



May 2007

Vision Statement: People experiencing the highest quality of life regardless of the challenges.

Mission Statement: To improve lives by connecting people with supports and services.

Dare to Dream . . .

Nominate the Gary J. Daniels Sunbelt Rodeo Arena as one of the Eight Wonders of Kansas

By Carolyn Martin

The Kansas Sampler Foundation wants help selecting the Eight Wonders of Kansas. The Kansas Sampler Foundation categorizes rural culture by eight elements: architecture, art, commerce, cuisine, customs, geography, history, and people. They developed the rural culture elements to help the public see Kansas communities with new eyes and to help communities assess who they are and what they have.

To be considered, the nominations must be accessible to the public, likely to be around for a while, and not be part of a franchise. While events are not being considered, one of the sample ideas the website included under the category of "customs" is the Flint Hills Rodeo Grounds, in Strong City, so why not nominate our own rodeo grounds in the competition?

Next year on Kansas Day, January 29, 2008, Gov. Sebelius will announce the Eight Wonders of Kansas. Wouldn't it be great if the Gary J. Daniels Sunbelt Rodeo Arena were recognized as one of the Eight Wonders of Kansas? The idea of nominating the Gary J. Daniels Sunbelt Rodeo Arena for this recognition might initially have people scratching their heads in wonder. What is so unique about our dusty (or muddy) arena to consider nominating it as one of the Eight Wonders of Kansas? What distinguishes it from other rodeo grounds anywhere else?

As you consider the following statements, ask yourself, "Do these things happen in any other rodeo arena in Kansas (or other place for that matter)?" Framed this way, you will see how the rural customs which are the heart of our very own Gary J. Daniels Sunbelt Rodeo Arena are "wonder"-ful enough to deserve your nomination as a one-of-a-kind wonder of Kansas.

1. Consider the wonder of individuals with developmental disabilities experiencing the thrills of rodeo competition in our arena.
2. Consider the wonder of participants of any age, from any location regardless of their disability, invited to participate in a rodeo in our arena.
3. Consider the wonder of over 300 volunteers giving their time, equipment, and horses to promote this one-of-a-kind rodeo in our arena.
4. Consider the wonder of volunteers returning year after year to celebrate the excitement and success of the competitors in our arena.
5. Consider the wonder which occurs as participants develop self-esteem and confidence while learning to ride, caring for animals, and making new friends in our arena.
6. Consider the wonder that occurs when families share in the success of the rodeo competition at our arena.
7. Consider the wonder that participants travel from Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Kansas, and as far away as Canada to compete in our arena.
8. Consider the wonder as the participants live the Sunbelt Rodeo Oath in our arena:
"To ride hard, To the last horn, And if I fail, To have the courage to ride again."
9. Consider the "wonder"-ful rural spirit, tradition, dreams, and hard work which built and sustain our arena in Parsons, Kansas.
10. Consider the wonder that the first weekend after Labor Day in 2007, our arena will proudly host the 26th Annual Gary J. Daniels Sunbelt Arena.

Entries can be made **through May 6** to 8wonders@kansassampler.org. Nominate the Gary J. Daniels Sunbelt Rodeo Arena in the "customs" category. For more information visit www.kansassampler.org.

P.S. *The Kansas Guidebook for Explorers* referenced on their website can be purchased at The Works.



Gary J. Daniels Appreciation Reception



Family, friends, past and present employees, residents, and the Parsons community gathered on March 16 for an appreciation reception honoring Gary J. Daniels for his years of service to Parsons State Hospital and Training Center.

Bike Safety Course

By Kim Middleton, Social Worker

Sgt. Walter Largent, Community Resource Officer

for the Parsons Police Department, came to Parsons State Hospital and Training Center on March 20th and March 21st to teach bike safety to residents who were interested in learning appropriate and new bike skills.



To prepare for the bike safety course and to ensure the bikes were safe, Mark Swafford volunteered to check the bike of each resident who would be participating in the safety course.

Sgt. Largent explained what items should be on a bike and what protective gear should be worn for safety while riding. He explained what street signs a resident may encounter while riding his/her bike.



Sgt. Largent brought eight street signs and each resident was asked to identify the sign and explain what it meant. The residents did well with identifying the signs. Then there was an obstacle course set up. Each resident rode a bike through the course and had to do whatever the sign they came to told them to do. Example: At the stop sign, the resident had to stop and look both ways. Each resident did very well in this activity.



During five sessions, held on the two days, a total of 28 residents participated and successfully completed the course and earned a certificate.

If there remains an interest in bike safety for residents who were not able to participate at this time, please contact Kim Middleton at X1906. If a class of six residents can be formed, Sgt. Largent will return to teach bike safety to those who want to participate.

Around Campus

Photos by Roger Browning

What is your favorite memory of Mother's Day?



Pat Schmidt
Mom liked lilacs. Remember her looking at them.



Ruth Klein
Mother is special to me. I usually go see my mom on Mother's Day.



Patty Gilkey
All of my brothers and sisters being together and buying my mother a brand new TV for Mother's Day.



Ben Foster
Bought a nice necklace for my mom on Mother's Day.

Happy May Birthday To You...

Debra Abernathie	Renda Satzler
Janie Bateman	Gail Searles
Connie Baumgardner	Jeffory Sexton
J. R. Caldwell	Marlys Shomber-
James Captain	Jones
Susan Carson	Peter Smith
Suzanne Cotton	Ramona Smith
Dorinda Gobin	Lavena Stephens
Larry Harris	Jerry Stewart
Catherine Henderson	Barbara Westervelt
Julie Hinman	Thomas Westhoff
Michelle Hughes	Kasey Wright
Janet Hurley	Wuanita Yanez
John Ingalsbe	Brenda Ybarra
Randy Kuffler	Kyle B.
Brice Lamb	Gordon B.
Diana Low	John B.
Jeri Lyons	Daniel B.
Gail McCall	Marvin C.
Christine McMains	Steven E.
Ashley Myers	Ronald F.
Sally Nance	Gary H.
Tim Posch	John H.
Elisse Powell	Paul M.
Nicole Pruitt	Kenneth M.
Deborah Quinzy	Brian M.
Bill Reeves	Jesse R.
Marinus Rentier	Bryan V.
Jack Robinson	Christina W.
Nancy Roper	Clifford W.

Welcome Wagon

Please welcome these new employees. Introduce yourself and help them to feel welcome. If you have someone new to your area, consider having a welcome dinner or lunch. If you have a new employee on your loved one's cottage, consider dropping them a card or note welcoming them and introducing yourself and telling them something special about your loved one.

Ash Cottage:

Joshua Robertson--MHDD Tech.
Justin Thompson--Temp

Aspen Cottage:

Chelsi Campmier--Temp

Elm Cottage:

Jesse Drumeller--Temp

Laundry:

Julian Booker--Temp

Maintenance:

Dustin Marks--Temp

Maple Cottage:

Matt Hopper--Temp

Nursing Service:

Patricia Bolander--Temp

New Vocational Employees:

James F.--Janitor
Rashelle W.--Hickory Housekeeping
Mark W.--Hickory Housekeeping
Brian M.--Laundry Sorting
Linn C.--Hickory Creations
John B.--Bike Shop
Sarah S.--Coord. Ctr. Housekeeping
Gary S.--Toner Refill

Spruce Cottage:

Michael May--Temp

Thank You

Dear PSH&TC friends,

Just a note to thank everyone for the party, gifts, cards, encouraging words and e-mails as I prepared for my new job.

It has been a real pleasure working at PSH&TC these past 19 years, and I take many great memories with me. I will miss everyone very much!

Sincerely, Heidi Flora

New KQM Project Team

By Members of the Community Resources Project Team

Look out, here we come! The Community Resources Project Team was formed in September 2006. Our team has 20 eager members ready to tackle the goals and objectives which we have been assigned. The main purpose of our team is to improve quality of life within our community.

Wow, what a task! We hope to accomplish this goal by expanding our resources to participate within our community, expanding our resources to contribute to our community, and to expand partnerships within our community. This will help our community grow and develop with an open mind so that new ideas and ideals may be brought forward. As our team strives to meet these objectives, we will be asking for suggestions and input from residents, families, staff, and other members of our community. We appreciate in advance your support, ideas, and encouragement as our team moves forward in achieving our goal. Members of the Community Resources Project Team include: B.J. Shears, Mark Swafford, Margaret A., Kelly Buske, Michelle Fontelroy, Donna Gilliland, Nancy Holding, Steve E., Niki Collins, Matt L., Tammy Manues, Ryan Heydenrych, Sally Nance, Darryel Neel, Gloria Young, Faye G., Joyce Hall, Marlys Shomber-Jones, and co-facilitators Renee Pierce and Cheryl Brees.

PSH&TC
2601 Gabriel
Parsons, KS 67357

Campus Calendar

May 10	Special Olympics Sports Camp-Parsons
May 11	Special Olympics Sports Camp-Parsons
May 11-12	Partners in Policy Making - Topeka
May 11-13	Endowment Bus - Wichita & KC
May 13	Mother's Day
May 28	Memorial Day
June 1-3	Special Olympics Summer Games-Wichita
June 15	Special Olympics Fishing Tournament-Pittsburg
June 15-17	Endowment Bus-Wichita & K.C.
June 17	Father's Day
June 21	Summer Begins
June 22	Special Olympics Softball-Pittsburg

PSH&TC Newsletter is published 12 times a year.

Co-Editors: Marlys Shomber-Jones, MDXXS@pshtc.ks.gov
 or 620.421.6550, x1726,

Tammy Auman and Laura Hummer

Photographer: Roger Browning

Reporters: Tammy Bruner

Ryan Willis

Kimberly McMichael

Christina Walker

Rashelle Walker

To subscribe electronically, use the link:

<https://www.pshtc.org/newsletter/Default.aspx>

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 56
Parsons, KS 67357