

HOME ON THE RANGE

CORE VALUES

- C**ARING
- H**ONESTY
- R**ESPECT
- I**NTEGRITY
- S**TEWARDSHIP
- T**RUST

HOTR Ranch Hand
 Home On The Range
 16351 I 94
 Sentinel Butte, ND 58654
 (701) 872-3745 www.gohotr.org

RANCH



HAND

Summer 2007 - Vol. 26, No. 2

"Strengthening children and families through Christ."

Champions Ride Match to be Televised

Home On The Range is proud to announce that for the first time, Champions Ride Match Rodeo will be televised. It will be shown on "The Roping Show" hosted by Tyler Magnus. This show is featured on the satellite cable station, RFD.

The main event of the Champions Ride Match is the saddle bronc riding, but what caught the attention of Leah and Tyler Magnus, were the roping matches. This year, the second event is team roping between six high school teams from the states of North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana. The Champions will receive a \$1000 scholarship each with the second place team receiving \$500 scholarships. The Magnuses will film the rodeo, and rebroadcast it and the history of Home On The Range later this fall. This show will run three times throughout the fall season (dates and times to be announced later).



Stepping up to the corporate sponsor level to bring "The Roping Show" to Home On The Range are the national Fraternal Order of Eagles, compliments of the hard work of Past Grand Worthy President Bill Loffer. The Eagles also are sponsoring the scholarships for the team-roping champions.

The Champions Ride Match continues to be a premiere event featuring top, professional saddle bronc riders and horses. This year's stock will come from Brookman Rodeo Company, Franklin Rodeo Stock, and Gold Buckle Rodeo Company.

(Pictured above: Cody Wright, 2006 Champions Ride Winner. Courtesy Doll Rodeo Photos)

The 51st Champions Ride Match is August 5, beginning at 1:00 Mountain Time at the Home On The Range arena (North Dakota Exit #7 on I-94). Advance tickets are available until July 25 at 701-872-3745.

Thank you, Eagles

During the months of June and July, Executive Director Jay Johnson, and Jolene Obrigewitch, Development Director, have been traveling to various Fraternal Order of Eagles Conventions. It is a great opportunity for us to thank the men and women who continue to support our programs and projects. Over the past year, we have received an overwhelming response from Aeries and Auxiliaries from across the United States. Our thanks and gratitude to the clubs and their members, because without them, there truly wouldn't be a place for troubled and disadvantaged teenagers. From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU!!

This spring our spiritual department received a brand-new clavanova, donated by Leon

Lorz, HOTR Board Member, and Jacobson Music of Dickinson, N.D. Brother Aelred Reid (pictured left) is very excited at the musical potential the clavanova will bring to the Chapel, i.e. leading the children in songs or to use during special holiday pageants.



This sign welcomes and thanks GWP Bill Loffer and all the Eagles for their support. It is located just east of Home On The Range.



Our organization provides a therapeutic ranch environment for boys and girls who are disadvantaged, neglected, problematic, predelinquent, and delinquent. Children of all races, creeds, and colors are served at our facility located at Sentinel Butte, North Dakota



Boys and staff are busy replacing the old and broken sidewalk in front of the boys' dorm. The boys helped with concrete on other projects around Home On The Range.

HOTR Ranch Hand

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF HOME ON THE RANGE



Fr. Elwood Cassedy, *Founder*



Fr. Wm. Fahnländer,
Supt. Emeritus

Jay Johnson, *Director*
Jolene Obrigewitch,
Development Director/Editor

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Financial Support

HOTR does not receive direct financial support from the Bismarck Catholic Diocese. Care rates charged for services cover approximately 75% of the actual cost. The remainder must be raised through gifts, grants, our agricultural operation, fund-raising events, and investments.

Financial Statement Available

A copy of the most recent HOTR financial statement is available to persons or organizations upon request. Please contact our business office at (701) 872-3745.

Member:

Child Welfare League of America
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READIN', WRITIN', 'RITHMETIC

Sometimes residents get behind in their high school credits or are in-between grades and need a few credits to advance to the next grade. For the third year in a row, the Beach School District offered summer school from June 4 – 28. Three classes were offered – grammar, biology and general math. Students could receive ½ credit for each completed course.

New to our summer program are two groups – art and reading. The groups started in June. The groups meet for two hours a week for eight weeks. Lily Stewart, the school art instructor, teaches different styles of art to boys and girls. Sometimes Ms. Stewart encourages the children to find their own unique art talent by bringing a “craft and goodie box” for them to explore and play with. Teachers and administrators from the Beach School District and Karla Zimdars, HOTR education coordinator, lead the reading classes. There are some students that need individual attention to help them improve their reading skills, and this is an opportunity for the children to do that.



Two of the girls are working on their art projects.

Father Cassedy Portrait

This beautiful oil painting was painted by local artist Cindy (Zook) Makelky. It was inspired by the first boy to graduate from Home On The Range. Cindy went through vintage photographs and newspaper clippings to come up with the theme of the picture. This 2-foot by 4-foot picture gives an excellent visual story about the origination of Home On The Range and is proudly displayed in the Administration Building. Proceeds to complete the painting were donated by Bernie and Rosalie Keller.

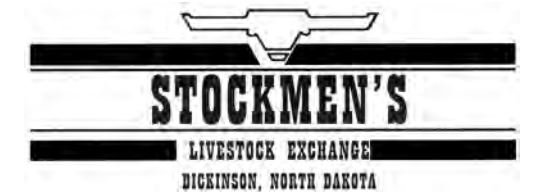


Ann Secrest-Hanson Shares Poems with HOTR

Early this spring, Ann Secrest-Hanson visited and shared some of her cowboy poems and stories with the boys and girls. A few of the poems include: “The Curler,” “The Adoptive Mother,” “The Puppy Chase” and “I am a Teenager” just to name a few. Ann said, “I came from a poor family but didn’t know it, because you didn’t know any different. I had a tough life, but I set my goals of what I wanted to do.” She continued, “I have been very blessed, and I want to give something back. That’s why I came to visit with these kids and share some of my experiences with them, and remind them, if you set your own goals, you will go far.”

Ann’s life history is full of ranching, horses and rodeo. Ann and her first husband, Walter Secrest, were the pick-up cowboys at the “Matched Bronc Ride” (Home On The Range Champions Ride Match Rodeo) from 1971 – 1978. She picked-up cowboys for 25 years. Ann was the only woman “pick-up man” in professional rodeo. In November of 2003, Ann was inducted into the Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Texas.

Ann recently completed writing her third poetry book and is awaiting its printing. The book will include many stories about her ranch life, raising horses, and rodeo experiences, including the Champions Ride Match Rodeo. Ann and her husband, Robert Hanson, now reside north of Bowman. They enjoy raising horses and traveling to cowboy poetry gatherings.



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Buffalo Gap
Guest Ranch
& Trail Head



AWARDS BANQUET

Each spring, Home On The Range honors the residents' accomplishments and successes at the awards banquet. Some of the awards given were for: food service worker, ranch hand, academic excellence, Frances Dietz Nurse award, resident living, social work, and alumni. Fifteen boys and girls walked on stage and received a laminated certificate of achievement and a special medallion. During the 2007 banquet, one of the girls received two scholarships totaling \$650 to help with her college education, as well as a scholarship from the Eagles Memorial Foundation.

Past Grand Worthy President Bill Loffer was our keynote speaker. Current students shared their stories and personal experiences. An Alumni Award was presented to a former resident for leading a successful lifestyle and being a role model in the community where he resides.



GWP Bill Loffer and GMP Stephanie Smith were both present to share inspirational stories and words of encouragement with the children and guests at the annual spring banquet in Medora, ND.

Also pictured below is the beautiful table setting just waiting for guests. Each table had a homemade cake topped with frosting-made peonies or violets as a centerpiece, and the girls made origami birds for place settings.



Letter from Former Resident to HOTR Social Worker:

We've known each other for nine months now and I'd say about nine of them I wouldn't have made it through if it weren't for you. I would just like to say thank you on account of me and my mom. For at least three or four of those months, I wasn't using my head and you still pushed me to do good even when I was disrespectful and lying. You really helped me see a different side of myself and you helped my mom when I was being a jerk. I would just like you to know that on those days that you question if you're in the right profession or not, well, my mom and I know you are. When you have to deal with a kid who you've had about enough of, don't quit --- push them as hard as you pushed me and when they try to quit, raise your standards and make that kid want to reach them. Now that I know the real me, the non-quitter, I think I'm going to make it through life pretty good. Well, it's been real and I thank you with all my heart. And I promise to you that I am going to do something great with my life.

-- Bryan

Excerpts from Resident's Speech at Spring Banquet

I have been at Home On The Range since September 25, 2006. I was sent to Home On The Range because of family problems. My parents and I went to counseling while I was at home, but our problems only got worse. For my own safety, I was taken from my family.

I was very angry and resentful when I arrived at the ranch. I thought my life was over. I didn't realize how many opportunities and possibilities were available. I believe anyone can be successful here but you have to want it and you have to work hard. In the end you can walk away with much more than what you came with.

My hardest adjustment to living at the ranch was being away from my family, especially during the holidays. At first it was also really difficult to adjust to living with so many girls, but at the same time it's a blessing because you learn how to grow together and learn from each other's mistakes.

While living at Home On The Range I've had many different opportunities. I have participated in prom, the junior-senior banquet and the senior trip day. With Brother Aelred and Peggy's help, I've completed my catechism classes and made First Holy Communion and Confirmation. I've also been on the honor roll all year.

Tomorrow I will be discharged and Sunday I will be graduating and returning home. This summer I plan on working and spending some time in New York. In October I will be attending the Art Institute International of Minnesota. Because of the Eagle scholarships and grants I received while at the ranch, I don't have to pay anything for my first year of college.

-- Nicole

Joe Schillo Memorials

Thanks to the many friends and family members who sent donations to Home On The Range in memory of Joe Schillo. These funds were given to the horse program to purchase riding equipment such as hats and vests for our children's safety. If you are interested in contributing to the horse program in Joe's honor, or a special friend, please send your kind donation to the development office at Home On The Range.

You can donate to Home On The Range on-line!!

Go to www.gohotr.org and click "Make an On-line Donation." The Network for Good website will pop up. Complete the necessary information and the funds will go directly to Home On The Range. A Network for Good charge will appear on your next credit card statement.



You are invited to have a fun-filled weekend at Beach, ND. Enjoy the "Spirit of the West" by attending the county fair, demolition derby, Michael Peterson concert, and the Champions Ride Rodeo the first weekend in August. Combo tickets are available through July 25 at \$40 each. Contact HOTR for ticket information.



This poor little buffalo calf was donated to HOTR when he was only three days old. His mother died and the owner needed

someone to give him a good home. He has since become a favorite pet by all the children.



Both boys and girls get a chance to help haul the 1000's of square bales from the fields. The hay is then stacked in the

barn and used during the cold, winter months.



Thanks to the generosity of both Dakota Farm Equipment and West Plains Implement, Home On The Range continues to be an operating farm. With the donation of hours for a baler and tractor, HOTR is able to plant an alfalfa and hay barley crop to make square and round bales for feed for our cattle and horses. (Bern Zachmann and Terry Egan of West Plains Implement.)



Ride for the Range

It was a very hot, summer day in North Dakota, but a beautiful setting for the 4th annual Ride for the Range bike run. On June 23, nearly 50 motorcyclists and enthusiasts gathered at Home On The Range to begin their journey through the badlands of southwestern North Dakota.

The theme for the day was fun. "Bikers" made stops at scenic areas and points of interest and got a chance to play poker along the way. Each rider received a card at various stop points with the best poker hand (high-hand and low-hand) at the end proclaimed the winner. The two winners donated their winnings back to Home On The Range. At the end of the drive through the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, riders and guests enjoyed an awesome BBQ supper and all the fixings prepared by our auxiliary staff. The supper received rave reviews and there wasn't any left over. Throughout the evening a silent auction was held with more than 50 items to bid on. There was something for everyone! For those ready to keep having fun, Bikers could compete in many different contests, spinout on the burnout pad, or dance to their heart's content at the street dance in Golva, ND.

Everyone enjoyed the day, and we thank all of the individuals and businesses that donated items for the silent auction or contest prizes. It was a very successful event and Chairman "Sparky" Scott Harris is already busy planning the 5th annual Ride for the Range. Mark your calendars for the 4th Saturday in June!!



Just one of the bikes that was driven through the North Dakota Badlands during the Ride for the Range.



Our thanks and gratitude to the North Dakota Knights of Columbus on their 44th anniversary of the Shamrock Project. This year the

Knights raised more than \$10,000. Prior to St. Patrick's Day, the Knights promote green, chenille shamrock pins and ask for a free-will offering. (Pictured is Glenn Wagner, KC Community Chairman and Jay Johnson, HOTR Executive Director.)



This spring two of our girls were baptized and confirmed at St. John's Catholic Church.



Executive Director Jay Johnson looks on as one of the girls throws a pie at her staff. This reward is from her hard work and good grades at school. All students with one or more A's on their report card and no grades below a C, got a chance to throw a pie at the staff of their choice. The pie throwing occurs each quarter with an average of ten students earning pie-throwing rights. Of course, the kids had a great time with this, either participating or cheering on their friends.

A New Heart by Peggy Helvik, Youth Minister

A New Heart is designed to address the Spiritual component of who we are and how we are made. Materials can be completed in about nine weeks – two sessions a week. A letter of application answering the question "Why do I want to develop my spiritual life?" determines admission to the group.

The group correlates well with other groups offered at Home On The Range. It addresses areas such as comfort zones (being willing to step out of them), thinking errors, recognizing your need for change, victim mentality, guilt and/or blaming.

Each week when they gather they come to a better understanding of how God made them. Not only are they created in God's image; they are spirit, soul and body. God has a plan and a purpose for their lives as well. They learn how their choices affect their future and how their thoughts control their actions. Scripture is an important part of each lesson. Through the scriptures they learn that God loves them and desires to have a relationship with them.

Peggy and Brother Aelred lead the groups together. They are excited about meeting with the residents and watching them grow spiritually.

Brother Aelred Leads Spiritual Department

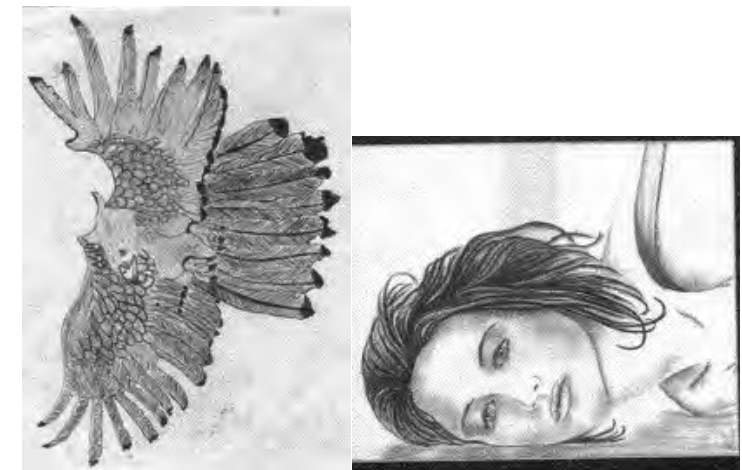
Brother Aelred is a wonderful addition to the Spiritual Department at Home On The Range. He has a multi-faceted personality and works well with staff, boys, and girls alike. You can find him making day-trips to the Abbey with the residents, giving them a taste of monastery life or working with the boys in doing the farm chores. He's not afraid to get his hands dirty! He also leads the group "A New Heart" with Peggy twice a week.

Brother Aelred has a great flare for decorating and making things look nice. He has renovated the Chapel and made it into a prayerful atmosphere. He leads boys in saying the rosary in the Chapel occasionally before they retire for the night. He is available to visit with residents whenever they need him.

Brother Aelred comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience. He has presented retreats at the Youth Correction Center and has many ideas on reaching the youth spiritually. His sense of humor and insight offer a perspective that is really needed.

Summer Tour Guides

Throughout the summer months, Home On The Range receives many visitors. Some return year after year for a visit, others see the sign on the interstate and are curious, wondering if we are a steak house or hotel. To help our visitors get acquainted with us, five of our residents have been trained to give tours of Home On The Range and answer questions about our history. They are especially helpful on the weekends and for larger groups. Tour groups are always welcome, but please call ahead to make arrangements.



Many of our children have very special talents. Shown here are pencil drawings done by two of our boys. Our hope is to put together a 2008 calendar to display pictures and poems completed by our boys and girls.