

The Roundup

Cal Farley's
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"Boys and girls have more need for models than critics."

September/October 2007

Everyone's a Winner at the 63rd Annual Boys Ranch Rodeo

The smell of barbecue lingered in the air while thousands of family, friends, staff and alumni cheered the participants in the 63rd Annual Boys Ranch Rodeo.

Cowboys and cowgirls between the ages of 4-18 showed off their skills in the various events, including mutton busting and stick-horse barrel racing, calf and bull riding, roping, pole bending and barrel racing. The bullfighters, also known as rodeo clowns, provided comic relief throughout the day with their antics and creative skits, all while performing the more serious job of protecting the riders.

Preparations for the Rodeo began at the beginning of the summer with the Rodeo Bible School. Tim Jobe, the rodeo director, knows firsthand how much hard work and time is put into the rodeo. "Our bull riders, barrel racers and pole benders get to learn from some of the best professional rodeo instructors in the country who come and donate their time to teach our kids about rodeo and their relationship with Christ."

The eager rodeo riders at Boys Ranch and Girlstown participate in practices almost every week throughout the summer. It takes dedication by the kids to gain progress and improve their skills all summer until they are ready to showcase their ability on rodeo day.

"It takes many hours of practice - practically year round - to hone their horsemanship skills to be able to compete well," Mr. Jobe said. "It is great to see kids start with a lot of apprehension and self doubt, only to end up as very confident in their own abilities. Rodeo teaches them that they can accomplish things that seem impossible."

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Rodeo saddle winners: Robert, Junior All-Around Cowboy; Carla, Senior All-Around Cowgirl; Joe Ben, Senior All-Around Cowboy.

National and State FFA Officers Visit Cal Farley's Boys Ranch



Boys Ranch FFA officers take a moment to pose with national, regional and state officers who visited the campus.

Three special guests were welcomed to Boys Ranch during the first week of school in August. The national FFA president, eastern regional FFA vice president and the Texas state president were treated to a tour and meal at Boys Ranch during their brief stay.

"We visit local chapters and attend other FFA activities to build relationships on the local level," said Beau Williamson, national FFA president. "This is who we represent, and it is important that we interact with them."

Boys Ranch youth are involved in agricultural related opportunities through the vocational program, the beef program, horseback riding, rodeo, the equine assisted learning program and FFA. With almost 30 kids involved in the FFA organization at Boys Ranch, students can participate in many different projects.

"In the fall, FFA members will be putting their show pig and goat projects on feed to compete at various stock shows in the spring," said Sarah, the Boys Ranch FFA chapter vice president. "Also, students will be training for leadership events that take place in November, along with stock shows, judging contests and the state convention in the summer."

According to Lance Wann and Steven Hays, Boys Ranch agriculture teachers, "Students are encouraged to join FFA for the hands-on learning opportunities that are provided to them. FFA provides endless opportunities to learn how to speak in front of people, improve decision-making skills during judging contests and learn how to be responsible for caring and improving the health of different livestock."

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A Successful Summer

President's Message
By Dan Adams



The school year is back in full swing and the children and youth on our campuses are busy in their respective classrooms and participating in a variety of extracurricular activities like football, cheerleading, cross country, FFA and 4H.

We enjoyed an extremely productive summer. Many of our children spent part of their summer vacations at home with their families. Boys Ranch and Girlstown also provided vibrant summer programs that kept our youngsters busy and engaged. Girlstown offered several adventurous outings to New Mexico that included biking, hiking and backpacking. Boys Ranch youth also enjoyed opportunities to enjoy a variety of outdoor activities like kayaking, fishing and camping.

We were also busy elsewhere. This summer we were notified that Cal Farley's earned re-accreditation by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children, Inc (COA). Cal Farley's first became accredited in April 1999. COA is an independent, non-profit accrediting body that has accredited hundreds of behavioral healthcare, social and community service providers in the United States and Canada. COA's mission is to "actively promote and improve the quality of social and mental health services that support and improve the lives of families and children and the well-being of society."

What does this mean for children served by Cal Farley's and the people who support our mission? For an organization to become accredited, it must meet nationally established requirements that help ensure quality service. Accreditation provides an independent assessment that the organization performs services that the community needs, conducts its operations safely and effectively, and manages its funds wisely.

Another important milestone was the "passing of the gavel" at the Annual Board Meeting on September 19th as Alan Roberson completed his second term as Chairman of the Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Board, and Bud Joyner was elected as the Board Chair for the next two years. We will certainly take the opportunity in our publications over the next few months to provide you with more news about both of these gentlemen.

We are extremely proud of the efforts our Board of Directors and our staff continue to put forth to provide the best quality care to the children and families we serve. And we couldn't do this without the support of folks like you. Thank you for your thoughtful prayers, encouraging notes and your continued financial support. Please drop by for a visit and a meal.

BR Seniors Learn Citizenship Responsibilities at Boys and Girls State

More than 1,000 students from the state of Texas participated in the American Legion Boys State and the American Legion Auxiliary Bluebonnet Girls State. Boys Ranch High School seniors Sterling and Donald were chosen by the faculty to participate in their respective summer camp.

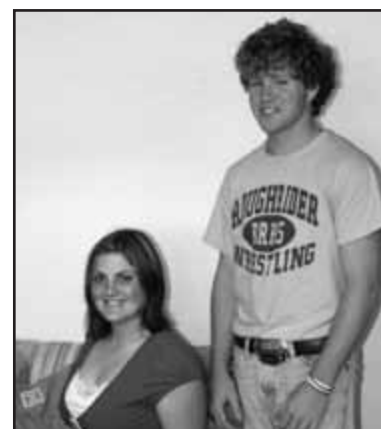
Boys and Girls State is a summer leadership and citizenship program. The purpose is to educate young men and women in the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship. The week-long summer camp creates a mythical 51st state where the citizens of Boys and Girls State organize their own city, county and state governments.

"I was not sure of what to expect," Sterling said. "I honestly thought it was going to be boring and that I would have to listen to a lot of speakers. But once I got there and made a bunch of friends, I realized it was going to be cool after all."

Upon their arrival at Boys and Girls State, the citizens were divided into "cities." The citizens elected their peers as city, county, and state officials.

Sterling campaigned for several "city" and "county" offices and her consistent efforts were rewarded. She was elected to a position within the Department of Public Safety. Donald was elected Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Along with other seniors from throughout the state, they introduced and debated their own bills in a mock legislature. The program concluded with a visit to the State Capitol building in Austin where the citizens were given an opportunity to sightsee and meet state officials.



Sterling (left) and Donald participated in the Boys and Girls State summer leadership program.

"One of the neatest things I got to do," Sterling said, "was that I debated a mandatory community service bill on the Senate floor of the capitol." She also said she enjoyed the opportunity to stand where Texas Senators debate actual legislation.

Throughout the week many outstanding government speakers delivered a variety of messages to the students. After hearing a member of the Texas House of Representatives, Donald made a life-changing decision. "I wasn't real interested in politics before I went to Boys State," Donald said. "But after hearing him (the Texas Representative) speak, I changed my decision on what I want to major in college." Donald now wants to major in engineering and law.

"It is neat for me to see that these two kids from a very small school were able to get involved and enjoy their time at the camps," said Boys Ranch High School Counselor Ann Dunavin. "They just seemed to fit right in."

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Strengthening Children
and Families Since 1939

Alumni Return for Fun, Fellowship and Friendship

The Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Alumni Association hosted a special celebration for the Boys Ranch High School graduating class of 1967's 40th anniversary reunion in conjunction with their annual gathering at the Boys Ranch Rodeo.

"This was the best year ever. We had close to 300 alumni in attendance," said Bill Sarpalus. "My class of 1967 had over half of our class (12) return for the reunion; one classmate (Ronnie Bennett) traveled all the way from Australia."



Boys Ranch alumnus Roy Dormire (1967) wears his 40th class reunion shirt.

FFA

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Justin Self, Texas state FFA president, agrees. "The FFA organization has instilled in me a great deal of purpose and direction. From the respect and responsibilities gained through raising livestock, to the opportunity afforded through FFA scholarships, to the spiritual growth facilitated by the outlet, FFA has become my call to serve humanity."

After visiting with the national and state officers, the Boys Ranch FFA members learned what it takes to become a state and national officer, as well as how to plan a fun and successful FFA meeting.

When asked to describe their trip to Boys Ranch, Beau and Justin used words like, "amazing," "blessing," "phenomenal," "life-altering" and "humbling."

"But if I had to pick one word, I would say 'opportunity,'" Beau said. "Those students are given an opportunity that literally helps them to experience life change. And the best part about it is they continue using that gift you give to them throughout their lives."

According to Scott Carriker (class of 1978), Cal Farley provided the boys and girls who live, or have lived, at Boys Ranch a family environment. "We ate together, worked together, lived together, and went to church together. Alumni have a relationship that is unique. When we leave the Ranch, it is like leaving your family."

The alumni association wants to help all alumni, including the girls served by Cal Farley's Girlstown, U.S.A., have the opportunity to remain in touch with their extended family. The mission of the association is to develop "a professional network of former Ranchers who seek to carry on the spirit of family through fellowship, association and support."

The association currently has two fully chartered local chapters in Dallas and in the California region. A provisional charter was awarded in 2007 to the Amarillo chapter. Local chapters serve to localize the experience of the national alumni base.



Boys Ranch alumni Soapy Dollar (1967) and Tom Alvarez (1966).



Billy Bob Touchstone (1986) receives an award of appreciation for his service as a board member from Tom Maynard (1982), president of the Alumni Association.

"We are a non-profit association whose primary interest is helping any boy or girl who lived at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch (or Girlstown, U.S.A.)," Bill said.

"We just want to continue to relate together in a way that is a natural development of the relationships that we started at Boys Ranch (and Girlstown) and to allow our unity to be a source of strength to us," Scott said. "As in a family, the need for those relationships does not end when you graduate from high school."

The association is governed by an elected board of directors, and seven committees lay the groundwork for alumni business. A special needs committee has put in place a dedicated fund to assist alumni in times of need.

"Cal Farley recognized the value of a strong alumni association and what it could give to Boys Ranch," Bill said. "The success of the alumni shows the success and value of Boys Ranch."

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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07RGR

Rodeo Winners Awarded Saddles, Boots and Buckles

(Continued from page 1)

The two-day event ended on Sunday afternoon after the points were tallied. Prize belt buckles, boots and saddles were awarded to the winners of the various events. The top three riders were Robert, 14, Junior All-Around Cowboy; Carla, 15, Senior All-Around Cowgirl; and Joe Ben, 16, Senior All-Around Cowboy.

"It takes courage to win when you're so nervous," Robert said. "You have to face your fears. I covered both days and it just felt good. I felt like I was free."

Carla has been at Cal Farley's for 13 years and this was her second Boys Ranch Rodeo. "I was really thinking I wouldn't win because I knocked over a barrel," she said. "It takes a lot of courage because it is hard getting out there in front of an audience."

Joe Ben has participated in the Rodeo for 13 years. He began riding a stick-horse at the Rodeo when he was only four years old. "It takes lots of try," he said. "It takes going the extra mile to stay on the bull. I was real excited about winning. I've been working for it for a long time."



Girlstown's Annual Family Workshop Offers Learning Experience

Girlstown hosted a Family Workshop in August that brought together the families of the girls in residence. The workshop, titled "Our Great Adventure," allowed the girls and their parents, siblings and other family members to participate in a variety of therapeutic, adventure-based group-learning activities led by Girlstown staff that used equine, biking, hiking and a ropes course in order to help improve relationships and learn teamwork skills.

One set of parents said that they were involved in the previous three workshops and that this was the best one yet. Other parents commented about how it had been years since they had ridden a bike and, after having a good time, promised they would take up riding again. By far the biggest response on the part of the parents was their amazement at what their children had learned while at Girlstown and could now teach them regarding the four activities.

According to one parent, "The day was so well planned and organized that it was easy to see that I made the right decision in placing my daughters at Girlstown."

