

• Special to the Leader & Times MEADE – Grab the flour, sugar, and chocolate, don aprons and turn on the ovens – it's time for the Bake Off at High Noon at the Dalton Gang Hideout in Meade. The event will fire off at noon on Saturday, April 27, and will conclude at 5 p.m.

Currently, a total of 45 entries have been submitted from cities including: Leoti, Ashland, Dodge City, Hutchinson, Ulysses, Marienthal, Liberal, Garden City, Montezuma, Fowler and Meade.

The event is free to attend and open to the public. To compete, call 620-518-1722. The deadline is Wednesday, April 24, – entry fee is \$10 for as many entries as one would like to enter.

The fee covers a table for a 'booth' where contestants are encouraged to offer samples to attendees. Contestants are also welcome to sell items, so come prepared with an appetite and get that sugar fix for the weekend.

Baked goods will be divided into five categories: Pies, Cakes, Cookies, Pastries, and Bread/Miscellaneous. All items must be made from scratch and will be judged on appearance and taste. Don't forget that contestants will need to provide tastes for judges and must be present for the entire afternoon. Concessions will be provided by the 4-H clubs of Meade County and the Boy Scouts, and Smoke Hoss will be serving sandwiches and side dishes. The Dalton Gang Hideout and Meade County Historical Society will be serving cowboy coffee cooked over an open fire so bring blankets and lawn chairs and spend the day under the Cottonwood trees. Limited seating will be available at picnic tables in front of the stage that will be filled with entertainment throughout the afternoon.

The Way Out West players will be presenting a play entitled "The Fastest Play in the West: 25 Years in 25 Minutes." Hays Playwright Everett Robert wrote the play especially for this event. Musicians George Lucas, Larry and Jeff Padgett and Wes Passmore are amongst the performers on the stage. The event will be emceed by Dodge City Marshal Allen Bailey and Cowgirl Janey.

A silent auction will be part of the afternoon and contestants are asked to support it with a baked good. It will also include various other donated items so don't miss out on all the treasures. All proceeds of the silent auction will go to the Meade County Historical Society.

This event is just one of the multiple regional events that has been organized by newcomer to Meade, J. Basil Dannebohm. Mr. Dannebohm is no stranger to Kansas or promotions and marketing. He grew up in Ellinwood and worked in Hays, Lawrence and Wichita prior to relocating to Denver, where he continued to work in marketing before moving to California for a short time. He returned to the state on Kansas Day after being diagnosed with Young Onset Parkinson's Disease.

Dannebohm is a professional speaker and writer-at-large with the National Writers Union.

Also assisting with the organization of the Bake Off at High Noon are Meade County Historical Museum curator Nancy Ohnick, Dalton Gang Hideout manager Mark Ferguson, Meade Chamber of Commerce President Tiffany Neel and Meade City Administrator Dean Cordes.

Judges include members of the Kansas Legislature, media personalities and regional dignitaries.

Prizes will be awarded in each category so get those entry forms in today.