

Home Country

The Disappearance of Doodles

It all began when old man Ortega's rooster disappeared. He reported it to the police, of course, who thought this neighborhood alarm clock finally met with a dissatisfied customer and was now cradled in dumplings.

The police said as much to Ortega, and the old man wanted to know what the police were going to do about it. Well, since it had been almost a week since they'd had a complaint come in, the

chief sent young Glen around the neighborhood asking chicken questions. Everyone denied ending ol' Doodle's career ... when they finished laughing ... and a cursory exam of yards and garbage cans failed to turn up brown or red feathers. The preliminary poultry purloinment pursuit then ended with a cursory report filed down at the cop shop, with old man Ortega getting a copy of it.

Ortega had his suspicions, of course. There was one neighbor lady who had once complained about the rooster to Ortega, and he had defended to her very face his rooster's right to crow. She then asked if he couldn't get ol' Doodles operated on, like they do to dogs, and get his doodler clipped so he'd be singing blanks, as it were.

Ortega hotly replied that anyone who would deliberately deface an

American rooster would steal sheep. Later on, he apologized to her for blowing off steam, told her he really didn't think of her as a sheep thief, and offered to buy her some ear plugs that they sell out at the shooting range. She passed on the ear plug offer, but poured him a cup of coffee and that seemed to be that.

But still, ol' Doodles was gone, and there was no denying that. If he had simply escaped and



Slim Randles

was still in town, we'd have heard him somewhere, so that was ruled out.

We finally put two and two together when another neighbor caught a coyote going over the fence with one of his hens, but we al-

ways wondered about that doodler-snipping operation. We'll have to ask Doc about it.

Brought to you by Slim's new book "A Cowboy's Guide to Growing Up Right." Learn more at <http://www.nmsantos.com/Slim/Slim.html>.

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PRESERVATION CELEBRATION
The annual spring gathering of the
Clay County Historic Preservation Commission

9:30am **Will Schweinle:** Restoring & working with woodworking planes. A demonstration of the restoration process, and a chance to test-drive some of Will's hot rods

10:30am **Steve Howe, Jim Wilson, & John Erickson:** Inspecting historic houses. A discussion of tactics, techniques, problems, and possibilities.

Noon **Lunch:** Who says there's no such thing as a free lunch? Also **John Grayson** will be restoring a vintage light fixture before our very eyes.

1:00pm **Tom Thaden:** A walking tour of the USD campus. You think you know those buildings?

2:00pm **Jim Wilson:** Downtown masonry tour. Architecture is all around us, but better appreciated with some expert insight.

Saturday, May 21, 2011, at the Austin Whittemore House
 15 Austin Street, Downtown Vermillion

Free & Open to the public. No registration required. Contact John Erickson at 670-0236 for more information

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 at RTEC, 1200 W. 21st St.
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 Vermillion Theatre**
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<p>Coyote1</p> <p>THOR - PG-13 - Nightly 7:00 p.m. Fri., Sat., Sun. & Tues. at 9:15p.m. Sat. & Sun. Matinees at 1:00 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.</p>	<p>Coyote2 Midnight Showing on May 19th</p> <p>PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES - PG-13 - Nightly 7:00 p.m. Fri., Sat., Sun. & Tues. at 9:35 p.m. Sat. & Sun. Matinees at 1:00 p.m. and 3:35 p.m. No Passes Please</p>
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**Vermillion
 FAST FIVE**
 - PG-13 -
 Nightly 7:00 p.m.
 Fri., Sat. Sun. & Tues. at 9:25 p.m.
 Sat. & Sun. Matinees at 1:00 p.m. and 3:25 p.m.

Please visit our new website at www.marchfilmsinc.com

Vermillion Community Theatre:
Auditions

*my
 fair
 lady*

PERFORMANCES
 JULY 9-11

*Charlie
 and the
 Chocolate
 Factory*

PERFORMANCES
 AUGUST 5-7

May 21 and 22 at 3:00 pm
Vermillion High School Performing Arts Center

Auditions will be held for both of our summer shows at one time.
 Actors may choose to audition for one or both.
 See the website for audition forms and additional information.
www.vermillioncommunitytheatre.org

Benefit for Payton Hand

Supper • Silent Auction • Bake Sale
 Thursday, May 19, 2011
 5:00-7:30 pm
 Immanuel Lutheran Church - Elk Point

Menu: Pork Sandwiches, Chips, Beans & Beverage
 \$5.00/plate

Payton is the 10-year-old daughter of James & Amy (Wohler) Koeppel. She is battling Leukemia and will be going to the University of Minnesota Children's Hospital for a stem cell transplant in June.

All proceeds will go to the Payton Hand Benefit Fund.
 Donations can also be made at CorTrust Bank in Vermillion and Bank 360 in Elk Point.