

Rodeo Star-Cowboy Singer Prodigy Ned LeDoux Set 'Pearl' Feature For Kansas' Oldest Ranch Rodeo

Number-two-son of world champion cowboy-country-music-hitmaker Chris LeDoux has the genes, certain ability, more than ample desire, and Ned LeDoux is keeping the family surname alive and well.

Knowing the cowboy life inside and out from growing up on the family ranch, with four siblings near Kaycee, Wyo., Ned LeDoux has followed in Dad's boot steps as musician too.

Playing drums in Chris' band, Western Underground, until the champion cowboy-musician's early death, Ned LeDoux is keeping his father's legacy alive touring the country with a musical stage show.

Performing at a couple of Midwest venues in recent times, Ned LeDoux will be in the heart of cowboy country, the Flint Hills of Kansas this summer.



Like father_ like son_ Chris and Ned LeDoux performed on stage together.

Advertised and promoted heavily on 580 WIBW, Country Legends 106.9, The BIG 94.5 Country, WibwNewsNow and the Kansas Agriculture Network, the rodeo, sanctioned by the Working Ranch Cowboys Association (WRCA), will feature 16 four-member-cowboy teams from ranches throughout the Midwest.

"We'll have a junior ranch rodeo on Saturday morning, July 9, and the second rodeo performance is in the evening, with the champion team qualifying for the WRCA Finals in Amarillo, Texas, this fall," said Wilson, who was interviewed live on 580 WIBW, Country Legends, The BIG 94.5 Country and WibwNewsNow.

Noteworthy, according to Wilson, the ranch rodeo at Council Grove, the first such competition in the state, is celebrating its 30th anniversary, signified by the valued-stone "pearl," making Ned LeDoux's guest appearance recognition of that special occasion.

Chris LeDoux participated in his first rodeo as a teenager, collecting high school and college rodeo championships.

In 1970, Chris LeDoux became a professional rodeo cowboy, began composing songs describing his lifestyle, and sold albums out of his truck at rodeos.

Hard work bore fruit in 1976, when Chris LeDoux was the world champion bareback rider in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association with climax during the National Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City.



Champion cowboy-country singer Chris LeDoux was the world champion bareback bronc rider in 1977_ and sold millions of copies of his recordings featuring the cowboy life.

and bittersweet shadow, but it's one Ned LeDoux doesn't mind standing in.

Ned LeDoux knew from an early age that he had "no plan b" but to play music. "Once I got the taste of the road, and being in front of a crowd and just the sound of it, it was...freedom."

After Chris' death, Ned continued to tour with his father's band to keep the musical spirit of Chris LeDoux alive. This drove him to pick up the guitar and try his hand at some of his dad's songs.

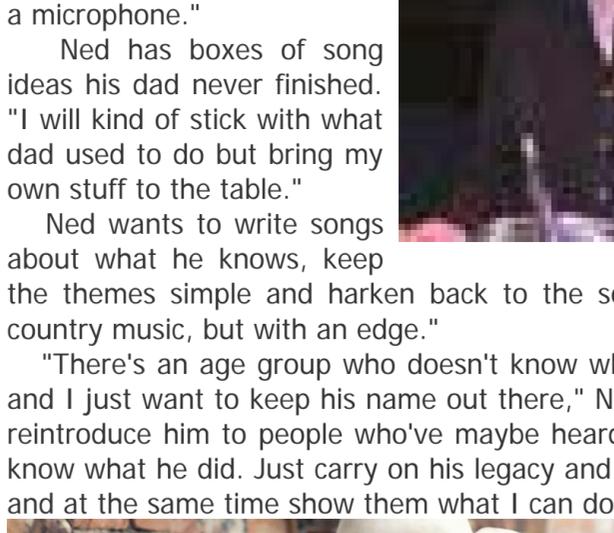
It started with "Rodeo Man," and before long Ned had a whole catalog of his father's early hits ready to play.

Stepping out from behind the drums stirred something inside of Ned that he hadn't felt before, "It's a different kind of rush, getting up with a guitar and standing behind a microphone."

Ned has boxes of song ideas his dad never finished. "I will kind of stick with what dad used to do but bring my own stuff to the table."

Ned wants to write songs about what he knows, keep the themes simple and harken back to the sound of "good ole country music, but with an edge."

"There's an age group who doesn't know who Chris LeDoux is and I just want to keep his name out there," Ned said. "I want to reintroduce him to people who've maybe heard of him but didn't know what he did. Just carry on his legacy and carry on his music and at the same time show them what I can do."



Ned LeDoux grew up on a ranch in Wyoming with an inborn fondness and ability for cowboy like. He_s also following his champion cowboy dad Chris LeDoux as a cowboy singer set to entertain at the ranch rodeo in Council Grove on July 8.

Council Grove rodeo fans will hear "This Cowboy's Hat," the song most requested by Ned's fans. His personal favorite song is one called "You Can't Tell Me We Ain't Got It All," that Ned co-wrote with his dad.

"The biggest thing I learned from my dad is that if you are going to do something, do it the best you can. He instilled that work ethic in all of us kids.

"Dad could look back on every job we did together, whether it was building fence or branding, and take pride in knowing that it was a job well done," Ned said. "There's a lot in what Dad and my Mom taught us kids, and I'll try my best to hand those values down to my son, too."

Information about LeDoux's performance at the Santa Fe Ranch Rodeo in Council Grove is at www.mrcoyouthrodeo.com.

"We're so excited to have Ned LeDoux as featured entertainment for the first performance of the Santa Fe Trail Ranch Rodeo at Council Grove, on Friday evening, July 8," announced Clay Wilson, president of the Morris County Youth Rodeo Association.

"The best thing, everybody will get to see and hear this top entertainer with just a regular rodeo admittance," Wilson added.

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