

SMOKE SIGNALS



SEPTEMBER 2015

Wedington Wins 2015 Fireman's Muster By: Lesley Ingram, Auxiliary

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For as long as there have been fire departments, there have been fireman's musters. A "muster" is a competition between local fire companies and involves participation in several fire and rescue related events. While there hasn't been a muster in our area for some time, luckily this time-honored tradition has been revived by a local organization called the Hose Monkey Firefighter Services Co. Kory Weathers and Kasey Weathers, who also volunteer with local fire departments, organized Hose Monkey and put on the 1st Annual Hose Monkey Marathon, 2015 Fireman's Muster, on June 20, 2015 at the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

Several departments participated in this year's Muster, including Wedington, Farmington, Elkins, Round Mountain, Goshen, and Whitehouse. Wedington sponsored one (1) team of five (5) firefighters, and the members of the team consisted of Team Captain Joe Needham, Trey Hargus, Mar-

tin Peters, Jake Blackburn, and Daniel Ingram. Events are expected to vary from year-to-year, but this year's events were the Turnout Race, Bucket Brigade Relay, Keg Roll, Tug-O-War, Dueling Hoses, and the Firefighters Challenge. The competition was bracket styled, which placed departments directly against each other.

The Turnout Race was a timed event and required all five (5) team members to completely and correctly don their turnout gear, which included their helmet w/ chin strap, coat, gloves, pants (with suspenders), and boots.



The Bucket Brigade is the event pictured on Page 1. This event required team members to relay water buckets from the fill tank on the ground to the barrel at the top of the ladder. The first team to fill their barrel won.

The Keg Roll involved navigating an empty keg bottle through an obstacle course of cones using nothing but a stream of water from a charged hoseline. If any part of any person came in contact with the keg, it was an automatic disqualification.

The Tug-O-War was exactly that, a tug-o-war. Departments competed against each other to pull the opposing team's flag across a designated mark using a rope.



Dueling Hoses, which is pictured above, required teams to stand approximately 30 yards away from each other with charged hoselines. In between the teams, suspended from a wire, was an

empty keg. At the whistle, each team sprayed the keg with water in an attempt to move it over the opposing team to a designated point on the wire.

And finally, teams participated in the Firefighters Challenge. This event was a timed relay in which each team member performed a different task while wearing all of their personal protective equipment. The tasks included rolling and unrolling hose, crawling through a simulated stud wall, traversing through a window simulator, climbing a 20 ft. ladder and lifting a 50 ft. section of rolled hose, navigating a dark maze, striking a keiser sled with a sledgehammer, dragging a 180 lb. dummy 80 ft., breaching a simulated wall with a tool, and knocking over a cone with a stream of water.

Each department did very well and the final results were very close. However, we are proud to announce that the team from Wedington won 1st Place overall. Wedington's team won the Turn-out Race, Dueling Hoses, and the Firefighters Challenge, and came in second place on the Keg Roll. As a department, we would like to thank our team members for volunteering to participate in this event and congratulate them on a job well done.

We would also like to thank the Washington County Sheriff's Office for their hospitality, and the crew from Hose Monkey Firefighter Services for putting on such a great event. We look forward to participating again next year.

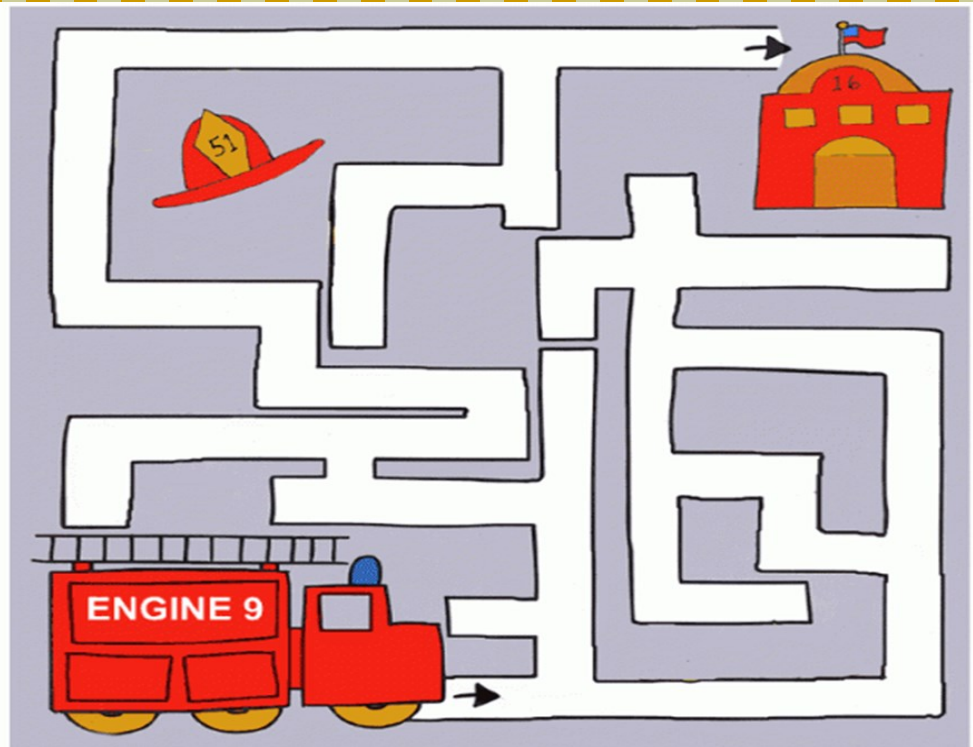
We hope anyone that is interested in this event will come out next year to cheer us on. If anyone knows of a Washington County business that might like to sponsor the event, please contact Kory Weathers at kweathers@co.washington.ar.us, or Kasey Weathers at kasey.weathers@sourcegas.com.



Our 2nd Safety Awareness Day was a huge success! Nearly 50 local kids got ID cards made by the Washington County Sheriff's Department. Darby Bybee from 40/29 came out and gave a weather presentation, and the kids really enjoyed the Fayetteville Fire Department Smoke Trailer and Fayetteville Police K-9 drug dog demonstrations. We would like to send out a big thank you to all the local departments that participated in this year's event, and hope everyone is able to come out again next year.



**HELP
THE ENGINE
GET BACK TO
THE FIRE
STATION!**

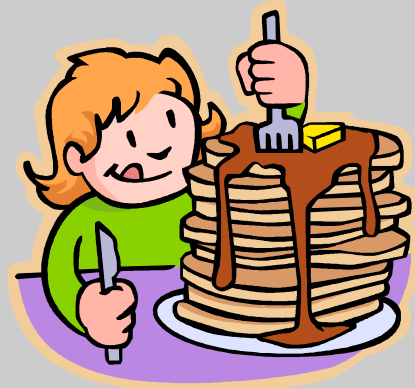


Country Breakfast

Saturday, September 26th

6 am to 11 am

Highway 16 West



(Pancakes, scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, bacon, sausage, drinks)

Adults \$6.00 / Children 6-12 \$2.00 / Under 6 Free

The Wedington Auxiliary cookbook will be available for sale for \$10 each at the Country Breakfast on Saturday, September 26. If you can't come to the Country Breakfast, you can order one by sending an e-mail to firedept@wedington.org with the subject "cookbook," or by calling the fire station at 479-443-7802 and leaving your name and phone number so we can call you back. Someone from the Auxiliary will let you know when and where you can purchase the new cookbook. Enjoy a featured recipe below!

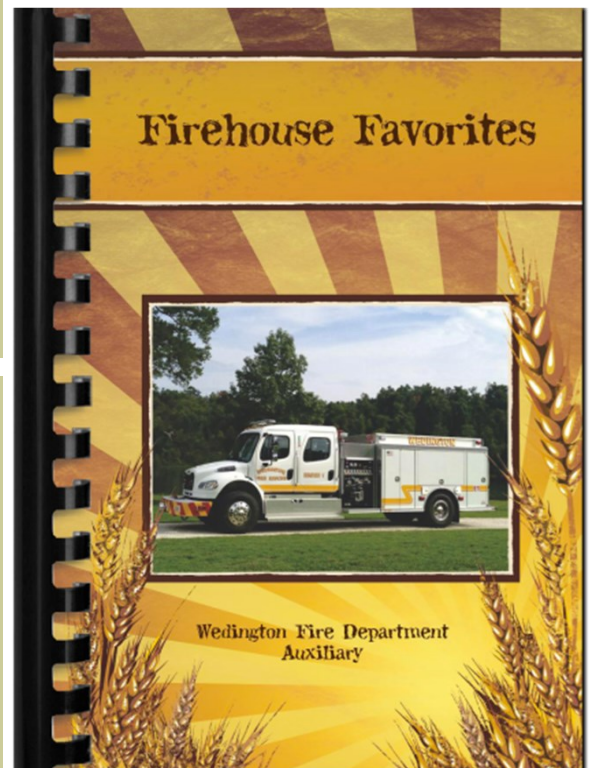
\$10 PER COOKBOOK

Cowboy Stew by: Emailie Taylor

- 1lb hamburger meat
- 1 small onion (chopped)
- 1 small bell pepper (chopped)
- 16oz can of whole kernel corn
- 16oz can of stewed tomatoes
- 16oz can of ranch style beans
- 8oz can of tomato sauce



Brown hamburger meat, onion, and bell pepper together. Drain. Add all other ingredients and simmer for 1-2 hours. Make 6-8 servings.



Or 2 for \$16