

# High quality athletes expected at fair rodeo

By Heather Alwin

Colby Free Press  
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Thomas County expects to see some high-quality cowboys and cowgirls compete this year during the county fair's rodeo, sanctioned by the Kansas Professional Rodeo Association.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday night with slack performances held after the main rodeo Monday if there are more contestants than spaces available during the main rodeo.

Mutton bustin' will precede Monday night's performance, beginning at 7 p.m.

The 2013 Thomas County Fair queen and princesses will also be crowned Monday night.

Tuesday night's rodeo will feature a special show by the Blazin' Saddles Drill Team, a dozen riders who do a synchronized performance to music while riding horses and carrying flags.

Coach Ashley Moser said the team plans to shake things up a bit this year.

"We started practice in April," she said, "and the team has worked hard to make our performance the best it can be."

Three adults will ride with the drill team to even out the numbers, which include two boys and 10 girls, all in matching clothing



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

A contestant went after his calf last year at the Kansas Professional Rodeo Association Rodeo during the Thomas County Fair. Colby expects plenty of calves, bulls, horses, cowboys and cowgirls again this year's rodeo.

and tack. Moser and assistant coach Vanessa Wellbrock both participated in the drill team as riders, so they have lots of experience with this type of performance.

"We encourage everyone to come and watch us," said Moser. "It's a unique event and it's amazing to see youth out there doing a memorized routine."

A calf-dressing competition will be held during Tuesday's rodeo.

Nine events round out the rodeo, including bareback riding, saddle bronc, steer wrestling, calf roping, breakaway roping, open team roping, 40/40 team roping, barrel racing and bull riding.

Fair Board Vice President Clair Schrock said they expect to have around a dozen local competitors along with competitors from many other areas.

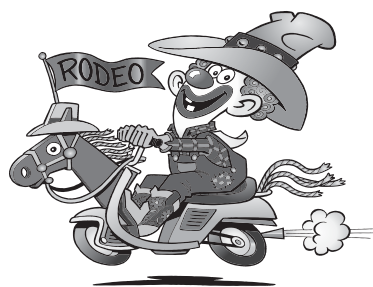
Terry Tinney, rodeo clown and comedian, will keep the bull riders safe during their event while entertaining the crowd with his comedic specialty acts throughout both performances.

J-J Rodeo Company of Lakin will provide the competition's stock again this year as they have for the past three years.

Judges will be Schrock and Joe Johnson of Bertrand, Neb., both authorized judges for the Kansas Professional Rodeo Association.

Rodeo tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids ages 6 to 10. Children five and under are free. Tickets can be purchased at the gate or before the fair by contacting any of the rodeo queen contestants.

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