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In 2015, what is now billed as The Topeka Rodeo made national headlines when a \$10,000 check was awarded to a local resident as winner of "The \$10,000 Golden Horseshoe Contest," coordinated by The BIG 94.5 Country, rodeo sponsor.

That same year, The Topeka Rodeo was recognized as the Best New Rodeo of the Year by the United Rodeo Association (URA), which sanctions more than 100 rodeos throughout the country annually.

"Those two major achievements will always make 2015 stand out for The Topeka Rodeo," according to Dr. Jeff VanPetten, rodeo chairman.



An opportunity to throw a golden horseshoe and win \$10,000 if it's a ringer has again been planned as a special promotion incentive for The Topeka Rodeo, August 19-20, at the North Topeka Saddle Club Arena.

"The best news is that the Golden Horseshoe Contest is back again this year," stated Rusty Walker of the acclaimed Walker-Daniels Morning Show on The BIG 94.5 Country.

"We're hoping for another ringer," exclaimed Walker, also a rodeo committee member.

"But this year, we have even more great things added for our fifth annual rodeo August 19 and 20, at the North Topeka Saddle Club Arena, 74th and North Topeka Boulevard, Topeka," promised VanPetten, a Meriden veterinarian.

Friday and Saturday evenings, at 8 o'clock, chutes will be loaded with broncs, and bulls, as the bleachers fill with spectators for the exciting action featuring top cowboys and cowgirls from throughout the Midwest.

Sanctioned competition is to feature saddle bronc riding, bareback bronc riding, tie-down calf roping, team roping, over-40 calf roping, breakaway roping, steer wrestling, barrel racing and big bad bull riding.

The Topeka Rodeo benefits activities of the North Topeka Saddle Club, a 501c3 non-profit organization, which annually hosts a number of youth and community events, according to VanPetten.

This year, The Topeka Rodeo will offer two scholarships to area students, one boy and one girl, with applications still being accepted at this time.

"Giving back to the community is The Topeka Rodeo's main objective and being able to help students continue their education is a great pleasure," VanPetten insisted.

A \$1,000 bonus will be awarded to winner of The Topeka Rodeo bull riding competition.

"This bonus was added last year, and Bill Pollick, who sponsors the incentive, agreed to continue the offer, especially significant to rodeo bull riding contestants," VanPetten said. In case of a tie, the bonus money will be split evenly.

"When listeners of The BIG 94.5 Country hear 'The Horseshoe Sounder,' they must call in to receive a golden horseshoe," Walker explained.

"Recipients of this horseshoe will get tickets to the Saturday evening rodeo performance and be put in the running for a chance to win \$10,000," Walker continued.

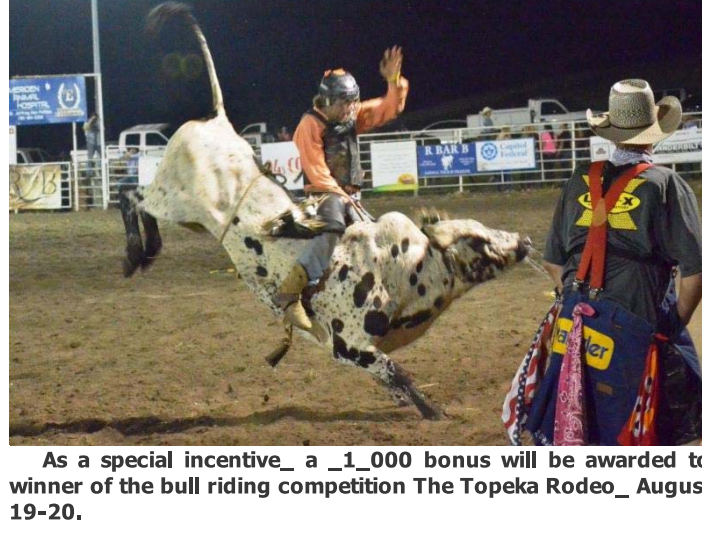
"At the rodeo, qualified throwers will each be given one opportunity to toss the 'official' golden horseshoe, and win the big check if the throw is declared a ringer."

A "Rodeo Kick-off Party" is set Thursday, Aug. 18, as The Topeka Rodeo teams with the Kansas Expocentre's "Third Thursday" live music series at the Kansas Expocentre's Heritage Hall and Gazebo, at 5 o'clock, Walker said..

On Saturday morning at 8 o'clock, a "Cowboy Breakfast" pancake feed catered by Puffy's Steakhouse will be at the rodeo arena to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Rodeo "slack" competition is set for 9 o'clock, with breakfast attendees welcome to watch the action.

The Topeka Rodeo committee in addition to VanPetten and Walker, includes Shane Sommars, Jo Turner, Justin Gregory, Lisa Haag, Bobby Hinds, Luann Crist, and Torey Berndt.

"This rodeo wouldn't be possible without our sponsors," VanPetten emphasized. "The BIG 94.5 Country, now an Alpha Media affiliate station, stepped up early on in the planning process followed by Hollywood Casino. Many local businesses have also become involved and are excited to keep the rodeo growing in Topeka."



As a special incentive, a \$1,000 bonus will be awarded to winner of the bull riding competition The Topeka Rodeo, August 19-20.

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It'd be difficult to find a more appropriate locale for rodeo action than right in the heart of cattle country, Greenwood County smack dab in the middle of the world renowned native Bluestem grasslands' Flint Hills of Kansas.

The Western action is set this weekend in the county seat town of Eureka, and it's a full slate of entertainment and true style cowboy and cowgirl competition featuring those who live it every day in their cattle country profession.

"Our committee has pulled out all stops to make the fifth annual Eureka Pro Rodeo the best ever with three completely filled days of activities climaxed each evening with Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) competition Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 19, 20 and 21," announced Jamie Nelson, who's been instrumental in getting the event off the ground and developing it into a rodeo that many of the best cowboys and cowgirls anticipate.

Verification is that the Eureka Pro Rodeo was honored as the Most Improved Rodeo in the PRCA Prairie Circuit last year.

The Eureka Pro Rodeo and has generated nearly \$28,000 for local charities.

"We're especially happy to be part of the Eastern Kansas Pro Rodeo Circuit with rodeos at Coffeyville and Mound City. Most of the contestants competing at those rodeos will be at Eureka competing for points to win circuit awards for placing at all three rodeos," explained Nelson, who noted that all of the rodeos are sanctioned by the Prairie Circuit and Great Lakes Circuit, of the PRCA.

Advertised and promoted on WIBW, Country Legends, The BIG 94.5 Country, WibwNewsNow and the Kansas Agriculture Network, the rodeo begins at 8 o'clock each evening with the grand entry of rodeo contestants, officials, committee members and royalty featuring Ole Glory, and an inspirational rendition of the national anthem.

Friday evening's performance honors the military serving for this country's democratic freedoms, while Saturday's performance is Shrine Night.

Sunday has been designated Knock Out Cancer Night with all contestants and everybody in attendance asked to wear pink for cancer awareness and support of cancer cures.

Participation from throughout the community and many miles away is expected for the rodeo parade down Eureka's Main Street, Saturday afternoon, Aug. 20, beginning at 2 o'clock.

"Bring your horse, your classic car, build a float, be in the parade, or be sure to get the best seat along the route, because it'll be a good one," Nelson promised.

A parade feature will be the big Percheron team owned and driven by Nelson. Those horses have already become symbolic of the Eureka Pro Rodeo, for vast promotion efforts and participation in rodeo activities.



Jamie Nelson serves as a committeeman for The Eureka Pro Rodeo honored as one of the best rodeos in the Prairie Circuit of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. The fifth annual Eureka Pro Rodeo is set for this weekend, August 19-20-21, at Eureka.



Hamilton rancher Wayne Bailey is a lifetime rodeo cowboy who'll serve as Grand Marshal for the Eureka Pro Rodeo parade Saturday afternoon, Aug. 20, at Eureka.

Wayne Bailey, Hamilton, will serve as Grand Marshall for this year's parade.

A lifetime cowboy, Bailey is also a committeeman for the Eureka Pro Rodeo. After being a high school rodeo champion in four events, and serving his country in the Vietnam Conflict, Bailey returned to be a Chase and Greenwood County rancher.

Marrying his toughest youth horse show competitor Marcia Stout, the couple continued to rodeo throughout the country. They raised two sons, Buck and Wes, who became rodeo champions as well. Grandchildren are now in the rodeo spotlight.

Continuing to rodeo beyond retirement time for many, Bailey was renowned as a saddle bronc rider and steer wrestler, uniquely winning the steer wrestling event in the Eastern Kansas Pro Rodeo Series in 1984.

This year, Bailey was on the winning team at the ranch rodeo in Latham. "I'm proud to still be competing successfully in rodeos at age 69 and plan on being back next year," he summarized that feat.

Information about the Eureka Pro Rodeo this weekend can be found on Facebook.

**Padre Says:**

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