo and prizes.

Sherrel Speer of Wharton will be the master of ceremony.

Cash prize awards will be given for:

- Oldest man and woman
- Longest married
- Most recently married
- Most children

Seniors are also invited to tour the fairgrounds and livestock and poultry barns.

After filling up on chicken noodle soup, seniors are encouraged to walk over to the Crescent Community Center for an afternoon of polka music.

From 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., Frank Milder, Lawrence & Brian Svetlik, Charlie Merta, Theresa Payne, Jim Brzozowski, Gene Janis and others will take the stage, providing two hours of good Czech music.

Other musicians who would like to come out and join in on the festivities are encouraged to do so.

Free popcorn and door prizes are given throughout the afternoon.

There will be a photo booth, sponsored by DWS Septic Services, set up, and photos will be given to those who attend.

For more information about the polka dance, call Helen Hlavaty at 543-0173 or Shirley Popp at 332-0258.

Pageant lineup kicks off April 25 with Little Mr. and Miss Pageant

Peace & Love at Our County Fair is the theme of this year's Wharton County Youth Fair. While the fair kicked off with the cook-off Saturday, April 17, the fair seems to officially start the following weekend when four pageants: Little Mr. & Miss, Princess, Jr. Miss and Queen's contests, will be held all on the same day, April 25.

The first pageant, beginning at 1 p.m., will feature 22 girls and nine boys for the Little Mr. & Miss contest. Dressed in their white shirts, red bandanas and blue jeans, these youngsters from kindergarten through second grade will take the stage in Crescent Hall.

Little Miss

This year's Little Miss contestants are as follows:

- Laney Arriaga of Boling, daughter of Tim and Carole Arriaga.
- Presley Bacak of El Campo, daughter of Bart and Heather Bacak.
- London Cavness of East Bernard, daughter of Jarrod and Ryan Cavness.
- Sadie Favors of Wharton, daughter of Derek and Paula Favors.
- Mia Fitzgerald of Boling, daughter of Jess and Kristen Fitzgerald.
- Madelyn Glaze of El Campo, daughter of Josh and Laura Glaze.
- Kaylie Hodge of Boling, daughter of Dustin and Miranda Chudalla.
- Adeline Hundl of El Campo, daughter, Philip and Ann Hundl.
- Taylor Kalina of Wharton, daughter of Clint and Heather Kalina.
- Khloe Joyce of Boling, daughter of Michael and Misty Joyce.
- Carly Kubicek of East Bernard, daughter of Justin and Kelly Kubicek.
- Kamryn Mears of Boling, daughter of Denny and Monica Mears
- Riley Meyen of Louise, daughter of

Amie Collins.

- Allie Page of Boling, daughter of Luke and Holly Page.
- Layni Rawlinson of El Campo, daughter of Garrett and Stephanie Rawlinson.
- Camie Riha of El Campo, daughter of Troy and Tiffany 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.
- Kate Wakefield of Wharton, daughter of Jared and Melissa Wakefield.
- Suri Weaver of Boling, daughter of Ryan and Rachel Weaver.
- Raley Wied of El Campo, daughter of Ladd and Jody Wied.

Little Mr.

Little Mr. contestants are as follows;

- Quinn Burns of Boling, son of Taylor

and Brooke Burns.

- Jett Garrett of Boling, son of Melanie Garrett.
- Nathan Henke of Louise, son of Chris and Sheila Henke.
- Canyon Jones of Louise, son of Jarret and Keri Jones.
- Morgan Mahalite of Boling, son of Louis and Cindy Mahalite.
- Riley Riha of El Campo, son of Todd and Alicia Riha.
- Konley Socha of El Campo, son of Kevin and Katrina Socha.
- Seth Tyler of Boling, son of Shane and Sara Tyler.
- Cayden Voldan of Boling, son of Heath and Mandy Voldan.

This event is being chaired by the husband and wife team of Peter and Robin Stelzel, along with many other helpers and volunteers.

The Little Mr. and Miss will win several prizes, including a leather sash and trophy.

WCYF CARNIVAL PROMOTIONS!

Wednesday, April 29th

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Thursday, April 30th

Carnival Armband Night

\$18.00 Advance Sale Voucher Honored
5:00PM TO 10:00PM
\$23.00 ARMBAND WITHOUT VOUCHER

Friday, May 1st

Free Students Day Free gate admission till 5:00pm

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Saturday, May 2nd

Carnival Armband - 2 Sessions

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Coach Sean Amestoy, (979)532.6453 or email seana@wcjc.edu



Camille Burns



Kasey Burns



Kinsley Cerny



Bridget Dorotik



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Kynlee Hall



Samantha Hubert



Madelyn Jay



Brianna Jensen



Alyssa Jones



Kynedy Johnson



Zoey Johnson



Kylee Joyce



Karli Joyce



Jolie Konarik



Hailey Peters



Baylee Snow



Sarah Spitzmiller



Hannah Sutton



Ariana Thompson



Riley Wallis



Leslie Zahn

Princess Pageant includes 22 contestants this year

Twenty-two young ladies, third through fifth graders, will have a chance for the Princess title in the second of four pageants held at the Wharton County Youth Fair Saturday, April 25. The pageant gets under way at 3 p.m. in Crescent Hall.

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.

The contestants are as follows:

- Camille Burns of Boling, daughter of Taylor and Brooke Burns.
- Kasey Burns of El Campo, daughter of Chris and Jennifer Burns.
- Kinsley Cerny of El Campo, daughter of Keith and Kristie Cerny.

- Bridget Dorotik of El Campo, daughter of Brian and Denise Dorotik.

- Emily Glaze of El Campo, daughter of Josh and Laura Glaze.

- Kynlee Hall of East Bernard, daughter of Krisit Hall.

- Samantha Hubert of El Campo, daughter of Bo and Lacey Hubert.

- Madelyn Jay of Boling, daughter of Craig and Shauna Simpson.

- Brianna Jensen of El Campo, daughter of Brian and Stephanie Jensen.

- Alyssa Jones of Louise, daughter of Jarret and Keri Jones.

- Kynedy Johnson of Wharton, daughter of Gary and Cassidy Ashton.

- Zoey Johnson of Wharton, daughter of Gary and Cassidy Ashton.

- Karli Joyce of Boling, daughter of Michael and Misty Joyce.

- Kylee Joyce of Boling, daughter of Kevin and Susan Joyce.

- Jolie Konarik of El Campo, daughter of Jay and Amy Konarik.

- Hailey Peters of Boling, daughter of Shawn and Angela Peters.

- Baylee Snow of Wharton, daughter of Taft Snow III and Nicole Snow.

- Sarah Spitzmiller of El Campo, daughter of Robert and Kelley Spitzmiller.

- Hannah Sutton of El Campo, daughter of Donald and Fredia Sutton.

ter of Donald and Fredia Sutton.

- Ariana Thompson of Wharton, daughter of Larseen and Mayra Thompson.

- Riley Wallis of El Campo, daughter of Kyle and Andrea Wallis.

- Leslie Zahn of El Campo, daughter of David and Michele Zahn.


Each contestant will receive a trophy and prizes. The girl selected WCYF Princess will receive a trophy, prizes, crown and buckle.




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All participants will receive a ribbon.

Animal projects are a big part of the fair

The area's best 4-H and FFA students come together every year at the Wharton County Youth Fair to showcase their talents in raising and showing their livestock projects.

Throughout the week, these exhibitors will have their animals judged and vie for a spot for selling their animals in the Sale of Excellence, Free Sale and Replacement Heifer Sale.

The youth will also have a hand in judging at the Livestock Judging Contest held during the fair.

Livestock shows, their start times and locations on the WCYF grounds are as follows:

Sunday, April 26

Poultry Show at 3 p.m. in the Ammann Barn.

Monday, April 27

Rabbit Show at 9 a.m. in Crescent Hall.

Horse Show at 9 a.m. in the Johnson Arena.

Swine Show at 4 p.m. in the Ammann Barn.

Tuesday, April 28

Beef Merit Show at 11 a.m. in the Ammann Barn.

Lamb Show at 3 p.m. in the Ammann Barn.

Steer Show at 6 p.m. in the Ammann Barn.

Wednesday, April 29

Extra Special Livestock Show at 9 a.m. in the Ammann Barn.

Goat Show at 10 a.m. in the Ammann Barn.

Pen of Three Heifer Show at 4 p.m. in the Ammann Barn.

Thursday, April 30

Open Dairy/Dairy Merit Show at 10:30 a.m. in the Ammann Barn.

Jr. Breeding Beef Show at 2 p.m. in the Ammann Barn.

Bucket Calf Show at 4 p.m. in the Ammann Barn immediately following the Jr. Breeding Beef Show.

Friday, May 1

Livestock Judging Contest at 1:30 p.m. in the Johnson Arena.

Saturday, May 2

Buyer's Luncheon at 11 a.m. in Crescent Hall.

Sale of Excellence at 12 p.m. in Crescent Hall immediately followed by Freezer Sale and Buyer's Meal.

No. 1 ranked WCJC team to host rodeo April 24-25

By KAITLYNN BIANCONI
news@journal-spectator.com

Wharton County Junior College will host the annual National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association at the Youth Fair Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25. The main events will be at 7 p.m. at Johnson Arena.

The NIRA College Rodeo will begin Friday at noon with a slack performance.

"Friday will be a very unique performance," WCJC Rodeo Coach Sean Amestoy said.

There will be a "Need for Speed" night, with steer wrestling, barrel racing and team roping.

WCJC will host an "Open Team Roping" event Saturday morning at 9 a.m., and the final performance will take place Saturday night at 7 p.m.

Saturday will be a full rodeo gamut, including a dance. The events will include: bareback riding, tie-down roping, steer wrestling, team roping, saddle bronc, barrel racing and bull riding.

The teams competing will be in the southern region of the NIRA. Teams include: Texas A&M University, Sam Houston State University, McNeese State University, Texas A&M-Commerce, Texas A&M-Kingsville, University of Texas, Wharton County Junior College, Hill Junior College, Trinity Valley Junior College, Panola Junior College and Northeast Community College.

The WCJC men's team is currently ranked No. 1 in the southern region and 12th in the national standings.

"We have a good number of guys that are doing fantastic in the region, and we just have one rodeo left before we finish here," Amestoy said. "This will be the last one, and all these guys are vying for the regional and team title. They've all been doing fantastic."

The WCJC team is looking for a national title.

"We have a substantial number of guys that have a really good shot at going to the college finals," he said. "They're working really hard."

Wharton County Youth Fair 2014 Preview

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FAIR ENTERTAINMENT



Sat. April 25th
8 p.m.
Crescent Community Center

Zach Walther Band

Sun. April 26th
1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Crescent Community Center
Kolache Bake-Off - 2:00 p.m.

POLKA FEST
New Texas Plainsmen

Thurs. April 30th
8 p.m. • Crescent Hall



HORIZON

Sat. May 2nd
6:30 p.m. - Beer Garden

Tejano Night

BONI MAURICIO & NICK VILLAREAL

GRUPO VIZION

MIDWAY ENTERTAINMENT
Jay Dee- Hypnotist • Marty Westerman -Magician
"Rainbow the Clown" • Great American Petting Zoo
Artistry in Wood • Swifty Swine Productions

CRESCENT COMMUNITY CENTER
Beer Garden

Monday, April 27th
Al Sulak & The Country Sounds - 7:00pm

Tuesday, April 28th
Steel Country 8:00pm

Wednesday, April 29th
Special Friends Day - Brian Svetlik - DJ
9:00am
Bubba Westly 8:00pm

Thursday, April 30th
Senior Citizen's Polka 2:30pm - 4:30pm
Bubba Westly - 8:00pm

Friday, May 1st
No Limit - 8:00pm

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wcyf@whartoncountyyouthfair.org

TICKETS: SEASON PASSES \$30
(Advance from Queen Contestants)
Adult \$10 • Child 6-12 \$5 • Child 5 & under FREE



Courtesy photo

Grupo Vizion from Freeport will perform at Tejano Day on Saturday, May 2.

Tejano Day wraps up fair

The Wharton County Youth Fair's 2015 Tejano Day is set for Saturday, May 2, and it focuses on the contributions the Hispanic community has given to Wharton County.

The day is capped with a Tejano Day Dance starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Beer Garden.

In May 2010, the Wharton County

Youth Fair & Exposition reinstated Go Tejano Day.

The bands performing for the 2015 show are opening band Grupo Vizion, followed by Boni Mauricia along with Nick Villareal. Also appearing is DJ Samc from Tejano Gold Radio.

Gate admission fee is \$10 per person.

—Keith Magee

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Good luck to all youth participants!

Lots of entertainment planned for the fair

By KEITH MAGEE

kmagee@journal-spectator.com

The Wharton County Youth Fair has another strong lineup of entertainment, including three featured dances with live music and other attractions throughout the midway.

Horizon, an area band, will highlight the fair's lineup of performers with a dance that begins at 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 30 in Crescent Hall.

The Youth Fair kicks off its Fair Week entertainment lineup on Saturday, April 25 with an 8 p.m. dance in the Beer Garden with music by the Zach Walther Band.

The next day, on Sunday April 26, is the traditional Polka Fest in the Beer Garden.

The event will feature the New Texas Plainsmen from 2 to 6 p.m.

Polka Fest features an afternoon of polkas, waltzes and country music. Door prizes will be given away.

On Monday, April 27, Al Sulak & The Country Sounds will play at 7 p.m. in

the Beer Garden.

On Tuesday, April 28, Steel Country will perform in the Beer Garden beginning at 8 p.m.

Wednesday, April 29 includes a performance by Bubba Westly at 8 p.m. in the Beer Garden.

Beside Horizon's performance on Thursday, April 30, also playing that night is Bubba Westly at 8 p.m. in the Beer Garden.

On Friday, May 1, No Limit will play at 8 p.m. in the Beer Garden.

The Youth Fair's entertainment lineup concludes on Saturday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. with the Tejano Dance in the Beer Garden.

The Tejano Dance will feature Grupo Vizion, Boni Mauricia and Nick Villarreal.

Other attractions along the midway throughout the fair include magician Marty Westerman, hypnotist Jaydee, Rainbow the Clown, Great American Petting Zoo, Artistry in Wood and Swiftly Swine Productions.

Veterans to be honored April 28

The Wharton County Youth Fair salutes those who served the nation Tuesday.

Active duty service personnel or those wore an Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine or Coast Guard uniform in the past are welcome to enter the gates free of charge throughout the day.

Spouses and children (immediate family) are welcome to join them so long as the veteran places the names on a sign-in sheet.

"We do appreciate that," Vietnam Veterans Association President Leonard Sternadel said. "We're not looking for freebies, but we do appreciate this."

The only special activity planned takes place in the Johnson Arena during bull riding that night where veterans and their families are asked to sit in a designated area.

As part of the opening announcements at 7:30 p.m., that group will be recognized.

A strong showing of veterans visited the fair last year, Sternadel said, adding he encourages attendees to wear service caps.

People tend to notice the caps, he added, saying some also offer their thanks.

"Again, we appreciate it, but expect nothing," Sternadel said. "No one owes us anything."

The event, sponsored by Anderson Dental Clinic, is the brainchild El Campo dentist Dr. Ross Anderson and chaired by youth fair volunteer and veteran Eugene Ott of El Campo.

No additional events are planned at this point.

—Shannon Crabtree

Learning Center highlights history

The Learning Center opens Monday, April 27 and features vintage demonstrations and tools including a milking station, a spindle, and a chicken coop, to name a few.

There is even a table filled with goods from past and present to highlight just

how much times have changed.

Open weekdays from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the school building, the Learning Center gives children and adults alike a glimpse into history and a unique perspective on common, every day items taken for granted.

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2015 WHARTON COUNTY YOUTH FAIR!

Good luck y'all!

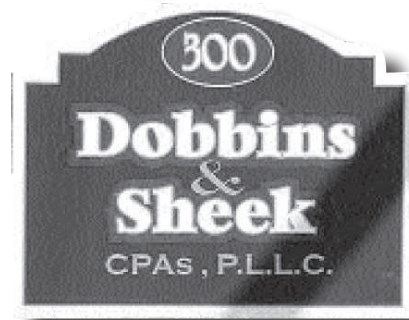
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Best of Luck!
at the
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