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GO-TO PLACE

Elk City Rodeo is part of annual tradition for Texas family

Elk City, Okla. – August 22, 2022 – Elk City is a special place for three people from Texas.

Amarillo residents Terry and Suzanne Braddock and their daughter Tera, make several trips from their home in Amarillo to Elk City each year.

And they rarely miss the Elk City Rodeo.

For the past eight years, the family has made the trek every Labor Day weekend to Elk City to the rodeo.

They got started visiting Oklahoma for a car show in Clinton. They'd heard about the rodeo, so when the car show didn't happen, they started coming to the rodeo.

The Braddocks come up on Thursday or Friday of rodeo week and attend the first two nights of rodeo. During the day, they sightsee, visiting new restaurants in town, going to the museum and Ackley Park and riding the carousel and the train.

In the evening, they arrive at the rodeo grounds early enough to buy their tickets, then walk around the rodeo grounds, seeing the Sander Ranch longhorns and the horses and bulls, before taking their seats.

“We get there early so we get the same seats every year,” Suzanne said.

The Braddocks visit Elk City in March for Tera's birthday, and sometimes come for a “day-cation,” Suzanne said. “We do Elk City a lot,” she said. “That's our go-to place.”

Terry and Suzanne love the town so much, they've considered moving there. “Let me tell you,” Suzanne said, “my husband has looked at houses there. We love (the town.) It's beautiful. It's a wonderful little place.”

But Terry's job at a car dealership, plus two other daughters and nine grandkids, keep the Braddocks near Amarillo.

The Braddocks have attended rodeos in the Amarillo area, but they consider the Elk City rodeo the best they've seen.

“It’s a lot bigger and more well-presented,” Suzanne said. “It’s very professional. You can tell the committee works hard.”

Tera, who has special needs, loves everything about it, her mother said. “She loves the rodeo and the music,” Suzanne said, noting that Tera is a people-person who loves to serve others.

But the Elk City Rodeo is a special event for the Braddocks.

“It’s a lot of family fun for the three of us to do together. We make a lot of memories and take a lot of pictures. It means a lot to us every year.”

This year’s Elk City Rodeo is September 2-4, with performances each night at 8 pm. Tickets range in price from \$9-\$18.

They can be purchased at Circle A Western Wear, at the ticket booth at the Beutler Bros. Arena, and at the gate. For more information, visit the rodeo’s website (www.ElkCityRodeo.com) or its Facebook page.

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Cutline:

Tera Braddock (on the right) and her mother Suzanne Braddock pose in front of the cowboys shaking hands statute in Elk City. The Amarillo, Texas residents, plus Terry, Tera’s dad and Suzanne’s husband, make annual trips to Elk City for the rodeo and other events. Photo courtesy Suzanne Braddock.

Tera Braddock poses with rodeo clown Robbie Hodges. She and her parents, Terry and Suzanne Braddock, are annual visitors to the Elk City Rodeo of Champions. Photo courtesy Suzanne Braddock.

Tera Braddock dresses as a “soda fountain jerk” at the Route 66 Museum in Elk City. She, along with her parents Terry and Suzanne, make regular trips from their home in Amarillo, Texas, to Elk City for the rodeo and other events. Photo courtesy Suzanne Braddock.

Terry, Suzanne and Tera Braddock pose for a photo during the Elk City Rodeo. The Amarillo, Texas family has come to the rodeo each year since about 2014. Photo courtesy Suzanne Braddock.