

From classroom to rodeo arena

He's the only clown in the rodeo world with a physics degree, and he has the courage to stand in front of a bunch of high school kids and teach math.

And he'll be in Phillipsburg.

When the Professional Bull Riders rolls into town on June 7, Allan Dessel will roll his barrel into the rodeo arena to work as barrel man and rodeo clown for the bull riding.

The Soper, Okla. man laughs that he's the only rodeo clown in the world with a major in physics and minor in math and education.

On the weekends, he hits the road, working rodeos across the nation. He works 20 to 25 rodeos and bull ridings a year, taking advantage of a four-day school week in Soper and summers off.

And when he's not putting his education to use in a rodeo arena, he's using it in front of the high school students at Soper Public Schools. Dessel teaches Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Physics. And being a barrel man correlates with teaching, he jokes.

"Being in front of the classroom is kind of like having a bunch

of young bulls. You don't want to scare them, because they will run off. And you never know when the wreck is going to happen, but it's coming. When the bell rings, it's just like opening the gate. They just run out."

Dessel, who grew up in Iowa, was a team roper and tie-down roper in high school, but always wanted to be a bullfighter. As a high school sophomore, he began fighting bulls and started his pro rodeo career. Now, he's become mainly a barrel man, in part because of his family. "The barrel man and rodeo clown are better pay, and less wear and tear on my body, and it's better for a family. I can live off ramen noodles if I have to, but my kids shouldn't."

After college graduation from Buena Vista (Iowa) University, he moved to Soper, the home of his good friend, rodeo clown John Harrison. He began substitute teaching for a little extra income, and one day, they offered him the math teaching position. So he stayed.

Each Labor Day weekend, the Soper FFA Chapter holds a benefit rodeo, and Dessel donates

his time as a bullfighter. His students enjoy it, and spend more time cheering for the bulls than they do for their teacher.

His favorite part of clowning is making people laugh. "It's a cliché, but it's true," he says. "There is so much terrible stuff going on in the world. Every time you turn on the news, something terrible has happened. So it's enjoyment for me to make people laugh. Everybody cuts loose, forgets those things, and has fun." Making others laugh keeps him going, too. "I look forward to getting in the truck and going to a rodeo, because you can forget about that stuff, at least for a weekend."

Dessel is married to Amanda, and they have two children: Gracie, who is four, and Stran, who is ten months.

He will entertain fans during the Phillipsburg Professional Bull Riders on June 7 at the rodeo grounds north of town. Bull riding tickets are on sale at Heritage Insurance in Phillipsburg. For more information, visit kansasbiggestrodeo.com, Facebook.com/phillipsburgpbpr or call 785-543-2448.

Superior rating for high school band



The Logan High School band, combined with five junior high band members performed at State Large Group Music Festival on Thursday, April 17. The band performed "Two British Folksongs" by Elliot Del Borgo and "In This Quiet Place" by Robert Sheldon. For their efforts, the judges awarded them a '1' or superior rating. The last time the band received this high of a rating was in the spring of 2005. The band is under the direction of Mrs. Vesta Jo Still.

(Front row) Miranda Shellito, Brianna Pinkerton, Reuben Harmon and Christen Grev-ing.

(Middle row) Marie Ko, Faith Hofaker, Kodi Van Laeys, Josh Van Laeys, Kadee Braun, and Ryann Kats.

(Back row) Morgan Goble, Cody Babcock, Ethan Buss, Nat Cruz, Riley Allen, Kayla Hofaker, and Riana Mays.

-Courtesy photo Shannon Kats

No impact from Prairie Chicken listing

Lesser-Prairie Chicken Listing Will Not Impact

Ability to Enter and Exit CRP Program

Adrian J. Polansky, State Executive Director of the United States Department of Agriculture Kansas Farm Service Agency, announced that farmers, ranchers and landowners implementing Service Agency Conservation Reserve Program practices intended to protect and increase lesser prairie-chicken populations will continue to be able to enroll new land and exit the program on expired acres just the same as before the species was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service reported that last year, the range-wide population of the lesser prairie-chicken declined to a record low of 17,616 birds, an almost 50 percent reduction from the 2012 population estimate. Producers participating in Reserve Program in the 39 lesser prairie-chicken counties in Kansas are planting native grasses and vegetation that will enhance nesting and brooding habitats, and taking other steps to help restore the declining lesser prai-

rie-chicken population. These landowners have already taken steps to protect the species and therefore receive exemptions in an agreement reached between Farm Service Agency and United States Fish and Wildlife Service for participating in Conservation Reserve Program.

Farm Service Agency and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service worked together to develop a Biological Opinion to ensure Conservation Reserve Program compliance with the Endangered Species Act provisions. "This Biological Opinion gives predictability to Conservation Reserve Program participants who voluntarily apply protective conservation practices for the lesser prairie-chicken so additional regulations may be unnecessary in the future," said Polansky. "This gives agricultural producers using proactive conservation practices confidence that they can maintain traditional farming and ranching activities."

The final rule for listing the lesser prairie-chicken as a threatened species and the special rule limiting regulatory impacts on landowners and businesses because of this listing

were effective May 12. Visit www.fws.gov to learn more about the threatened lesser prairie-chicken.

Conservation Reserve Program participants and prospective participants should contact their local Farm Service Agency office and seek advice from the Natural Resources Conservation Service in developing conservation compliance plans. Visit your local Farm Service Agency office or go to www.fsa.usda.gov for more information.

For help with your advertising needs please give Dana a call 877-3361

email: dpaxton@nwkansas.com

nwkansas.com

Like us on

facebook

Call Shylo with all your local news.

785 - 877-3361

spaxton@nwkansas.com

New Life Christian Bookstore

212 Norris Ave • McCook

Thank You to all Veterans

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13

LODGE NOTICES

American Legion Harmonson Redd Post No. 63
Second and Fourth Monday 7:30 p.m.
Gary Erlenbusch, Commander
Curt Archibald, Adjutant

Eagles Lodge FOE 3288
Second and Fourth Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Larry Hawks, President
Secretary, Ron Miller

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Reg. 7:00 p.m.
First Mon. of each Month
Curt Archibald, Commander
Joe Ballinger, Quartermaster

I.O.O.F. No. 157
Meet at Eagles Club
First and Third Thursday
Each Month at 7:30 p.m.
Geneva Tier, Noble Grand
Randy Knoll, Secretary

The American Legion Riders Post 63
Meet at 5:00 p.m. at the American Legion Building on the Second Sunday of Every Month
website: www.alr63.org

COLLEGE NOTES

Traveling over two hours with his family, virtual student Grigoriy Kiryashev, South Hutchinson senior, came to Fort Hays State University's campus to join his on-campus classmates in an initiation ceremony for the tourism and hospitality honor society Eta Sigma Delta on April 29.

Seventeen students, on-campus and virtual, were recognized as outstanding students in the tourism and hospitality management program. The ceremony was the first for Fort Hays State's Eta Sigma chapter. The society requires members to have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and have completed half of the tourism and hospitality management curriculum. Members must "agree to uphold the values of excellence, leadership, creativity, service and ethics."

"The professional benefits of Eta Sigma Delta include an op-

portunity for outstanding students to distinguish themselves in the eyes of educators, recruiters and industry executives in an increasingly competitive industry," said Dr. Stacey Smith, director of the tourism and hospitality management program and assistant professor of management and marketing.

Though the Fort Hays State chapter is young, students initiated a service project this year, volunteering with the Hays Area Children's Center to assist with the annual Christmas tree auction.

"Today there are over 90 active Eta Sigma Delta chapters

throughout the world," said Smith. "The growth is testament to the dedication of both students and professionals in hospitality and tourism to the pursuit of academic, professional and personal excellence."

Each student received a certificate, pin and a gold cord to wear at graduation. Local initiates are listed by hometown.

McCook, Neb.: Caitlyn Thomas, senior.

Almena: Kayla Lowry, senior.

Eta Sigma Delta is sponsored by the International Council on Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Education.

The Nature Conservancy

Protecting nature. Preserving life.®

The Nature Conservancy invites you to enjoy a day on the prairie at the Smoky Valley Ranch Visitors Day

Saturday, June 7, 2014

All day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Smoky Valley Ranch south of Oakley, in Logan County, KS

The Visitors Day will offer a close-up look at a working cattle and bison ranch. Driving and hiking tours will showcase conservation grazing practices and research. Presentations will cover early settlement and Native American history.

To RSVP or for more information, please contact Shelby Stacy at ststacy@tnc.org or 785-233-4400



Beverly Burns will be retiring May 30 after 20 years of service with First Security Bank and Trust Company

Bev is married to Jim Burns a retired teacher. She has two children, Jennifer Burns and Will Burns and his wife Rene. They are the proud grandparents of two grandsons, Brody and Byron Burns. Bev's future plans include working part time as the Church of God secretary; helping her husband with janitorial services and helping manage the family farm.



Stop by the bank and wish her well

FIRST SECURITY BANK AND TRUST COMPANY
1-800-569-5909
BOX 383 - NORTON, KANSAS - (785) 877-3313
LENORA, KANSAS - (785) 567-4286

MEMBER FDIC
"The Bank That Service Built"