

# The Roundup

**63rd Annual  
Cal Farley's  
Boys Ranch  
Rodeo  
Sept. 1 and 2**



**Cal Farley's**  
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Amarillo, TX 79174

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Vol. LVIII-No. 4 "Recognition, sprinkled with understanding and friendly criticism will work wonders with a child." July/August 2007

## Miss Texas Reigns at Cal Farley's

Shilah Phillips, Miss Texas 2006, recently visited Girlstown, U.S.A. and Boys Ranch. Ms. Phillips is an accomplished vocalist currently studying with the renowned jazz program at the University of North Texas. She was also a contestant on the popular television reality show "American Idol."

A committee of residents from each campus helped plan the activities for Ms. Phillips prior to her arrival. Britnee, a sophomore at Boys Ranch High School, said, "Being able to plan stuff and be in control of the event really made me feel responsible and I like it."

A tour of the campuses and a special dinner were planned at each campus. Ms. Phillips sang a variety of popular songs and shared a positive message of "Never Giving Up." Her message to the youth emphasized the importance of gaining a quality education and living a healthy lifestyle.

"I think being at a place like Cal Farley's gives you stability," Ms. Phillips told the students after spending two days at the Cal Farley campuses. "You know that here you'll always have electricity, running water and a hot meal, and that is not always the case when you are on your own. I came from a broken home and had to live without a lot of things." She explained that because of her childhood, she has a special appreciation for the \$40,000 she has been awarded in college scholarships as a result of her winning the Miss Texas crown.

*(Continued on page 3)*



*Lacy, Tayla, and Shannon prepare to take Miss Texas on a horse-drawn carriage tour of the Girlstown, U.S.A. campus.*

## Theater Students Perform In Summer Musical

Three Boys Ranch residents were cast in "Fiddler on the Roof," the Summer Youth Musical produced by Civic Amarillo in association with the Amarillo Opera.

Hailey, Andrew and Issac have participated in theater through Boys Ranch High School's fine arts program. They were excited about the opportunity to participate in a musical during the summer break.

"We were given the music and had to learn it before we went to auditions," Andrew, 17, said.

More than 100 children and teenagers from the area auditioned for the production and 61 of them were cast. Another 20 youth were selected for the orchestra.

"I was excited when I found out that I had made the cast because I really wasn't too sure that I'd make it," Issac, 16, said.

Most of the kids who were chosen for the production had formal training in either voice or dance, or both. This fact made Hailey nervous before auditioning for a part.

"I really was not interested in even trying out because I knew the other kids would have way more training than me," Hailey, 16, said.

*(Continued on page 3)*



*Andrew, Hailey and Issac performed in the Summer Youth Musical, "Fiddler on the Roof."*

## Family Resource Center to Open in Austin

President's Message  
By Dan Adams



In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson spoke of the importance of family values at Howard University in Washington, D.C.:

"The family is the cornerstone of our society. More than any other force it shapes the attitude, the hopes, the ambitions, and the values of the child. And when the family collapses, it is the children that are usually damaged. When it happens on a massive scale the community itself is crippled."

Though Johnson was speaking of societal issues of the 1960s, the reality is that families continue to be of critical importance to the integrity and stability of the American way of life.

Cal Farley's receives thousands of calls each year from families reaching out for help, typically anticipating placement of their child in one of our campus programs. The vast majority of these children we cannot help because of our limited capacity in terms of how many we can take into care at one time. In most cases, there is an identified "problem child" as the reason for the family crisis. However, in some instances, the answer may lie in some level of intervention other than placement of that child out of the home.

In order to be responsive to needs we see people struggling with, and in the spirit of meeting our goal to serve as many children and families as we can with the resources we have, we have been operating three Family Resource Centers in Amarillo, Arlington, and Houston. In these offices, Family Case Managers work with children and families in their own communities and in their own homes. Sometimes we work with the families because they have children in our campus care and we want to keep them connected. In other circumstances, however, our approach is to help the family work through issues in a manner that keeps a child from having to go into out-of-home placement.

In October of this year, we plan to open another Family Resource Center in Austin, Texas. This will be a very important initiative for us, not only because we have received quite a few referrals from that area, but also due to the location being in close proximity to the regulatory and legislative worlds where there is currently much activity that impacts our work. Look forward to hearing more about the innovative things we are doing in community based services and how things develop in our outreach efforts.

## BR Alum Sets a Positive Example for Camp Kids

Scott Whitehurst is a member of the 2005 graduating class of Boys Ranch High School. He currently attends the University of Texas at Tyler with the goal of becoming a child psychologist. "I think this might be because my childhood was not always good, and I know that Boys Ranch made a difference," Scott said.

Scott believes that the experience of working as a youth camp counselor will help him with his chosen career path, so last summer he began working at Camp Kiowa, located in Denton, Texas. Camp Kiowa is a unique camp that offers traditional recreational activities, but also hosts a group of professionals who mentor kids in diverse areas, such as video editing, science and rocketry, Lego robotics, dance and cooking. According to Brian Manhart, the camp's director and owner, the program lets kids enjoy "unique opportunities that allow them to understand and see where their personal strengths are."

Scott's experience with Camp Kiowa last year showed him that one of his strengths is working with youngsters. He enjoyed the experience so much that he returned to the Texas Woman's University campus as a counselor again this summer.

Manhart says that Scott has done a phenomenal job and he is one of the best team players the camp employs. "Scott has shared with me that there are two things that have impacted him dramatically in his life," Manhart said. "One is Camp Kiowa and the time he has spent with us, but on a bigger note, he says that the folks at Cal Farley's have allowed him to succeed in everything that he has done. The support that he gets -

everything goes back to Boys Ranch." Manhart recalled that last year, "One of the first things that Scott showed me was the Cal Farley newsletter and he said, 'This is where I grew up.' He's very proud of it."

Children attending Camp Kiowa represent several states and can stay from one to four weeks. This year's camp included students from Japan and France. Though Boys Ranch may seem a world



*A child attending Camp Kiowa shows the rocket he made to Camp Counselor and Boys Ranch graduate Scott Whitehurst*

away from some of these places, Scott has been able to use his Cal Farley's experience to relate with the campers. "I remember a kid from an area of Dallas that was not the greatest, and he seemed somewhat embarrassed," Scott said. "I told him that one of my best friends at Boys Ranch was from that same area, and then I told him what Cal Farley said: 'It's not where you've been, but where you're going that counts.' It seemed to fit perfectly." Scott appears to have applied the same lesson to his own life, as well.



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*Strengthening Children and Families Since 1939*

## Miss Texas

(Continued from page 1)

Miss Phillips was a newcomer to pageants when she entered Miss Texas. She is the first African-American to represent the Lone Star State as Miss Texas and she was First Runner-up at the Miss America competition.

"I was real excited because Miss Texas was black, and it made me feel good about my own culture," Brisha, 16, said. "I know that the kids who heard her speak really enjoyed it."

Britnee agreed. "She really seemed to understand us because she has been where we have, and it was easy to relate to her," she said.

## Fiddler

(Continued from page 1)

"But my theater teacher convinced me to try out and I learned all the words to the music the day before auditions."

Contrary to her shyness, Hailey has become an accomplished actress at Boys Ranch, racking up Honorable Mention, All-Star Cast and Best Actress awards during One-Act Play competitions.

The rigorous auditions were immediately followed by long days of rehearsal. Memorizing lines and music, and learning dance steps were some of the activities the young actors worked on. They rehearsed Monday thru Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for six weeks.

"I had to miss out on church camp and the senior backpacking trip because the show was so time consuming," Andrew said. "But it's worth it because the show was really important to me and it's such a big production. I'm excited to be a part of it."

A professional crew of artistic directors and stage hands helped the cast members prepare for the show's grand opening. Professionalism, theater and dance terminology (even how to execute a grand plié dance step) and time management were just a few of the details the teenagers enjoyed learning.

"It was a really good experience, and I loved every minute," Hailey said. "I hope kids who want to do it next year will get the chance."

The cast of "Fiddler on the Roof" presented four performances for exuberant audiences July 12 - 15 at the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts in Amarillo.

## Riding, Roping and Recognition at the Boys Ranch Rodeo

Put on your boots, grab your hat and hold on tight - it's almost time for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Rodeo where thousands of visitors are expected to witness heart-pounding, hoof-stomping events spotlighting the talented boys and girls living at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch and Cal Farley's Girlstown, U.S.A.

Be sure to join them as they prove that hard work and training will make this year's rodeo one of the most exciting to date. Watch out for Carla - last year she tied for the Junior All-Around award. This year she plans to make an impact again. "I'm stepping up to compete for the Senior All-Around Cowgirl saddle," she said. Rodeo training began in May as the youngsters at Boys Ranch were taught by several professional rodeo cowboys at the annual Rodeo Bible School. These professionals teach riding and roping skills, rodeo safety techniques, interspersed with biblical life applications. The school provides new friendships, a deeper understanding of

God's love for every individual and an energized group of youngsters eagerly waiting for the Boys Ranch Rodeo which will be held Labor Day weekend, September 1-2.

Don Gates, livestock manager and 4-H coordinator at Girlstown, U.S.A., said the Girlstown girls are also working very hard and having fun while improving their horsemanship, even though most are beginners at rodeo. "The girls are building and gaining self-esteem, acquiring respect for others, learning to work as a team and striving to be competitive," he said. Kelsi, a Girlstown resident, agrees. "Rodeo has helped me to develop my own strength and worth and it has given me a future." Kelsi plans to continue her education using a rodeo scholarship to help meet her goals of becoming an equine therapist and youth minister.

The rodeo weekend also serves as the Boys Ranch alumni reunion - the traditional homecoming for alumni and their families. The alumni travel "home" for the weekend to enjoy good fellowship, renew acquaintances and attend business meetings for their alumni association. They also make new friends with current residents and lend their support and cheers at the Rodeo.

The two-day celebration will be filled with fun for the entire family and will include breathtaking rodeo events and a tasty barbecue meal - all for only \$5! Make plans to join the boys and girls of Cal Farley's for the Labor Day weekend as they welcome our alumni and supporters who travel from around the country to applaud and help fulfill the Ranch's goal of providing fans with thrilling rodeo action and the children with recognition for a job well-done. As Cal Farley said, "Recognition oils the wheels of all great achievements."



2006 Rodeo winners: All-Around Cowboy, Nick; All-Around Cowgirl, Callie; and All-Around Junior, Cody.



### 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](http://www.calfarley.org).



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## A "Patriotic and Spiritual" Youth Cowboy Poetry & Music Gathering

Sounds of western music, the aroma of barbecue and laughter filled the air at the Sixth Annual Youth Cowboy Poetry & Music Gathering. Cal Farley's residents, and youth from across the country, gathered together for poetry, music, food, fun and workshops. The Gathering was held June 15-17, 2007.

The Gathering's primary purpose is to offer young people an opportunity to learn western folklore, cowboy values, the history and culture of the Old West, and to keep the cowboy storytelling tradition alive.



*YCP & MG participants show off the stick horses they made in a workshop at Boys Ranch.*



*Members of the stick horse workshop say, "Look what we made with Jean!"*



*Youngsters learn the fine art of chuckwagon cooking.*



*Entertainer Dan Roberts shoes a horse.*

This year the Friday evening performance was held at the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts in Amarillo. Many enjoyed the poetry and music of Chris Isaacs, Dave Stamey, Joel Nelson and Red Steagall. Also featured was our very own Boys Ranch Cowboy Poetry Team.

"I felt that having the Friday performance in town helped us promote Cal Farley's Boys Ranch to a wider audience," said Dan Adams, Cal Farley's president and CEO.

Mike King, a Cal Farley's board member, was among those in attendance at the Friday evening event. "I really enjoyed the student performers of the Boys Ranch Cowboy Poetry Team. All of them did an outstanding job. The overall theme was very patriotic, almost a spiritual kind of evening."

The singers and poets provided an enjoyable evening of fun that echoed through the auditorium. "The entertainment was fabulous," said King. "We had a great time."

More than 400 supporters gathered with their families for an evening of rekindling the cowboy lifestyle.

"I enjoyed watching several folks sitting around me smiling and laughing, hearing those old stories and songs," said Trish Quarles, a Gathering volunteer. "Cowboy Poetry is about honoring and respecting our elders, it is about looking back into the past. It gives some people a chance to remember another place and time and others a chance to see where those folks came from."

Jo Ann Bell instructed the children in the "Designing an Indian Bag" workshop. "All of the children loved it. They think it's really fun," she said. "Our goal is to showcase the kids and provide a foundation of enjoyment for them."

Dylan, a Boys Ranch resident, made a serving platter in the "Rope Art" workshop. "I made the platter for my house parents. They were so excited and said it was the best present they ever got."

Workshops were offered to youth ranging from "Make Your Own Stick horse" to "Roping Workshops". The activities were free to youth participants. While the Gathering was geared for younger folks, there was plenty to keep the adults occupied, including a western arts and trade show, adult seminars, a chuck wagon lunch, and just good ol' fashion cowboy tales.

Mike Eales, a first-time adult participant, attended the "Loading Your Horse" seminar. "What I saw was one of the most amazing demonstrations in the understanding of animal behavior I've ever seen," said Eales.

The Saturday evening event closed with a chuck wagon dinner and evening entertainment by The Gillette Brothers, Jean Prescott, Dave Stamey, and Chris Isaacs, and a Saturday night western dance with Dan Roberts and Band providing the music.

The Gathering concluded on Sunday with a cowboy chapel service led by Jeff Gore, an open-mike Christian poetry session and lunch on the lawn of the Julian Bivins Museum.



*Workshop participants grasp the art of roping.*



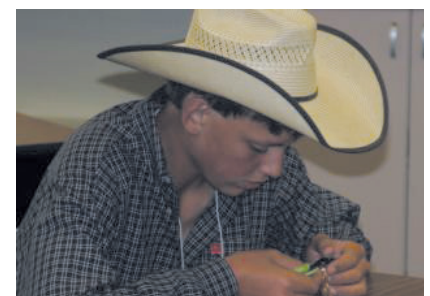
*Chuck Milner teaches a string instrument seminar.*



*Two seminar participants show off their Rope Art!*



*Guy Gillette of "The Gillette Brothers" signs one of his musical bones.*



*A youth braids a hatband during a leather braiding seminar.*