

Hayes Center Nebraska's Grand Duke Alexis Rendezvous 2009 will be held Sept. 25, 26, and 27 near the actual site of the historic campground of Buffalo Bill Cody, General George Custer, General Phil Sheridan and the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia.

The event, now in its 10th year, was initiated to commemorate the famous buffalo hunt which was held for the son of Russian Czar Alexander II when he visited Nebraska in 1872.

The rendezvous, sponsored by the Hayes Center Lions Club, is held at Camp Hayes Lake.

A weekend full of fun and exciting activities is planned beginning on Friday with Student Day for fourth through sixth grade students from area schools.

A highlight of the weekend is the featured storytellers.

Jahnis J. Abelite of Arlington, Wash., will be on hand to portray the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia.

Steve Alexander of Monroe, Mich., will portray General George Custer, Kirk Shapland of Dighton, Kan., will entertain as Buffalo Bill Cody, and Wayne Mintling of Culbertson will depict General Phil Sheridan.

Muzzle loader enthusiasts will enjoy the various black powder shoots and hawk and knife throws which take place throughout the weekend.

The Raven Dancers from Franktown, Colo., will entertain with Native American dance and costume on Saturday afternoon.

The Gospel Lights, a mixed quartet from North Platte, will be the featured entertainment on Sunday afternoon.

Other activities held throughout the weekend will be the frontier ladies tea on Saturday afternoon, a community church service on Sunday morning, trail ride, children's games, costume contest, demonstrations of frontier era crafts, and tours to the original monument site.

A new event to celebrate the 10th year will be a grand ball on Saturday evening at the Legion Hall in Hayes Center.

Concessions are available on Saturday and Sunday. Featured will be buffalo burgers, campfire stew and homemade pie.

Campsites are available for primitive and modern camping.

The Lions Club is sponsoring two drawings to raise the funds for the Grand Duke Alexis Rendezvous. The club is offering chances on a deluxe engraved Sharps 45-70 rifle.

The club is also selling chances on a beautiful hand made quilt. For more information or a schedule of events, contact Doris Vlasin at 308-286-3463, Jan Singleton at 308-286-3676, email to jsingleton@gpcom.net or go to the event website: www.granddukealexis.com.