



ACHS music students qualify for state



Courtesy photo

Arkettes perform at the regional festival, earning an Outstanding (I) rating and advancing to state.

Press Release

On Saturday, 135 Arkansas City High School music students performed at the Regional Solo and Small Ensemble Festival at Andover High School. Their hard work and dedication were on full display, earning high marks across multiple events.

Students were supported by teachers Logan Caywood, Hans Judd, Alicia Kerwood, and Chris

VanGilder, along with accompanists Lisa Klaassen and Emerson Talkington.

State Qualifiers – Outstanding (I) Ratings

The following students earned top ratings and will advance to the State Music Festival at Salina South High School on April 26.

Soloists:

Jayden Cutright, Riley Daniels, Natalie Fleig, Tom Loveland, Anthony Moore, Trey Noland, Sebastian

Rodriguez, Ophelia Strecker, Harper Whetstone

Ensembles:

Arkettes, Clarinet Trio, Saxophone Duet, String Sextet, Select Percussion Ensemble, Trumpet Choir

Excellent (II) Ratings

Many students also earned Excellent ratings for their performances.

Soloists:

Landon Burr, Aaliyah Castillo, David Gonzalez,

Rosa Leyva, Zach Pieper, Isabella Retana, Ophelia Strecker, Hadley Smyer, Camden Vickery, Esa Wyckoff

Ensembles:

Ark High Singers, Clarinet Choir, Flute Choir, Flute Duets, Large Percussion Ensemble, Low Brass Choir, Purple and Gold String Ensemble, Saxophone Quartet, String Bass Trios, Large String Ensemble, String Quartet

Cows having a keg party

By CHERRI BAER

It caught my attention recently: a \$41 hamburger. In a New York restaurant. "It costs HOW much?" I incredulously asked my husband. He repeated the amount. "This is a joke, right?" He was laughing so hard, his voice was squeaking.

"The cattle are raised on beer and mas-saged daily to make the meat soft and succulent," he reported from the Associated Press article in the Wichita Eagle. Believe me, I don't usually grab the paper out of his hands. But he was shaking so much he had relaxed his grip.

Was it light or dark beer? I tried hard to imagine drunk cows getting a daily massage. The Old Homestead Restaurant in New York City now serves these awesome flavored smooth velvety sweet 20-ounce hamburgers with their "classic garlic shoe-string fries." A bargain, no doubt, since this specialized Kobe beef often costs more than \$100 a pound.

What the heck is Kobe beef? The food reference website says it's raised in Kobe County, Japan. Thus, the name. But the California Barbeque Association reports that most Kobe beef is now bred and raised in California and Australia using exact specifications. When it's almost ready for slaughter, it takes a ride across the ocean to Japan for slaughter. Huh?

Then, of course, it's shipped back here for sale, frozen. No wonder it's the world's most expensive beef. Think of all that high-price jet fuel. It would be cheaper to import the Japanese

knife-wielding slaughterers to do the job on U. S. soil. Oh, me. You're right. Their fancy knives would never make it through airport security.

Why does the meat taste better? You already know what I'm going to say, don't you? It's the fat! Whereas U. S. beef has about 6-8% fat in the rib-eye muscle, Kobe can have as much as 25% fat and contains 10 times the amount of marbled fat.

Freezing it is less like freezing other meat and more like freezing ice cream (because of the high fat content. Ugh. Think of all that cholesterol). I can almost feel the layer of grease stuck in the roof of my mouth. And my arteries have probably started clogging just because I'm imagining eating it.

I have an idea. To cut the cost of shipping these poor cattle from California all the way to Japan, ship them to Kansas instead. The headlines can read: "Cowley County Cows Having Keg Parties on the Outskirts of Arkansas City." Massage parlors can spring up with separate entrances for bovine and human customers.

Instead of Kobe County beef, they could be renamed Cowley County beef. Think of it. The word "cow" already appears in the name. It's a natural. And the beef processing could be done right at Creekstone. Picture the economic impact for south-central Kansas.

Restaurants could open that sell \$41-per-plate burgers. And instead of pairing them with "classic garlic shoestring fries." They could add a serving of "Cowley Patty Potatoes," of course!

Winfield resident *Cherri Baer writes an occasional column for the CourierTraveler. Reach her at cbbaer@att.net.*

April Programs at WPL

• AARP Senior Planet classes – Winfield Public Library will offer two Senior Planet classes this April. "How to Choose a New Computer" will be offered beginning at 2 p.m. April 6 and 13. At 2 p.m. April 20 and 27, "Finding Information Online" will provide helpful tips to build online search skills.

These free workshops are part of AARP's Senior Planet curriculum. Registration is required and can be completed online at wpl.librarymarket.com or by calling the library at (620) 221-4470.

• TED Talk – WPL's TED Talk Lunch Series celebrates National Poetry Month with

April's selected talk, "Everyday Moments, Caught In Time." Join in at noon April 9 in the library's Community Room to view and discuss this 2012 talk by two-term U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins. This event is free and open to the public. Community members are invited to bring a sack lunch. Coffee and dessert are provided.

• Citizen Science: Voices of Freedom with the Smithsonian Institute – Bring history alive at 1 p.m. April 10. In this hands-on Citizen Science Connected event, we will connect virtually with the Smithsonian Transcription Center to help transcribe the

Freedmen's Bureau Papers. No experience or special equipment is required. A limited number of laptops will be available, but participants are encouraged to bring a Wi-Fi connected device (such as a tablet, laptop or smartphone) from home. All Smithsonian volunteers, onsite and online, must be at least 14.

• Citizen Science: Earth Day Animal Spot-a-Thon – Celebrate Earth Day by helping scientists monitor wildlife from 5 to 7 p.m. April 22 in the WPL Community Room. In this hands-on event, we will virtually connect with participants and scientists working on the Snapshot Wisconsin

research project, logging in to explore trail camera photos and help classify the animals you see. Recommended for ages 13+ and families. A limited number of laptops will be available, but participants are encouraged to bring a Wi-Fi connected device from home.

• Bookn' with Friends – WPL's adult book club will gather for a discussion of "Before the Coffee Gets Cold" by Toshikazu Kawaguchi at 6:30 p.m. April 27 at 6:30pm. Selected for the 2026 Reading Challenge topic "a translation," this Japanese novel was translated to English in 2015 by Geoffrey Trousselot.

Duck Jam in the Park announces concert lineup

Press release

Island Park Productions has announced the lineup of musicians who will take the stage as part of the Duck Jam in the Park concert series this summer. The series, now in its eighth year, will again host free concerts in the evenings at the Island Park Performance Venue throughout the summer.

• May 28: Presley Haile – A Texas native, Presley Haile blends folk, country, and

Americana into an entirely new sound.

• June 18: The Fretliners – a powerful bluegrass quartet known for their incredible songwriting and undeniable chemistry. Opening for the Fretliners is local-favorite, Old Sound.

• July 9: The Hype – a Kansas-City based high-energy cover band that plays a wide range of favorite hit songs will take the stage for the annual Duck Jam family block party. Opening for The Hype is Sonora Aero, a Wichita-based cover band

with local ties.

• Aug. 13: Alex Abramovitz and His Swing'n Kansas City Jazz Band – Founded in 2008, this band encapsulates the vibrant sounds of Kansas City Jazz from the 1930s to 1950s. Opening for this concert is The Student Loans, a well-loved local jazz group.

• Sept. 24: Dustbowl Revival – This seven-piece, California-based American Roots band is sure to bring high energy to the final concert of the year. Opening for this concert is

MoonShroom, a Lawrence-based Americana band.

Concerts are on Thursdays and begin at 7 p.m. Gates will open at 6. Learn more about Duck Jam in the Park concerts on Island Park Production's Facebook page or at VisitWinfield.com.

Top of the World concert

The Burford Singers will perform at 2 p.m. May 3 featuring "Top of the World" music from the Carpenters and Friends. The featured guest artist is Ted Dvorak. Tickets are \$25 and include dessert. Call 620-442-5895 or visit burfordtheatre.com.

Film festival returns

Staff Report

The annual BisonBison Film Festival will be held April 10 and 11 at the Burford Theatre in Arkansas City.

Doors open for the public at 6 p.m. April 11, a Friday. Film viewings begin at 7 p.m.

Saturday features two workshops for filmmakers that are also open to the public for free.

- 10 a.m. Animation Workshop
- 11 a.m. Lighting Workshop
- Saturday evening film

viewings begin at 6 p.m. with doors open to the public at 5 p.m. Awards will immediately follow the last film of the evening.

Cost is \$10 each for Friday or Saturday night if purchased separately, or \$15 if purchased together, a \$5 discount for attending both days.

COMPOST FACILITY FREE Community Service by the

West 9th Hill - 320 Broad St., Winfield

Hours: Tues. & Thurs., 12 pm to 6 pm

Saturday, 9 am to 3 pm

Check with the attendant before loading or unloading materials. Accepted materials: unbagged grass & leaves, brush, limbs (6" diameter or smaller), other yard waste, tires 18" or smaller (limit 4)

No lumber, construction debris, or household trash accepted.

Questions? Call 221-5600

Please do not rake loose leaves into street gutters or ditches

PBS KANSAS CHANNEL 8

ANTIQUES FAIR

SAT • APR 25

Like *Antiques Roadshow*, the fair will connect you with local experts who can help you learn about your treasured family heirlooms and garage sale finds.

Go to kpts.org or call **316-838-3090** for admission details.

PBS Kansas Channel 8 • 8710 E. 32nd St. N. • Wichita