

Fort Hays coach takes rodeo to Spain

Instead of the traditional matadors and banderilleros, the bullfighting rings of Spain will host the spur-jingling, steer-wrestling, team-roping rodeo riders of Fort Hays State University's rodeo coach Charles "Bronc" Rumford's traveling rodeo show.

According to an article in "Western Horseman," Rumford has teamed up with GP Spain, ESFM Entertainment and the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association to bring the entertainment of traditional American rodeo to the bull-fighting rings of Spain.

"If you look at the culture in Spain, you can see the traditions, characteristics and traits of the western cowboy all started over there," said Rumford. "We're going back to our roots to show them what they started."

He is no stranger to rodeos in the United States, having worked with them his entire life through his company, Rumford Rodeo. But taking the fun of rodeo overseas presents several unique challenges.

"In the states, the venues are pretty well set up already, especially in the summertime outdoor

arenas. In Spain, we are going to use bullfighting rings, so a lot of the facilities to house and hold the livestock are there, but most of the arena, the bucking and roping chutes and all that type of stuff will have to be set up within the layout of that bull ring, which takes some more thought, time and labor," said Rumford.

He is taking 66 competitors who compete either part or full time at the professional level. Quite a few of those competitors are Fort Hays alumni.

Three students from the Fort Hays Rodeo Team will accompany Rumford overseas: Jenna Roland, Quenten Hall and Ty Rumford, Bronc's son.

The three students will be red-shirted this year and won't participate in rodeo, but Rumford says they'll be back next year, and all the better for their trip to Spain.

While Rumford is gone, assistant rodeo coach Ross Russell will be in charge of the team.

For information and results on the 2009 European Rodeo Tour, visit the Fort Hays Rodeo Club's Web site at www.fhsu.edu/rodeo/index.shtml.

Catch that wild critter!



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Dylan and Dalton Bice, 4-year-old twin sons of Tony and Lisa Bice of Rexford, practiced their roping skills on each other Thursday. Their father says they are already rodeo stars, having placed in the top ten in barrel races in National Barrel Horse Association rodeos.

Campaign targets violence

Every Kansan can play a meaningful part in preventing domestic violence — that's the message behind the "Believe it. Help Change It." campaign sponsored by Governor Mark Parkinson's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board.

The campaign, which began in early July, aims to bring the reality of domestic violence out of the shadows and empower Kansans to get involved in their communities to halt aggression and abuse. With everyone committed, citizens will be able to take the appropriate action when domestic violence is discovered, the group says.

"Believe it. Help Change It." promotes 10 things every Kansan can do to end domestic violence, including:

- Know the Facts — Domestic violence happens more often than many people think. Raising awareness is the first step toward positive change.

- Learn the Resources — In Kansas, anyone can dial 1-888-END-ABUSE to find programs serving their area.

- Look and Listen — Kansans should learn to recognize signs of abuse and know how to start a conversation about it.

If you are a victim of domestic violence or know someone who is, you can call (888) END ABUSE ((888) 363-2287) to find resources that can help. For information on the campaign, go to www.Help-changeKansas.com.

University graduates two

Two area students received degrees from the University of Kansas after the summer session.

Adam Randall Smith, Colby High School graduate and son of Randy and Linda Smith of Colby, received a Master of Science in computer engineering.

Daniel Walter Meyer, Hoxie High School graduate and son of Michael and Denise Meyer, Hoxie, received a Bachelor of Arts in psychology.

There is only a spring commencement ceremony.

Baby safety takes a look at environment, practices in home

Topeka — September is Baby Safety Month, and Safe Kids Kansas reminds parents and caregivers to plan ahead to make safe spaces for babies "at home, at play and on the way."

Safe Kids Kansas director, Cherie Sage, has the following basic safety tips for children ages 0-3:

In the nursery: Remove pillows, soft bedding such as blankets or bumper guards, and toys out of your baby's crib. Make sure you cannot fit a soda can between the crib slats. Make sure the crib's corner posts are the same height as the end panels. The mattress should fit snugly inside the frame without gaps. Keep beds, cribs and other furniture away from windows so kids can't climb up. Window screens are meant to keep things out, not in. Infants should always be placed to sleep on their backs (face up).

Note: Unaccustomed sleep position is also an issue. The American Academy of Pediatrics states parents and care providers need to be aware that infants who are normally placed to sleep on their backs, who are then placed on their stomachs to sleep, are as much as

18 times more likely to die from SIDS. Infants who are regularly placed to sleep on their stomachs have a five times greater risk of dying of SIDS than children who are placed to sleep on their backs.

Make it a rule that they should always be placed on their back to sleep. This important conversation needs to take place before the child is cared for and should be reinforced by both the parent and providers on a regular basis.

In the kitchen: Never leave a hot stove unattended. Cook with pots and pans on back burners. Turn pot handles to the back of the stove. Keep hot liquids, poisons, lighters, matches and electrical cords out of reach. Don't let children under age 3 eat small, round or hard foods such as hot dogs, grapes, hard candy, nuts or popcorn.

In the bath: Mix hot and cold water together, and test the temperature before putting the baby in. Set your hot water heater to 120 degrees to help prevent scalding. Never leave a baby alone in the bath.

In the water: Never leave your baby unattended in or near water,

even for a second. Empty and turn over all buckets and wading pools as soon as you are done using them. Pools should be fenced on all four sides and have self-closing gates.

In the play room: Do not use baby walkers. Use stationary play centers instead. Look for well-made toys and follow age and safety information on warning labels. Check regularly for damage such as sharp edges. Keep toys with small parts or other choking hazards away from children under age 3. Avoid toys that can become hazards. Toys with strings, straps or cords longer than 7 inches can accidentally strangle children. Electrical toys are a potential burn hazard. Children under age 8 should not use toys with electrical plugs or batteries. Make sure toys are stored safely. Choose toy chests with hydraulic lids to prevent entrapment, or remove the lid. Make sure toy chests have

ventilation holes, as well, to prevent suffocation in case a child becomes trapped inside.

In the home: Install guards on windows that you will open, and tie up cords on curtains and blinds to prevent strangulation. Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors on every floor and outside all sleeping areas. Install safety gates at top and bottom of stairs. Always strap babies into high chairs, swings, changing tables and strollers. Keep cleaning products, medicines, and other poisons locked and out of reach. Keep the poison control hotline number, (800) 222-1222, and emergency numbers by every phone and programmed into cell phones.

In the car: All children ages 13 and under should be properly restrained in a back seat on every ride. Choose and use correctly the right restraint for your child. Infants should ride in rear-facing car

seats as long as possible, until they are at least 1 year old and weigh at least 20 pounds. Keep children rear-facing to 30-35 pounds if your car seat allows it. Children who are at least 1 year old, weigh 20 to 40 pounds, and can no longer ride rear-facing should ride in forward-facing car seats secured with harnesses. Always check the harness for proper fit according to the car seat manufacturer.

Baby Safety Month is an annual observance led by the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association since 1991. For more information about Baby Safety Month, visit www.jpma.org. For more information about Child Passenger Safety, visit www.usa.safekids.org.

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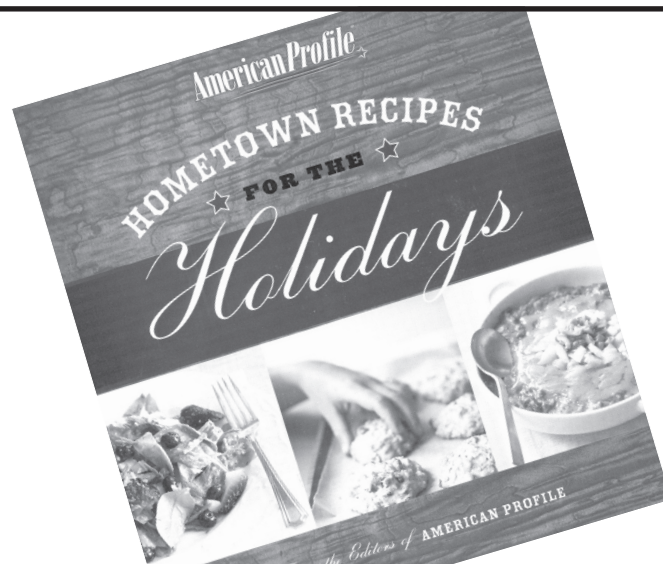
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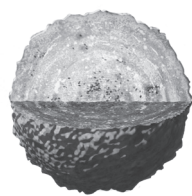


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