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## **Cowboy Joker Fits Right In** As Demanded Rodeo Clown

"The classroom clown is a top candidate to be a rodeo clown." That's been the case before, and it was sure the deal for Colton Stueve. "I was on the rodeo team at Fort Hays State, when the clown

didn't show up for a rodeo. My coach Bronc Rumford knew I was always clowning around, and asked me to do the job," the lifelong cowboy reflected. "I said sure I'll give it a try. I was nervous, but I really loved it,"

Stueve affirmed.

So, did the rodeo crowd, and the rodeo contractors and committees. Grease paint, baggy suspendered jeans, flashy shirt, floppy hat

accompanying that instinctive jousting made a cowboy into a funnyman in demand. "It's been great. I continue to contract more rodeo performances

all of the time," assured the lifelong cowboy, who works for the Highland Ranch at Matfield Green in Chase County. "My nerves are becoming more relaxed too. Learning as I go, how to work the crowd, jive with the announcer and to assist

everybody involved in the rodeo production," Stueve continued. Rodeo enthusiasts will have

opportunity to see Clown Stueve in action with his entertaining antics, tales, gimmicks and more during the seventh annual Hills Blowout Saturday evening, Sept. 10, at Strong City. for a long time, and are

associations."



especially happy to have a popular Chase County cowboy turned rodeo clown-funnyman as part of our big show," expressed Kim

Reyer, who with his family has coordinated the bull riding competition. The attraction has been advertised and promoted extensively on Country Legends 106.9, 94.5 The BIG WibwNewsNow and the Kansas Agriculture Network.

From a family of winning rodeo contestants, Stueve has competed in a number of contest events now specializing in team roping, mostly as a header. "I competed in the Kansas High School Rodeo Association four

years, almost made it to the National High School Finals with my cousin heeling one year. Not quite," Stueve said. However, roping abilities earned Stueve a scholarship and position on the Fort Hays team for National Intercollegiate Rodeo

Association events in the Central Plains Region. "We won and placed in a number of the college rodeos," the roper verified. "I've always competed in jackpot team roping events around the area," Stueve reflected. "Now, since graduating from college, we've been going to more amateur rodeos including a couple of

At 5-foot-7, weighing 155-pounds "soaking wet," the cowboyclown admits being "pretty athletic," excelling in other sports along with rodeo during youthful days. That's an attribute when it comes to being in the arena during rodeo action. "I try to help out every way I can. I've dived into

save a couple of cowboys from bulls when they got bucked off," Stueve admitted. "Now, I let the bullfighters do their job, and I tell the jokes. That's a lot easier for me," the clown verified.

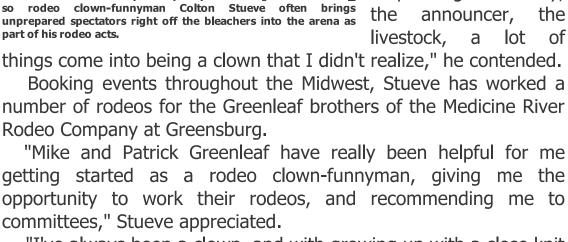
"The main act I have right now is a cannon I built that supposedly shoots pancakes," Stueve said. "I load all the ingredients in, and then light the cannon to shoot ready-made pancakes into the crowd. Nothing can go wrong there, huh?" He also typically does a few small acts that involve some crowd

The funnyman admitted: "I'm always racking my brain on

A clown barrel has been borrowed and part of his act in several performances. "I'm having a barrel built of my own. I'm really anxious to be able to use it during the bull riding," Stueve said.

something to do for a good act and hope to have a new one by the

things, funny the clown's banter depends on the crowd. "It requires more study



Crowd interaction keeps everybody on the edge of their seats\_

participation and a "lot of dancing."

time next year rolls around."

Just a natural at

and preparedness than one might think. Rodeo crowds are different, depending on the day,

announcer,

the

livestock,

However, an additional benefit of being a contract performer, the roper-clown can often do both of his professions, rope and clown at the same rodeo. "That does depend on consent of the contractor and the committee though," he clarified. As reminder, the Flint Hills Bull Blowout official, Kim Reyer said, "The competition is at the famed Flint Hills Rodeo Arena right on

o'clock, and a chicken scramble for youth 10 and under is set during intermission. Stueve and Reyer agree the bull riding is reason to come, but crowds will go home Saturday night talking about "that crazy clown."

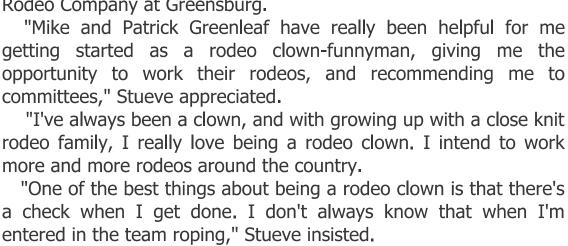
Padre Says:

"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to have."

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The Chase County High School Booster Club will host a barbecue at 6 o'clock, mutton busting for kids is at 6:30, the competition featuring New Frontier Rodeo Company bulls gets underway at 7

Highway 50 across from our Reyer's Country Store."

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