

The Roundup



Cal Farley's
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"If we don't stand for something — we'll fall for anything"

Jan/Feb 2009

Boys Ranch Featured On National Television

The Boys Ranch High School Roughrider varsity football team was featured on Toyota's "The Line of Scrimmage" during halftime of NBC's "Sunday Night Football" on December 14 and 21. The Roughriders were chosen to participate as one of the eight "gutsiest teams in the country" who exemplify true devotion to the game of football and the gridiron culture.

A production crew filmed the Roughriders during a full-pad practice in October and interviewed coaches, players and community members. The crew also filmed a Friday night game against a district rival on October 17. With the Roughriders trailing 13-6 in the waning minutes of the fourth quarter, the squad scored a last minute touchdown and two-point conversion to win the game 14-13.

Super Bowl champion running back Jerome Bettis, an NBC sports announcer, was on hand at Boys Ranch to participate in the production. Mr. Bettis told the players that there is "no substitute for hard work" and that lessons on the field are not just football lessons, but they are "life lessons," as well.



Super Bowl running back Jerome Bettis encourages the Boys Ranch football team.

Football Team Makes History

During the summer the Boys Ranch Roughrider football team set its sights on winning a district crown and a chance to compete in the playoffs. The big challenge through the years for the football program is that at the beginning of each season the team consists of players from different parts of the country who have never played football together.

The team chose the slogan "Eyes on the Prize," and with several new coaches and an improved attitude, the team set out to make history. The Roughriders proved almost everyone wrong by tying for second place in the district and earning their first playoff appearance since the program began competing in the Texas University Interscholastic League in 1963.



Roughrider team captains take the field at the first playoff game in BR history.

But it was not easy. The team started out the season losing two of its first three games. A turning point occurred in the fourth game when the team earned a hard fought, come-from-behind victory. They gained confidence and then strung together several more come-from-behind wins to earn their way into the Boys Ranch record

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Anniversary Year

President's Message
By Dan Adams



Times were tough in 1939 when Cal Farley founded Boys Ranch. It wasn't easy for Mr. Farley to generate the necessary funds to finance the operations of his fledgling home for boys. But Cal Farley persisted and the stories he shared of the boys from desperate situations who were being helped at Boys Ranch caught the imagination of kind-hearted individuals and families throughout the country. As a result of his efforts, Americans from every walk of life came to the realization that the Boys Ranch cause was worthy of their support.

Seventy years later Cal Farley's continues to rely on people like you to help us help children and families find a "second chance for success." And once again, our country finds itself in tough times. A struggling economy and the constant pressures of everyday life are causing families to feel left behind. Unfortunately, many are living in circumstances where they feel helplessly trapped. In addition, children are experiencing complex problems caused by broken homes, substance abuse, poverty, and violence in the home and at school.

Like those of our greatest generation who survived and thrived, we will also find the strength, the courage and the will to make the best of what our country has to offer. Throughout the Cal Farley organization we are constantly searching for innovative ways to help make hopes and dreams come alive for the children and families we are privileged to serve.

In 2009, Cal Farley's will honor two extremely important milestones: the 70th anniversary of Cal Farley's Boys Ranch and the 60th anniversary of Cal Farley's Girlstown, U.S.A. These two anniversaries will allow us to recognize a broad range of individuals and groups who have made Cal Farley's one of the most successful and recognized charitable organizations serving children and families in the country. In addition, our plans for 2009 include expanding our services to families by opening our fifth Family Resource Center. This new Center will be located in San Antonio.

We hope you will join us in honoring both organizations during a variety of special events this year. As you may know, March is a special month for Boys Ranch and Girlstown. Cal Farley founded Boys Ranch on March 1, 1939 and Amelia Anthony founded Girlstown on March 13, 1949. With that in mind, we have settled on two March events. On March 10, we will host a special event at the Amarillo Civic Center. Then on March 26, we will host a special celebration at the state capitol in Austin, Texas.

In addition to the March events, we are finalizing plans for events in Lubbock, Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio, and we will inform you of the details very soon.

Thank you for your continued support and friendship. Without people like you, the children in our care would not be able to enjoy a life filled with hope and the opportunity for a successful 2009. Thank you and God bless you and your family throughout the year.

Boys Restore 1957 Studebaker Pickup

In the early 1990s, an almost 40-year-old pickup was donated to Boys Ranch. A decade later the Boys Ranch transportation and automotive mentoring program decided to offer their students an opportunity to restore the 1957 Studebaker to its earlier glory.

In 2003 seven Boys Ranch residents began work on the project under the supervision of Boys Ranch staff member Kevin Stokes. David, a senior, was tasked with rebuilding the motor. The remaining boys began removing the fenders and other body parts in order to strip the pickup down to the frame. They then began the process of sanding and repairing the flaws as it was slowly put back together. Along the way the boys learned new skills and refined many others.

The truck's restoration was completed in December 2004 and its first public appearance occurred a few weeks later during Amarillo's Christmas Parade of Lights. Members of the local NBC affiliate's news, weather and sports team appeared with the truck. According to Allen Willson, Boys Ranch manager of transportation services, there was only room for one of the boys to ride in the cab of the truck during the parade. Unknown to Allen, the boys argued about who deserved the privilege. David, the only senior, was selected to ride inside while the four other boys walked beside the truck along the parade route.

"It was a proud moment for the boys," Mr. Willson said. "And I was

proud of the boys. People would holler 'beautiful truck!' and David would shout back that he helped work on it."

Since that time the Studebaker has appeared in several car shows near and far. Its first appearance was in the Amarillo Make-A-Wish Car Show in 2005 where it received the People's Choice Award.

"The nostalgia of the vehicle just draws people straight to it," Mr. Willson said. "And the color scheme doesn't hurt." The truck is painted in Boys Ranch colors: blue and yellow.

Boy Ranch was invited to show the truck in the 2005 Fredericksburg (Texas) Car Show. It has been invited back three times since then. At the show this past summer, Mr.



Alan and the 1957 Studebaker at the Fredericksburg Car Show

Willson and Alan, a senior, spoke to more than 500 car and truck enthusiasts about the Studebaker and its history.

The next remodel project on the to-do list is a 1927 Model T Roadster. It is currently stripped down to the frame and with a little time, loving care and elbow grease, it should repeat the success of its predecessor at future car shows and parades.

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P.O. Box 1890, Amarillo, Texas 79174; 1-800-687-3722

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Strengthening Children
and Families Since 1939

State Silver

Medalists: Again!

For seven straight years, the Boys Ranch Cross Country team qualified to compete at the state meet. The 2005 team won gold and teams in 2003, 2004 and 2007 won the silver medal.

This year's team ended the regular season with a district title as six of seven runners finished in the top 10. The following weekend the team attempted to repeat as regional champions. Although the top two runners finished in 10th and 11th place, the team placed second overall. At state the squad earned Boys Ranch the silver medal for the fourth time in six years.



State cross country silver medalists.

Playoffs

(Continued from page 1)

books. The Roughriders ended the regular season with a 6-4 record.

"We believed in them enough that they could get it done, and they did!" said Coach Lozano. "That says a lot about their character. No matter what the score was they always had the belief that they could pull it out."

During the bi-district playoff game, the Roughriders battled an undefeated team who held them scoreless until the final quarter. Although Boys Ranch scored 12 unanswered points in the fourth quarter, another come-from-behind victory was not in the cards and the Roughriders lost 24-12.

"Making the playoffs has been a huge step," said Paul Jones, assistant superintendent and athletic director. "The players see what it takes to get it done now. And our Boys Ranch community really started to believe in the kids. It goes back to Cal Farley's philosophy that 'if you believe in these kids, you'll be amazed at what they can do.'"

Kansans Welcome BR Pheasant Hunters

Living in the country allows boys and girls opportunities to experience a wide range of healthy outdoor activities like fishing, hunting and hiking. In October, 19 Boys Ranch youth were invited to a special pheasant hunt near Lakin, Kansas, that allowed the boys opportunities to learn new skills and meet a group of hunting guides that enjoyed sharing the benefits of country life with them. Prior to the trip, all of the boys passed a hunter's safety course.

The hunt was organized through the generosity and volunteer efforts of Lakin's ARK2000 Pheasants Forever chapter, several area game wardens, and members of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

On Saturday morning the boys learned to shoot clay pigeons effectively. It was clear by the end of the session that the boys had improved their skills dramatically. Later in the day the boys were divided into groups to hunt various fields in the area. By the end of the day, the boys had bagged 49 pheasant.

The Kansas guides were truly impressed with the Boys Ranch hunters and have already invited the group back again next year.

"These kids are unbelievably polite and well-behaved," said Kansas Game Warden B.J. Thurman.

Wayne Roth, a Pheasants Forever member, agreed. "Just coming out and being with these kids is neat," he said. "It's good seeing the

community and the game wardens involved with these kids."

According to Richard Higgins, president of the ARK2000 chapter of Pheasants Forever, hunting is a life sport. "The comradery of hunting with these adults and hunting with these youth is what excites me. And we're reinforcing that hunting is about respecting the land and the landowners, respecting the animals, respecting guns, and respecting the other people around you."

"The trip couldn't have been any better," said Mike Lowe, a Boys Ranch house parent. "The kids had a great time, although I think I had more fun watching them than they did hunting."

Eric, 16, acknowledged the efforts made by the hunting guides. "They could be home spending time with their families, but instead they've come to work with us kids," he said. "I appreciate them letting us come, giving us a place to stay, looking out for us, giving us a chance to shoot birds, and allowing us to keep the pheasant we shot."

"It is a great opportunity for this group of kids to come in and be treated well," said Brent Ehlers, Boys Ranch equine and rodeo coordinator. "A lot of times people have a misperception about our kids. These guides are realizing that our kids aren't any different than the local kids. This will build lifelong memories and they will tell stories about the experience for a long time."



A young hunter practices shooting clay pigeons.

Tom Robinson, another Kansas game warden, agreed. "We're looking to make memories for these kids and these Pheasants Forever guys put on one heck-of-a-hunt. They bent over backwards to get these kids here."

Mr. Robinson's favorite memory from the trip occurred when his 7-month-old pup and an older dog spotted a bird. "Both dogs locked on point, and one of the kids I was with got in there and dropped a bird. The dog went and got the bird and brought it back. As we were walking along a little bit later the boy said, 'You know, when those dogs go on point, it makes me smile.' It makes me smile too," Mr. Robinson said.

"Thank God for places like Cal Farley's Boys Ranch that give these kids a chance," Mr. Roth said.

And thank God for the honest, hardworking folks of Lakin, Kansas, who provided 19 boys an enjoyable weekend of excitement, fellowship and healthy outdoor fun.

REMEMBER LOVED ONES

Contributions in memory of a loved one or to honor a birthday, wedding, anniversary or a friend in need of encouragement are appreciated. In times of joy or sadness, others are comforted by gifts that help deserving youngsters. For your convenience, we welcome contributions by cash; American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa credit cards; electronic funds transfer by calling 1-800-687-3722; or through www.calfarley.org.

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Cal Farley's Christmas Traditions



The Christmas season offers many opportunities for joyful celebrations at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch and Cal Farley's Girlstown, U.S.A. Traditionally, it is a time for our residents to enjoy family and friends, celebrate the birth of Christ, and count one's blessings. This past December, Boys Ranch celebrated its 70th Christmas and Girlstown enjoyed its 60th Christmas celebration.

Each campus has its own Christmas traditions, but there are similarities between the two campuses, including a special musical production featuring residents, staff, and staff children. Food is also prevalent at both locations, and the homes set aside a special time to spend an evening together opening gifts with one another.

This year's Boys Ranch Chapel Christmas included a simple and reverent musical production. Cast members shared the Christmas story through Bible readings, music, and communion.

Girlstown hosted an open house for visitors followed by an original Christmas musical titled "Possum Potion." The musical was written by Girlstown chaplains Mike McClung and Sandy Pape. "Possum Potion" told the story of a pair of sisters struggling to find hope in a small western town during Christmastime in the late 1800s.

Prior to the holiday break, the Boys Ranch elementary choir and the middle and high school combined choir sang Christmas carols at service clubs, businesses, retirement centers and nursing homes in Amarillo. The caroling is an opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas with others through music.

After all of the celebrations, most of the boys and girls returned home to spend time with their families for approximately ten days of the holiday break. Those children who were unable to return home enjoyed a variety of specially planned outings and activities at Boys Ranch and Girlstown.

The Christmas season is always an important opportunity for adult staff members to strengthen their relationships with the boys and girls in care. According to Boys Ranch Senior Chaplain Mike Wilhelm, "It's a beautiful thing that God accomplishes through the lives of individuals at Cal Farley's."

