



David Stout | The Sun

Riders wave as they leave from the NEA Clinic at Hilltop for the D.A.R.E. to Ride Biker Classic '05 motorcycle ride Saturday morning. Approximately 1,000 bikes took part in the event to raise

money for the Jonesboro Police Department's Drug Abuse Resistance Education program and NEA Clinic Charitable Foundation.

Lawrence County Fair to open at Imboden

IMBODEN — If you want to see a county fair but don't want to pay to get in, then visit the Lawrence County Fair at Imboden, which runs from Tuesday through Saturday at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds.

The Lawrence County Fair is one of only a few local fairs in the state that still doesn't charge an admission to get into the fairgrounds, said fair official James Ratliff. "We are trying to stay away from general admission," Ratliff said.

The only charge is for midway rides and the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeo, which will be at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday of fair week.

The fair features livestock judging, crops, canning and many other displays that compete for ribbons.

Tuesday

The first day of the fair will be a short one. Horse halter class competition begins at 7 p.m. in the rodeo arena for the youth of the county. Food vendors will also open at that time to accommodate spectators and participants.

Wednesday

Wednesday kicks off with livestock, poultry and field entries check-in from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Check-in for educational entries will be from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Star Amusement's carnival will open at 6 p.m. Wednesday, and the free gospel music show featuring The Shaws and local church groups begins at 7 p.m. There will be a free "ice cream social" during the gospel singing.

Thursday

On Thursday the late check-in for educational displays will be from 8 a.m. until noon. At 1 p.m. judging of all exhibits gets underway, and at 5 p.m. the commercial building will open with all booths ready for visitors.

FFA and 4-H students will exhibit their prize livestock with judging to begin at 6 p.m. for the hog, sheep and goat show.

Also at 6 p.m. Thursday the midway will open, and it will be "arm band night," whereby armbands can be bought for unlimited rides. The price of armbands is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the gate.

Continuing Thursday, the "cruise-in" of antique and specialty vehicles begins at 7 p.m. At 7:30 p.m. the Gateway Cloggers will take to the stage at the Park Pavilion. A line dancing performance will follow the cloggers.

Friday

The cattle show kicks off Friday activities at 10 a.m. and exhibit buildings will be open from noon until 8 p.m.

The rodeo is the big draw both Friday and Saturday. The first night of the rodeo will be at 8 p.m. Friday.

"We've planned a very exciting Dodge PRCA rodeo, and everyone will have a chance to win a new Dodge truck by registering at the gate when entering the rodeo both nights," Ratliff said.

People can also qualify by registering at Cavanaugh Chrysler-Dodge in Walnut Ridge, Ratliff said. Qualification can also be done by taking a test drive.

Ratliff said all registrants for the truck must be 18 or older.

Each night of the rodeo names will be drawn, one from the rodeo registrants and one from the dealership. Toss a horseshoe into a 55-gallon barrel and you win a truck.

Ratliff wouldn't give all of the details of the toss. The barrel might be standing up, laying down, swinging, rolling by or any other configuration officials might devise.

"It's a secret," Ratliff said. "I can't release too many details." If both entrants are successful with the toss each night of the rodeo, each gets a truck. "Up to four trucks will be given away," Ratliff said.

Saturday

The annual car show will be from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday at Sloan Hendrix School in Imboden. Registration for the show begins at 9 a.m., and the entry fee for each vehicle will be \$15.

Entry for the show is free, and fair officials expect 150 vehicles for the event. J. R. Rogers and the All Star Band will play for the show. Persons attending who would want to sit during the car show and music, should bring their own chairs.

Trophies will be awarded for first, second and third place and dash plaques will be given to the first 150 to enter. For more information call Pat Roby at 878-6326 or Jack Dail at 869-2930.

Something new this year will be a special recognition for Gizmo McCracken, "gizmo the clown," who will make his appearances at the rodeo both nights. Gizmo will give away prizes and kids tickets to the midway rides and some rodeo tickets for kids Saturday.

The midway will be open from 6 p.m. until midnight Saturday.

The PRCA rodeo with David Bailey begins at 8 p.m. and will feature the best cowboys in the PRCA, officials said. There will be a calf scramble for the kids and a "wild cow milking contest" for adults.

1,000 bikers ride for charities

BY ANTHONY CHILDRESS
SUN STAFF WRITER

JONESBORO — Ready, set, go. With the click of a key and a foot thrust, engines rumbled then jetted a sea of motorcycles from the parking lot of the NEA Hilltop Clinic, 4901 East Johnson, on a journey in hopes of landing a Honda VTX 1300 Retro cycle and to raise money for a pair of worthy causes.

The NEA Clinic D.A.R.E. To Ride Biker Classic '05 motored along at a rapid clip Saturday as hundreds of motorcycle enthusiasts jaunted from Jonesboro to Paragould, Corning, Pocahontas, Black Rock, Bono and back again. Holly Acebo, director of the NEA Clinic Charitable Foundation, said the event was one that truly came together quickly and had already exceeded her expectations before the first group of bikes rolled by.

"This is the first year for the classic, and we have close to 1,000 bikes," Acebo said. "We did not expect such a large number. The first bike left at 8:30 a.m., but we had people here registering two hours before that. It is exciting."

Nearly 100 volunteers worked the various stops along the bike route. From watching the participants motor along to live music, a bike show, games and entertainment for children and the Honda grand prize, crowds had plenty to keep them busy throughout the day.

"There are bikers here from Oklahoma and Louisiana and as far away as South Dakota," Acebo said. "It is great to see how well we have done in the very first year."



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Woody Haynes of Jonesboro straps on his helmet as he prepares to leave for the D.A.R.E. to Ride Biker Classic '05 motorcycle ride Saturday morning.

Money raised from the event will be split between the foundation and the Jonesboro Police Department's D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program, which leads a series of classroom lessons focused on ways to avoid drug use and live violence-free lives.

Cpl. Greg Lawson of the JPD said there is no way to accurately measure what the classic will mean to officers in their efforts to battle the spread of drugs.

"Altogether it takes about \$12,000 a year to do the D.A.R.E. program," Lawson said. "We will use some of the

funds to buy books and supplies for the kids in the schools."

Biker Marvin Hargett of Jonesboro said he decided to take part because of his love for riding his bike, but also to help the foundation and law enforcement.

"I go to a lot of these rides," Hargett added. "I have ridden all over the country, but it's important to do things in your local community."

Fellow biker Woody Haynes, also of Jonesboro, was anxious to hop on his bike and enjoy the day. A military veteran, Haynes said he had ridden across 42 states.

"When you travel by bike you see and feel everything," he continued. "You feel the elements; you let the air flow."

Lawson scanned the growing number of riders and smiled broadly.

The mission had not only been completed but managed to rise above his highest ambitions for the first-ever event.

"When we first started planning we hoped to have about 200 bikers," Lawson said. "We wound up with about 1,000. I think that says it all."

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As puffball season approaches, it pays to know your mushroom

BY ALDEMARO ROMERO
AND MARTIN HUSS
SPECIAL TO THE SUN

Some years back a group of teen-agers in Wisconsin received medical treatment after inhaling the spores of fungi known as puffballs. They were operating under the false belief that the mushroom spores from this "devil's snuffbox" were hallucinogenic. They went on a trip, but not the one that they were expecting. They ended up in a local hospital suffering from respiratory distress.

Now that we are approaching the puffball season (late summer to autumn), it is important to know more about these fungi common throughout the country and especially in Arkansas. Although not hallucinogenic, these edible mushrooms are a culinary delight.

They have the outward appearance of white to brown spheres, sometimes with short stalks. Cutting open an immature puffball reveals

white flesh that is edible. A very moist summer is usually the prelude for a great puffball harvest.

Depending on the species, puffballs range widely in size, from being as little as a marble to larger than a soccer ball. Their shape also varies by species, from completely round to looking like an inverted pear. Puffballs can be found growing on wood, often in large clusters, to living solitary or in small clusters on the ground in forests and open areas like lawns and pastures.

The giant puffball is one of the most unmistakable fungi: It can reach more than a foot in diameter and weigh several pounds. So large in fact are these fungi, that from a distance, the giant puffball has been mistaken by some as sheep. Once it matures, a large specimen may contain more than 7 trillion spores; this is about 1,000 spores for every person alive on earth today.

PLEASE SEE PUFFBALLS, A9



Dr. Tom Volk | Special to The Sun

Heather Hallen holds a giant puffball.

ON THE AGENDA |

MONDAY
Westside School Board, 7 p.m., high school library.

TUESDAY
Lawrence County Fair begins, fairgrounds at Imboden

TUESDAY
Jonesboro City Council, 6:30 p.m., Council Chambers, 900 West Monroe.

TUESDAY
Nettleton School Board, 6:30 p.m., Central Office boardroom.