

TBR News & Notes

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from the Saddle

by Scott Chandler, Director

Last month my dad, Colette, myself and some of the boys retrieved some of our cattle from a very remote pasture on a neighboring ranch. Our neighbor hasn't used it for at least 20 years for cattle. These vast 20 sections have no roads; they are only accessible by horseback. These cattle had apparently been there for some time. We got the cattle back over to our ranch and decided to go ahead and brand the calves in one of our corrals on Berrenda Canyon. I noticed these cattle were very protective - so much so I expressed to my dad that the predators (coyotes, cats, etc) must be really bad over there. It is a given; you factor in you will lose a percentage of calves to predators. It is just a fact of operating out here. While these predators have a natural fear of humans, small calves are appealing. One thing we consider and usually implement is calving the first calf heifers close to the headquarters. Normally we save some small pastures near the house, so we can keep an eye on them. The environment around the headquarters is much more protected, and if need be we can pull them into the corrals for extra protection and a close watch. These first calf heifers are usually oblivious to the threats against their calves. Without outside help and protection most of the calves wouldn't survive. (Hint: quick way to go broke in the cattle business) Over the years I have observed that many American parents try to keep their kids safe physically i.e. car seats, helmets, super safe toys etc. How we all survived those years of no seatbelts and, God forbid, riding a bike without a



The group shows off their creations from a package of shirts and decorative paint sent by Lola Alvarez.

helmet! Yes I buckle my kids and worry about their safety. But I have observed most people overlook the threats without physical harm. The predators I am talking about are a lot more camouflaged. Obviously, falling off a motorcycle and hitting their head on the pavement isn't good for them. But equally dangerous is the damage that bad influences, negative environments or seductive behavior can have on the mind and soul. The key is offering enough protection while building and growing up the individual. Just like those first calf heifers you must offer enough protection to get them to the point they can be like those cattle over in that remote pasture full of predators - that they can not only survive but thrive and in turn give protection to their calves. Parenting isn't just about giving our kids stuff, schooling and safety from a car crash. The invisible predators can cause much more and even longer lasting damage that they could ultimately pass on to their own kids and fail to adequately protect them. "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for

someone to devour." 1 Peter 5:8. When parents send kids to the ranch, they are in a sense doing what we do when we keep those heifers in our home pasture - giving them a safe place to learn and develop the skills needed to cope with those predators. But it is important to understand that even after they leave the TBR they will need help discerning many of these pitfalls. I have observed a number of times a grown child gets in a vehicle and doesn't put their seatbelt on. The parent is quick to say something like "Since when did you stop wearing your seatbelt" or "I'm not driving anywhere until you buckle up." But if their child is leaving with a known bad apple, they just watch them leave and say "Well, he is old enough to decide who he is going to hang out with" or "I can't tell them who they can have for friends." We try to be that home pasture, and you need to get in the mindset of seeing these camouflaged predators because ultimately they must go out to the remote wilderness of life. So help protect them from the predators and prepare them, so they can not only survive in life but thrive. **ZX**

from the Boys Lodge

The Bataan Marathon is fast approaching for the TBR runners, and training has intensified. They have worked up to several 10 mile runs; one more 12 mile run, and they will tone it down to 7 miles to rest up before the main event.

Work projects have kept the boys very busy during the month of February. Among other things, the boys helped load and haul hay from the Donaldson's farm and Border Foods/Bogg's farm for the cattle and horses. They also helped fix the barn roof and fixed fences with Clyde Chandler, which required packing wire, posts and tool up the mountain. The boys also helped Scott, Colette and Clyde gather cattle from Gavilan Canyon after finding their way through a cut fence. They also helped with branding the TBR cattle.

In addition, a new round of boys have



The boys search the wilderness for cattle. They participated in several round-ups and brandings this past month; the old West still lives on.

taken an interest in horseshoeing. Staffmember Dustin provided instruction and reference books on cold horseshoeing, and many of the boys have jumped into the subject, reading about it on their own and getting hands-on practice with the ranch horses.

Several of the boys helped with the Valentine's Day rush at Chandler's Flowers with helping deliver flower orders all over town.

The boys also had much to celebrate this past month. ACT scores are in, and TBR kids had some of the highest scores in the district - the best were 29 and 30. A couple of boys expected to graduate in May have already been accepted to a number of schools. One has already been awarded a prestigious Presidential scholarship. Four of the boys also celebrated their birthdays during the end of February and early March. **ZX**

Creek Ranch Highlights

The girls at the Creek Ranch spent the week before Valentine's Day in Deming at Chandler's Flowershop. It is a busy season for the flowershop, and all hands were needed for deliveries, bouquet creation and - everyone's favorite - balloons! While in Deming, Emily, Co-



Julia, Emily, Kaitlyn and Alex dethorn roses at Chandler's Flowers.

lette and the girls participated in a Valentine's Day run at Rio Mimbres Golf Course. Once the rush subsided, the girls returned back to normal life at the ranch.

Thank goodness spring is coming soon! This year Emily and the girls are planning a garden and are currently building a fenced area to protect it from cattle and horses in search of a snack. Now the girls are planning which fruits and vegetables they would like to plant and gathering seeds for the project. Other work projects for

the girls this month included cleaning and disinfecting a pen that held some sick cows to prevent contamination of other livestock. They also loaded and hauled hay among other things.

Birthdays are rolling in, and each birthday is celebrated with a group dinner, many of which are held at the Creek Ranch. The girls have been assisting staffmember Carol with shopping, planning and creating meals for large groups of people and are becoming wonderful, competent and creative hostesses. **ZX**

Thank You's

To Bill and Carol Alexander

Thank you for donating a Toyota pickup to our program.

To Mr. Clark, Ms. Brown and Mr. Richardson at Deming High School

Thank you for making the extra effort to help our students excel and for providing them opportunities to branch out and succeed.

To Gary and Sandy Shiflett, First Baptist Church, and the Barnetts

Thank you for your generous monetary donations to our program.

**“You know you
are in the
country when
you look up and
a tumbleweed
goes rolling by.”**
~ Julia