

Alabama Sheriffs' Youth Ranches



Ranch Round-Up ♦ Online Newsletter ♦ February/March 2011

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Alabama Sheriffs'
Youth Ranches

Ranch Round-Up Online Newsletter

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of the Alabama Sheriffs'
Youth Ranches.

Nick RauccioPublisher
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Ranch College Program

By Jimmy Harmon,
College House Coordinator

If you walk into the Alabama Sheriffs' Youth Ranches College House you will smell an aroma not common in a house full of college students. Home-made cakes, breads, and pastries of all kinds mix together in a bouquet of fragrance... and the culprit behind all of this home-made goodness? Culinary student, and Carl's House resident Andrew Creel.

Andrew is in his second year of Faulkner State's culinary program and routinely brings home his confectionary masterpieces for housemates to share. Not only does Andrew excel in the kitchen, but also in the classroom. Currently he has the highest overall grade point average in the college program (3.5 GPA) while maintaining a part-time job at a local restaurant.

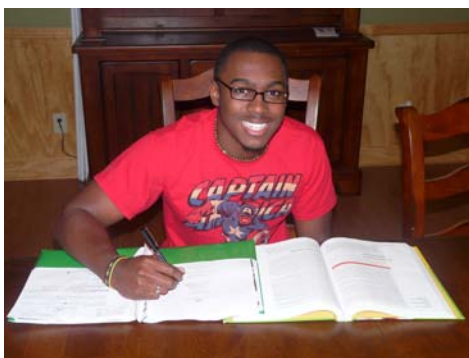
For most college students this would be

considered a fine resume, however Andrew isn't like most students. On his off days (which depending on his academic and work schedule can be few and far between) Andrew can be found outside playing catch with younger ranchers or on rare occasion teaching them the art of making homemade oatmeal cookies. In any case, Andrew is giving back to children who have come from the same circumstances he has overcome.

Andrew has five siblings, all of whom grew up in the Ranch system, and all of whom were able to obtain a college education due to the Ranches you support.

In 2006, the Alabama Sheriffs' Youth Ranches designed and built a home where graduating Ranch high school seniors could move into under the direction of a college coordinator. Carl's House was completed in the summer of 2008, with funds provided by long-time Ranch supporters Carl and Vivian Mueller.

Ranchers who wish to pursue a college or trade school education



College Rancher Desmond Tolen

move into Carl's House following high school graduation and attend Faulkner State Community



College Rancher Andrew Creel

College for the first two years of their post secondary education. If ranchers choose to pursue a four-year degree they may transfer to any school throughout the state (after the completion of a two-year degree) or may stay in the college house and go to the University of South Alabama, or take online classes.

Since the new college program house has opened, the overall grade point average of students has increased from 2.0 to 2.85 and the projected graduation rate is 75%.

Thanks to supporters the Ranch is now able to monitor study habits, provide tutors, and teach independent living skills such as time management, money management, and personal accountability. Your support has helped us give our Ranch youth a quality college education that will help them as they transition into responsible adults.

"It's easier to build boys and girls than to repair men and women"

Colbert County Fame Girls Ranch

The girls have enjoyed playing in the snow and getting out of school this month. They enjoyed a bowling outing at a local bowling alley earlier in the month, as well as a shopping trip to Belk to take advantage of after Christmas sales.



Hair Dimension hair salon donated funds for the Ranch to purchase hiking boots for all of the girls. They are looking forward to being able to hike on the farm very soon with better weather coming up. They also have plans for a camp fire complete with hot dogs and s'mores.

The Ranch Store will be opening soon. The Ranch is looking for donations of gift cards and small items to help stock the store. The girls are attending tutoring at the local school and the Ranch is looking for donated computers to help the girls with their homework and online tutoring resources.



Baldwin County Boys Ranch

The big news in February at the Baldwin County Boys Ranch was their 13th annual Pig Roast fundraiser. They anticipated having 500 guests for the dinner, entertainment and auctions.

One of the Senior Ranchers, Steve J., has been selected as a finalist for the



statewide Bryant Scholarship award. He has been at the Ranch since he was 15. He is a star performer for the Foley Lions football team and has maintained an A average in school. He is looking forward to attending college after graduation.

Tallapoosa County Girls Ranch

The girls were treated to a special Valentine's banquet at an area church in February. Members of the Farmville Baptist Church in Auburn hosted the girls for the banquet where they enjoyed dinner, a motivational speaker, games and treats.

The Ranchers also enjoyed another special Valentine's treat from a local couple who brought Valentine's, candy and balloons for each girl. The girls attended a luncheon with supporters from the

First Baptist Church of Opelika.

Two of our Ranchers are involved in a dance class at Nix Dance Studio in Auburn. They will perform with their class at a recital in May. The Ranchers are looking forward to their annual sponsored trip to see the Columbus Cotton Mouth's hockey team in March.



Support Groups

Each Ranch has a local group of supporters who are interested in the welfare of the children on that Ranch. They meet regularly to help with fundraisers and projects on each location. If you are interested in joining a local support group, please contact your local Ranch.

"It's easier to build boys and girls than to repair men and women"

St. Clair County Boys Ranch

The Ranchers had several opportunities to play in the snow in February and had fun having snowball fights, making snow angels and sliding down the hill. Several of the older Ranchers enjoyed a recent ski trip with the First Baptist Church youth group.

The boys enjoyed a visit with members of the Bethel Baptist Church who grilled hot dogs and played games with the youth during a recent visit. Former Rancher Tim Enzor came back with his wife and new daughter to visit the Ranch and staff.



Non-Cash Donations

We always appreciate your donations of non-cash items such as vehicles, boats, farm and lawn equipment, and clothing. We also need household items such as toilet paper and paper towels, laundry detergent and dish soap, as well as personal toiletry items.

Computer equipment as well as books appropriate for middle or high school students are also needed at several Ranch locations. If you can help in any way, please contact either your local Ranch or the Administrative Office at 1-800-548-4256 to arrange a pick up.

Make Plans to Join Us for the 24th Annual Randy Owen Celebrity Golf Classic



This year marks the 24th year for the annual Randy Owen Celebrity Golf Classic. The tournament will be played at the beautiful Cypress Lakes Country Club in Muscle Shoals.

The tournament format is a little different from any other tournament that benefits the Ranches. The six-player teams are com-

prised of five golfers and a celebrity for each team.

Some of the celebrities who are planning to attend this year include: Holli Mosley Worsham, Rick Hall, Norbert Putnam, Coach Ray Perkins, Dennis Homan, Ronnie Rogers, James LeBlanc, Angela Hacker, Gary Nichols, David St. Romain, John Michael Weatherly, Steve Williams, Walt Aldridge, Earl "Peanutt" Montgomery, David Precopia, Gary Baker, Mark Collie, Tosha Hill, Jim McBride, Don Poythress, Jerry Salley, and Buzz Cason.

Later that evening an Awards Banquet will be held at the Marriott Shoals

Conference Center. There will be a private concert featuring Randy and his band members Megan Mullins, Wade Hayes, John Bohlinger as well as other entertainers.

Each team will have a commemorative photograph taken with Randy during the event. Tournament prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Special prizes will be

awarded for a Hole-in-One, Long Drive and Closest-to-the-Pin holes.

If you are interested in supporting the children of the Youth Ranches through this exciting event, please contact Ranch Director of Development Lori Johns at 1-800-548-4256. The entrance fee for a team is \$3,000 and the hole sponsorship fee is \$300.



"It's easier to build boys and girls than to repair men and women"