Fort Madison rodeo “is one of his biggest stages”

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - He’s as well spoken as any college history professor you’ll ever find. His voice carries down the bluff to the people of Fort Madison sitting in their lawn chairs on warm summer nights, while throngs cheer in the stands of Fort Madison’s Tri-State Rodeo.

Boyd Polhamus has been Master of Ceremonies for the Tri-State Rodeo since 2000. A man who’s done the Calgary Stampede, and the youngest ever to do the National Finals Rodeo at the age of 25, will return as the announcer of the rodeo again this year.

The rodeo action kicks off this year on Wednesday, Sept. 6 and runs through the 9th at the C.E. “Eddie” Richards Arena in Rodeo Park.

Polhamus said despite the larger world venues he’s announced at, Fort Madison is one of the biggest events he works.

“It’s one of my biggest stages, “ Polhamus said. “This is not a small deal. This thing has street cred. It’s up there with Cheyenne, Calgary, San Antonio and Houston.”

-Boyd Polhamus, Tri-State Rodeo MC

“...it’s still The Masters. If you want to make it to the national finals, you come through Fort Madison.”

See BOYD, page B13

Tri-State Rodeo
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Wed., Sept. 6
CINCH Shootout
The best cowboys in the country competing for $120,000 in prize money

Thur., Sept. 7
PRCA Rodeo Action
followed by
Cody Johnson
Country Artist

Fri., Sept. 8
PRCA Rodeo Action
with
Smash Mouth
rocking the stage

Sat., Sept. 9
PRCA Rodeo Action
followed by
Jon Pardi
Award-winning country star

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1948 was first rodeo started to replace railroad picnic

The year was 1948 and Fort Madison was about to lose their biggest annual event, a Labor Day parade and picnic sponsored by the railroad's craft unions; with the introduction of diesel locomotives and a resulting decrease in the number of employees needed at the shops, the parade and picnic began to fade.

Enter Santa Fe Railroad telegrapher Robert Wilken, cowboy singer Gene Autry and banker C.E. "Eddie" Richards. Richards was installed as Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce president on January 1, 1948, and immediately started looking for something big enough to replace the Labor Day events. His father-in-law, Wilken had an idea. He knew Autry's livestock had to be rested during the long train ride from Texas to Madison Square Garden in New York City. Wilken was a big rodeo fan, and knew Autry's cattle and horses had been making an overnight stay in Fort Madison each of the ten prior years. The negotiations began and by September of 1948 Fort Madison had its first rodeo.

Organizers realized that Ivanhoe Park, where the Santa Fe picnic had always been held, wasn't going to be big enough for the rodeo. Land purchased then from the Geisen family and the Iowa State Penitentiary became the heart of today's Rodeo Park, which is now called C.E. "Eddie" Richards Arena. A contract with Autry's company stipulated that a rodeo corporation had to be formed and that an arena with a capacity of at least 10,000 seats had to be provided. Volunteers did both, raising $100,000 and setting up a grandstand in the summer of that first year. The first rodeo was a sellout, surprising Autry's business manager, who remarked that not even the Madison Square Garden event saw such advance ticket sales; Autry himself was the featured entertainer.

From the first year, a parade was part of the rodeo activities. Pre-rodeo events were introduced in 1949. The rodeo grew, improvements were made at Rodeo Park and in 1959 a new event-women's barrel racing- was added. A fly-in breakfast at the municipal airport also began that year. Television cameras arrived in 1963, when ABC television network filmed part of the parade and rodeo for the network's "Wide World of Sports". In 1968, several bleacher sections were removed and the area was reduced to a more practical size for the Rodeo. A rodeo queen contest was part of the first event, but it wasn't until 1982 that the Miss Rodeo Iowa pageant was moved from Sidney to Fort Madison.

Hollywood cowboys were replaced by Nashville singers as the headline entertainers starting in 1971. While performers like Michael Landon and Fess Parker had been featured throughout the '50s and '60s, country crooner and sausage king Jimmy Dean was the star in 1971 and then 14 year old Tanya Tucker garnered top billing in 1973. As times continued to change, so did the rodeo. Autry's company no longer moved its livestock by rail. By 1974, the Santa Fe stockyards were gone and new pens in Rodeo Park allowed all of the animals to be kept there.

Colorado rancher Mike Cervi became the rodeo's producer in 1975 and his Cervi Championship Rodeo Company continues to supply the live-stock to this day.

Pre-rodeo week was expanded in 1984 with help from local industries. For the first time, purchase of a button served as the admission to barbecue and chili suppers, a country concert and dances.

Big national sponsors have added to the prize money available to the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and Women's Professional Rodeo Association competitors. First designated one of ten stops on the Winston Tour in 1985, the Tri-State Rodeo today is backed by a number of national sponsors including Coors Brewing Company, Jack Daniels Distillery, Justin Boots, Wrangler and Dodge. The rodeo was broadcast on the ESPN2 cable network in 2001 as part of the Wrangler Summer Tour, but was considered too far east for a return engagement.

Since 2000 the Tri-State Rodeo has been named as one of the nation's top five large outdoor rodeos and continues to rank first among rodeos in the Great Lakes Circuit and in 2001 ranked 43rd among the nation's more than 700 sanctioned PRCA events. No other rodeo east of Kansas City, Missouri ranked higher.

The Tri-State Rodeo continues to attract the nation's top cowboys, with competition spread over four nights the first week in September and big name musicians headlining the Friday and Saturday night performances.
2017 Tri-State Rodeo Schedule of Events

All Pre-Rodeo events are free with Rodeo Button that can be purchased from local merchants for $5.00. Don’t Miss Any Of The Action. For additional information, visit www.tristaterodeo.org

Saturday, September 2, 2017
Pancake Breakfast Sponsored by Fareway
6:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds

Tri-State Special Kids’ Rodeo
Sponsored by the Tri-State Rodeo
10:00 a.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds, C.E. “Ed-die” Richards Arena
Special Kids’ Rodeo is a totally free event for all participants, their families, and spectators.

Sunday, September 3, 2017
Chili Supper Sponsored by Fareway
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds

Monday, September 4, 2017
Lil’ Spurs Rodeo
10:00 a.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds
Includes events for children up to age 14 - Includes Mutton Bustin’, Calf Riding, Goat Tail Tie, Greased Pig, Stick Horse Barrel and Calf Scramble
Pork Dinner Sponsored by Hy-Vee
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds
Dinner includes sandwich, baked beans and chips
Lil Miss Rodeo; All Around Cowboy
6:30 p.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds
Open to children 5 to 7 years of age

Tuesday, September 5, 2017
Pee Wee Barrel Races
5:30 p.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds
Open to children under 12 years of age, ponies under 56 inches, Register Here

Wednesday, September 6, 2017
Tri-State Rodeo Competition
CINCH SHOOTOUT
7:00 p.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds, C.E. “Eddie” Richards Arena - Broadcast via FLORODEO
Cooers Party Pavilion Performance
Music performed by the Rough Ryders following the CINCH shootout - Coors Party Pavilion

Thursday, September 7, 2017
Tri-State Rodeo Competition Big Country 103.1
Night and Family Night
7:00 p.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds, C.E. “Eddie” Richards Arena
Cody Johnson
Following the Rodeo Performance - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds, C.E. “Eddie” Richards Arena
Cooers Party Pavilion Performance
Music performed by the Rough Ryders following the following the Cody Johnson performance on the main stage - Coors Party Pavilion

Friday, September 8, 2017
Tri-State Rodeo 26th Annual Golf Tournament
7:30 p.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds, C.E. “Eddie” Richards Arena
Lincoln schools to pick up kids leaving at 11:45
Buses will be available from Richardson and Lincoln schools to pick up kids leaving at 11:45 returning at 2:15 p.m.
Tri-State Rodeo Competition and Tough Enough to Wear Pink 101.7 The Bull Night
7:30 p.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds, C.E. “Eddie” Richards Arena
Smash Mouth
Following the Rodeo Performance - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds, C.E. “Eddie” Richards Arena
Cooers Party Pavilion Performance
Music performed by the Rough Ryders following the following the Smash Mouth performance on the main stage - Coors Party Pavilion

Saturday, September 9, 2017
Grand Rodeo Parade – Kids, Clowns, and Cowboys
9:30 a.m. - Travels down Avenue G in downtown Fort Madison
See ad on page A2 for registration or visit www.tristaterodeo.org
Tri-State Rodeo Competition
7:30 p.m. - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds, C.E. “Eddie” Richards Arena
Jon Pardi
Following the Rodeo Performance - Tri-State Rodeo Grounds, C.E. “Eddie” Richards Arena
Cooers Party Pavilion Performance
Music performed by the Rough Ryders following the Jon Pardi performance on the main stage - Coors Party Pavilion

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During CMA week, you never know who might jump up on an available stage and sing a few of their songs! Or, you might choose to go online and purchase tickets for the Grand Ole Opry for Tuesday evening at the Ryman Auditorium, also known as “the Mother Church.”
On CMA Day, you may want to stake out your area along the Red Carpet to watch the stars as they arrive with a perfect photo opportunity if positioned well. And then it is time for the “Big Show” where you will feel like one of the stars with RESERVED SEATS IN THE LOWER LEVEL of the Bridgestone Arena, also known as “the Mother Church.”
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Meet some of your 2017 TSR/CINCH cowboys

Wade Sundell

2016 world standings place: Did not compete
Tour Finale qualifications: 6
Championship: 2010-15
Heartland ProRodeo Championships: 1 (2009)
RNCFR titles: 1 (2009)
RNCFR qualifications: 3 (2009-10, 2015)
Professional
• 2017 Highlights
  • Won the Edgewood (Iowa) Days PRCA Rodeo
  • Won the Mandan (N.D.) Rodeo Days
  • Won the Wapello (Iowa) PRCA Rodeo
  • Won the Jayhawk Roundup Rodeo (Hill City, Kan.)
  • Won the Larimer County Fair & Rodeo (Loveland, Colo.)
Career Highlights
• 2015: Won Rounds 1 and 10 and placed in four other rounds at the Wrangler NFR and finished as reserve world champion for the second time in his career. Won the San Angelo (Texas) Rodeo, the Deadwood (S.D.) Days of 76 Rodeo, the Lawton (Okla.) Rangers Rodeo, the Larimer County Fair & Rodeo (Loveland, Colo.), the Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo (Kennedy, Saskatchewan), the Parker County Frontier Days and PRCA Rodeo (Weatherford, Texas) and the Williams Lake (British Columbia) Stampede. Co-champion at the Big Sky ProRodeo Roundup (Great Falls, Mont.) and the Home on the Range Champions Ride (Sentinel Butte, N.D.)
• 2014: Won Rounds 3, 5 and 9 of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo and placed in four others to finish fifth in the average standings and rise from sixth to third in the final world standings with $180,726. Won the San Antonio (Texas) Stock Show & Rodeo; the Ogden (Utah) Pioneer Days; the Las Vegas (Nev.) Helldorado Days; the Dodge City (Kan.) Roundup Rodeo; the Bennington (Kan.) PRCA Rodeo; the Beef Empire Days PRCA Rodeo (Garden City, Kan.); the Rodeo of the Ozarks (Springdale, Ark.); the Ken Lane Memorial (Ada, Okla.); the Coleman (Texas).

Jade Corkill

2016 world standings place: Did not compete
Events: Team Roping (Heeling)
Born: 8/22/1987 Fallon, Nev.
Joined PRCA: 2006
PRCA Career Earnings: $1,487,756.00
World Titles Won: 3 (2012-14)
WNFR Qualifications: 8 (2008-15)
Current Residence: Fallon, Nev.

2016 world standings place: Did not compete
WNFR average titles: 1 (2014)
Tour Finale qualifications: 6 (2009-14)
RNCFR qualifications: 1 (2013)
Education: Feather River College (Quincy, Calif.)
The following rankings are from the WeatherGuard® PRCA 2017 World Standings and are current as of Aug. 19, 2017.

Rank. Name - City, State - Earnings
1. Tim O'Connell - Zwingle, IA - $174,658.54
2. Tanner Aus - Granite Falls, MN - $120,211.34
3. Ryle Smith - Oakdale, CA - $123,735.17
4. Trevor Brazile - Decatur, TX - $123,349.33
5. Russell Cardoza - Terrebonne, OR - $91,511.80
6. Jake Brown - Cleveland, TX - $88,078.25
7. J.R. Vezain - Cowley, WY - $87,631.71
8. Richmond Champion - The Woodlands, TX - $81,327.39
9. Bill Tutor - Huntsville, TX - $77,854.38
10. R.C. Landingham - Hat Creek, CA - $76,524.10
11. Kyle Whitaker - Chambers, NE - $73,807.25
12. Jake Vold - Ponoka, AB - $73,807.25
13. Jackson Seidel - Claremont, CA - $71,992.82
14. Curtis Cassidy - Donalda, AB - $70,548.58
15. Paul David Tierney - Oral, SD - $69,161.18
17. Coleman Proctor - Pryor, OK - $65,942.50
18. Dakota Eldridge - Elko, NV - $64,942.50
19. Jason Thomas - Benton, AR - $63,211.04
20. Jon Ragatz - Beetown, WI - $62,271.57
21. Clay Smith - Broken Bow, OK - $61,543.64
22. Chad Masters - Cedar Hill, TN - $61,799.73
23. Jordan Kettsch - Squaw Valley, CA - $61,543.64
24. Miles Mathis - Cheyenne, WY - $61,452.74
25. Steve Wilkins - Brainard, NE - $60,161.18

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See STANDINGS, page B11
Fred Whitfield
Events: Tie-down roping, team roping (header)
Career earnings: $3,209,318
Born: Aug. 5, 1967 (Houston, Texas)
Nickname: Moon
Residence: Hockley, Texas
Joined PRCA: 1990


Tour Finale titles: 3
Pace Chute-out: 2002-03, 2005
Tour Finale qualifications: 17
Pace Chute-out: 2000-06
Summer Finale: 2002-06
Championship: 2003-06, 2009

Career Highlights
2016 - Won RFD-TV's Gold Buckle Match Roping against Cody Ohl (Rose Palace - San Antonio, Texas)
2014 - Won the Augusta (Mont.) American Legion Rodeo and Mineral Wells (Texas) Rodeo, co-champion at Livingston (Mont.) Roundup. 2013 - Won the Jayhawker Roundup (Hill City, Kan.) and the Roughrider Days Rodeo (Dickinson, N.D.), Co-champion at the Mandan (N.D.) Rodeo Days, RodeoHouston champion - won $57,200, Co-champion at the 75th Annual Brighton Field Day Festival & Rodeo (Okeechobee, Fla.)
2012 - Finished the year ranked 14th with $91,778; Placed in two out 10 rounds and finished eighth in the average at the NFR, winning $21,791.

Tim O'Connell
Events: Bareback Riding
Born: 10/24/1991 Dubuque, Iowa
Joined PRCA: 2013
PRCA Career Earnings: $771,272.00
World Titles Won: 0
WNFR Qualifications: 3 (2014-16)
Current Residence: Zwingle, Iowa

2016 world standings place: 1st
2016 WNFR standings place: 1st
2016 WNFR earnings: $ 195,308
2016 earnings: $374,272
Wrangler NFR average titles: 1 (2016)
RN CFR qualifications: 3 (2013, 2015-16)
Education: Iowa Central Community College (Fort Dodge) and Missouri Valley College (Marshall, Mo.)

Career Highlights
• 2016: Won the world champion title and the Wrangler NFR average by splitting the top spot in Round 2 and placing in seven rounds. O'Connell set a bareback riding record and claimed the biggest single-season total in any event with $347,272 earned. Won the RAM National Circuit Finals Rodeo (Kissimmee, Fla.), the RAM Great Lakes Circuit Finals Rodeo (Louisville, Ky.), the Pendleton (Ore.) Round-Up, qualifier for the Ram National Circuit Finals Rodeo from the First Frontier Circuit. Graduated from Maquoketa (Iowa) High School, which is about 10 miles from the Wisconsin border and received a waiver to compete in the Wisconsin state rodeo championships and represent that state in the National High School Finals Rodeo. 

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5 lbs. Pork Roast
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10 lbs. Chicken Quarters

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4 – 8 oz. Ribeye Steaks
6 – 8 oz. Breaded Pork Tenderloins

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5 lbs. Ground Round
5 lbs. Boneless Rump Roast
5 lbs. Boneless Top Sirloin Steaks
5 lbs. Beef Chuck Roast
5 lbs. Boneless Beef Country Style Ribs

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6 lbs. Pork Steaks
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The snarl in his voice sets the tone for Jon Pardi’s California Sunrise. He’s a traditional country singer, bred in the West Coast honky tonks, and he won’t apologize for chasing the dream on his own terms.

It might be considered contemporary cool to inject country songs with programmed drums, rap phrasing and poppy melodies. But Pardi isn’t worried about what’s trendy. He’s more concerned with making country music that will last, and California Sunrise successfully hits that target. It’s stocked with classic Nashville melody, blue-collar lyrical themes and authentic country instrumentation – real drums, loud-and-proud fiddles and tangy steel guitar. The album’s 12 songs draw a direct link to such forbearers as Dwight Yoakam, George Strait and Marty Stuart, and it’s intentional.

“There’s a growing audience for throwback,” Pardi says. “People want to hear somebody who really enjoyed the ‘90s country music era and brings that to 2016 country. A lot of this record is bringing an old-school flare back to a mainstream sound, but that gives me my own lane.”

Pardi established that lane with his 2014 debut, Write You a Song, a rough-and-rowdy project that made him familiar to the suddenly-hip country crowd, thanks to his Top 10 party song “Up All Night.” The music oozed with youthful brashness and longneck longing, and Pardi drew a raucous following, increasingly selling out 1,000-2,000 ticket clubs, sometimes out-performing higher-profile country acts playing across town the same night.

In fact, as Pardi began adding material from the new album into the set, he was shocked at the passion with which the music was consumed. As he played unreleased songs from California Sunrise, he discovered fans were already singing back the music verbatim – even the verses – having learned the songs from YouTube postings of earlier concerts. They’re ready for Jon Pardi, and he knows exactly what they need.

“I’ve been hitting the road steady for four years,” he says. “I’ve learned more about what the radio stations want, and I’ve learned what the fans want. It’s a whole different perspective on your second record, and I kind of took that perspective and put it into the 30-year-old me that loves recording music and loves writing.”

The result is a creative step forward. It’s not a left turn, necessarily, but there’s a clearer focus to Pardi’s vocal performances and a smart brew of sexy romance, western fashion and all-American work ethic that permeates California Sunrise. “Head Over Boots,” his ultra-melodic two-step ‘pin’ radio hit, hints at the attitude with its playful proclamations and Texas dancehall influence. But there’s plenty more through-out the project: ragged barroom rhythms in the opening “Out Of Style,” Strait-like overtones on the ballad “She Ain’t In It,” a Motown cowboy romp in “Heartache On The Dance Floor” and a breezy, Eagle-esque country/rock closure with the title track.

As invested as he is in throwback appreciation, Pardi is clearly not a one-dimensional dude.
Meet Logan Kinyon - Miss Rodeo Iowa 2017

The small town of Creston, Iowa is home to Logan Kinyon. Born into an agriculture rich community, Jamie and Lori Kinyon raised a strong-willed, hard working cowgirl that grew up competing in the American Quarter Horse Association and the Iowa High School Rodeo Association. Logan now enjoys competing in local barrel races and traveling to rodeos to support her younger brother, Trevor. When not traveling to rodeos, she likes to read, fish, paint, and spend time with her many animals. Logan holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture Business from Northwest Missouri State University and now works as a substitute teacher. Someday, she would like to use her knowledge of animals and the agriculture markets to own and operate her own feed store.

Logan is honored to earn the title of Miss Rodeo Iowa. As Miss Rodeo Iowa, she will travel approximately 30,000 miles both in and out of the state. Through her travels she will focus on promoting Iowa agricultural, rodeo & educational opportunities for young women. During her reign she will attend rodeos, fairs and parades, as well as visit schools, hospitals and the elderly. In December of 2017, she will represent Iowa at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant in Las Vegas, NV. During this pageant, Logan will have the opportunity to vie for the coveted Miss Rodeo America title along with over $100,000 in educational scholarships and other awards.

Honey Creek’s Pauley wears Miss Teen Rodeo Iowa 2017 crown

Hailing from Honey Creek, Allison Pauley is the 17-year old daughter of Pat and Sandy Pauley. A senior at Missouri Valley High School she is dual enrolled at Iowa Western Community College and will graduate this May. She plans to attend college at the University of Nebraska as a member of the UNL Rodeo Team while studying Philosophy and Political Science with a future law degree in her sights.

Horses are Allison’s passion and riding is her obsession. She is currently a member of the Iowa High School Rodeo Association and competes in barrel racing and pole bending in rodeos across the State of Iowa during the regular school year. When not spending time at her family’s farm training her horses and perfecting her riding skills you can find Allison enjoying reading, swimming and snowboarding.

“I love spending time with my fellow cowgirls who share my same passion for horses and the rodeo spirit. Rodeo is a family, a way of life and an amazing experience that is both challenging and rewarding. It is a blessing to be a part of such a great family that truly “lives” their sport and loves every minute of it.

Over the next year as I travel the state of Iowa, I will strive to make everyone I meet a rodeo fan. It will be my honor and privilege to represent the sport of rodeo and the western way of life. I look forward to meeting you on the road and creating memories to last a lifetime while promoting the sport we all love so much!”

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SmashMouth resurgence hits TSR stage Friday

This year, venerable multi-platinum and Grammy-nominated band Smash Mouth will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of their debut, smash-hit album “Fush Yu Mang”. Released on July 8, 1997, “FYM” was a shocking -- and industry-changing -- success.

Out of nowhere, the single “Walkin’ On The Sun” was an immediate international sensation. (Quickly shooting to #1 on the Billboard charts, and eventually boosting “FYM” sales to over 3 million copies in the U.S. alone.) In the two decades since, Smash Mouth has not slowed down. In fact, they are as vital and vibrant as ever.

In celebration of this milestone year, Smash Mouth will release a just-completed acoustic version of “FYM” in its entirety (along with a mini-book recalling its making). 2017 will also see the band releasing a new album of all-original material. And though I’m not allowed to divulge any details...look forward to seeing a whole lot of Smash Mouth on your TV screen very soon. 2017 is already shaping up to be a banner year for the veteran San Jose rockers.

May, 2016 saw the release of “Playlist: The Very Best Of Smash Mouth”. As part of Sony’s recent “Playlist” CD series, the album is a composite of twelve Smash Mouth favorites chosen from live recordings of two late-2014 concerts (one in Rapid City, South Dakota...the other in Manila, The Philippines). This CD is a must-have for even the most casual Smash Mouth fan, as each track literally explodes with live energy. “We’re a totally different band live” enthused Smash Mouth lead singer Steve Harwell. “People are constantly telling me how much more powerful our songs are live compared to the studio versions”.

A look back at Smash Mouth’s formative years shows us a band determined to make an impact from the get-go. Formed in 1994, the band immediately begins recording demos and showcasing in both San Jose and Hollywood, CA. In June of 1997, Smash Mouth is signed to Interscope Records when label brass wind of an unknown (and unsigned) band being ADDED to highly influential LA radio station KROQ’s playlist after only one spin (!) of their song “Walkin’ On The Sun”.

Smash Mouth’s major-label debut “Fush Yu Mang” goes more than DOUBLE-PLATINUM and sets the table for what most consider their masterpiece, 1999’s brilliant follow-up album “Astrolounge”. No sophomore slump for these guys...Boasting three top-ten hits (“All-Star”, “Then The Morning Comes”, and “Can’t Get Enough Of You Baby”), sales for “Astrolounge” are nearly double those for their debut, approaching QUADRUPLE PLATINUM status.

Smash Mouth’s third, eponymous Interscope release features the ecstatic first single “Pacific Coast Party” and the smash hit “I’m a Believer”. Around this time, Smash Mouth crosses over into the film world by providing the musical heart of the soundtrack for “Shrek”, and even making a cameo appearance in the movie “Rat Race”. In recent years, Smash Mouth has focused on entertaining troops in such places as Japan, Guam, Guantanamo Bay, Afghanistan, and Iraq.
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**BULL RIDING**

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BOYD - Continued from Page 1

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - He's as well spoken as any college history profes-
sor you'll ever find. His voice carries down the blur to the people of Fort Madison sitting in their lawn chairs on warm summer nights, while throngs cheer in the stands of Fort Madi-
son's Tri-State Rodeo.

Boyd Polhamus has been Master of Ceremonies for the Tri-State Rodeo since 2000. A man whose done the Calgary Stam-
pede, and the youngest ever to do the National Finals Rodeo at the age of 25, will return as the announcer of the rodeo again this year.

The rodeo action kicks off this year on Wednes-
day, Sept. 6 and runs through the 9th at the C.E. "Eddie" Richards Arena in Rodeo Park.

Polhamus said despite the larger world venues he's announced at, Fort Madison is one of the biggest events he works.

"It's one of my biggest stages," Polhamus said.

"This is not a small deal. This thing has street cred. It's up there with Cheyenne and Calgary, San Antonio and Hous-
ton. Is the city as large or venue as big - abso-
lutely not. But you can play! The Masters. If you want to make it to the national finals, you come through Fort Madison."

As a prep rodeo com-
petitor in high school in Wisconsin, Polhamus was good enough to be named All-Around Champion three times and earned a scholarship to compete at the college level, but that's where things changed.

"I sucked at being a competitor, but I was good at talkin',' he said.

"That's the short an-
swer. The long answer is I was in a practice pen and buddy of mine was getting ready on the bull. He said 'I wish Tom Hadley (a famous announcer) was here be-
cause he always pumps me up and I ride better.' So I started in with 'If Danny can hold onto this bull longer than the blonde at the bar last night, we're gonna have a run.'"

Polhamus said he pushed on through the practice and one of the coaches came down and said he should announce the college rodeos. He was able to do that while still competing and he got paid for doing it. He was good enough to attract other offers from colleges. Professional Rodeo Cowboys' Asso-
ciation stock contractors started taking notice and Polhamus went after his PRCA approval. And he's been mic'd up ever since.

Thirty-some years later he's still riding a horse through arenas, picking at Bears and Cowboys fans and educating the masses on the western lifestyle.

Anyone who's attended a rodeo with Polhamus as MC knows his passion for God and country and he's known for weaving that theme seamlessly into the action.

"I gotta give the big guy credit on that," he said. "Personally, God has blessed me to do rodeos for a reason and that would be to witness. I can give a 90-second prayer that's deeper than keeping the stock and cowboys and fans safe. I just think there's ways to incorporate our lives and rodeos and witness a little bit for God."

As far as his patriotism he nods to Ronald Rea-
gan.

"I was 14 I think when he announced for the presidency. And then in college I had a girl whose dad was MIA in Vietnam and I did some speeches on whether we left soldiers back there."

He said America is a country designed to fix what is wrong and he quietly fears for what it will take to get us back to that philosophy, a philosophy he openly shares.

"There were 1,800 years where basically we had the wheel. And we domesticated the horse - we were doing pretty good," he said. "But from 1876, we had an explo-
sion in technology and every condition of the human soul got better. What caused that? The USA caused that. Be-
cause free men built a better mouse trap and they got rich."

He said it still moves him when the Ameri-
can flag comes into the clouds into the Fort Madison arena.

"Those are the things that go through me when Bobby (Reid) comes through the clouds with the Ameri-
can flag. The true story about that night when Francis Scott Key was sent out to a British ship to negotiate the release of some prisoners. The British said they'd release the prisoners on the condition the American flag come down on the fort the Americans were staged in. This was a supply fort, not a military garrison. They didn't pull the flag and the British bombed it and there were soldiers and women found dead at the base of that flag pole holding it up. Un-
believable heroism and patriotism."

But with all the technol-
ogy and gadgetry and efficiencies of scale that impact everything, in-
cluding the western way of life, Polhamus says a rodeo still has allure to showcase that way of life, even in the face of some changing tides.

"The positive side is that the great thing about a rodeo is that it's iconic to American's. It's not golf, it's some-
thing born out of the founding and building of our nation."

-Boyd Polhamus,
Rodeo Master of Ceremonies

because advertising the events and reaching that segmented audience has become tough, Polha-
mus said. "Back in the day it was Cronkite for the news, Johnny Carson on NBC, and you had one of three channels so everyone was there."

Now, he said you can live in Fort Madison and never hear a rodeo un-
less you go on your app or iPad or satellite radio and those venues aren't advertising the Tri-State Rodeo.

"As we go forward, who's the next Carson, the next Cronkite? It's going to be tougher and tougher for one person to dominate pop culture. Save the Superbowl or World Series, a presidential debate - to get in front of a large masses and become iconic - that's a problem for every sport. Consumption is up but viewership is down."

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Cody Johnson opens national acts Thursday

When Cody Johnson’s Cowboy Like Me debuted in the Top 10 on the Billboard Country Albums chart in January 2014, jaws dropped in offices all over Nashville.

“I got a lot of ‘Who is this kid?’” Johnson says with a laugh two years later. “I love that. That was a new horizon. And I’m gonna work to make sure people know exactly who I am.”

Johnson does that from the start in Gotta Be Me, a follow-up project that’s loaded with solid country instrumentation and winsome melodies. In the first minute alone, he paints himself as a cowboy -- raised on outlaw country -- who drinks too much, fights too much and won’t apologize for having an opinion. By the time the 14-track journey is over, he’s shared his rodeo history in “The Only One I Know (Cowboy Life),” demonstrated his woman’s influence in “With You I Am” and paid homage to his gospel heritage in “I Can’t Even Walk.”

Johnson delivers it all with an uncanny confidence. His smoky baritone and ultra-Southern enunciation gives him a voice as uniquely identifiable as country kingspins Jason Aldean or Tim McGraw. And he uses it to convey a Texas-proud swagger, an unwavering honesty about who he is, where he comes from and where he hopes to go.


The hard-workin’ part is key. The other parts are easily found in his music. It’s intense, focused, sincere. And when he takes the stage, there’s a Garth-like conviction to his performances. Johnson inhabits the songs, recreates their emotions because they’re so familiar. And he’s willing to lay bare those emotions because he’s always been willing to risk. He lives in the moment behind that microphone, the same way he rode bulls in an earlier day.

“That’s a very, very rough sport to be in,” Johnson notes. “It’s very, very rough on your body. It’s very rough on your mind, and it’s scary. I mean there’s not a professional bull rider that won’t tell you it’s not scary. If it wasn’t scary, we wouldn’t do it.”

Johnson pauses for just a beat. “I’m kind of an adrenaline junkie.”

Needing a fix is part of the attraction in both the rodeo and music. In the former, there’s always another buckle to chase, another bull to conquer for eight seconds. In the latter, there’s always another fan to win over, another song to write. And in some ways, Johnson has been chasing something illusive, indefinable, since he first arrived on planet Earth in Southeast Texas.

Johnson grew up in tiny Sebastopol, an unincorporated community on the eastern shore of the Trinity River that’s never exceeded 500 residents. Even today, it’s more than 30 miles to the nearest Walmart, in Huntsville, Texas, a town best known as the headquarters for the state’s criminal justice department. It’s a rough and tumble area, and it comes through in the music. Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, George Strait, Billy Joe Shaver – their songs were all essential to the local clubs, and Johnson was exposed to their mysterious allure even before he was old enough to get in.

Welcome Tri-State Rodeo Fans

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Welcome Back Tri-State Rodeo Fans! Have A Great Time In Fort Madison!
Kami is the 12 year old daughter of David and Trish Fedler of Fort Madison, IA. Currently a 7th grader at Fort Madison Middle School, Kami is an honor student involved in numerous activities including band, show choir and being a tutor/mentor.

Outside of the classroom, Kami is a member of the Fort Madison Saddle Club where she competes in Open and Youth Shows in Western Riding Classes. She is also involved in gymnastics, dance and occasionally competes in dance competitions. Kami feeds her passion for volunteerism by helping with Relay for Life events, Vacation Bible School, her local community theater “Old Fort Players,” and also volunteering at the Tri-State Rodeo during rodeo week.

Besides showing horses, Kami enjoys catching frogs in her family’s Koi pond as well as taking care of her 3 cats, 3 dogs and her beloved horse, Maggie.

Watching medical shows is also a passion of Kami’s, as she hopes one day to be a physician and work for Justin Sports Medicine. Even with her busy schedule, Kami still finds time for fun with family and friends. Being Miss Jr. Rodeo Iowa means being part of a group of ladies that Kami has admired her whole life. Kami looks forward to representing Iowa, professional rodeo and the western way of life, especially to her peers. Kami is grateful for such an honor and is excited for the adventures and new friends that this year will bring.

2018 Miss Rodeo Iowa Contestants

- Miss Rodeo Iowa: Carlee Kelly-Fort Madison
- Miss Rodeo Iowa: Melissa Austin-Creston
- Miss Rodeo Iowa: Rachel Ostrem-Ames
- Miss Rodeo Iowa: Jenna Kool-Adel
- Miss Teen Rodeo Iowa: Kaylee Tremel-Earling
- Miss Teen Rodeo Iowa: Lillie Longhorn-Pilot Mound
- Miss Teen Rodeo Iowa: Scarlett Gruner-Fort Madison
- Miss Teen Rodeo Iowa: Tanley Bebout-New Market
- Miss Jr. Rodeo Iowa: Zoe Dennier-Crawfordsville

2017 Miss Jr. Rodeo Iowa

FMs Eaves-Fedler is 2017 Miss Jr. Rodeo Iowa

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CINCH brings action early

The Tri-State Rodeo CINCH Shoot-Out will return for the third time in 2016. The most suspenseful and exciting performance in rodeo as eight of the nations top cowboys are featured in the events of Bull Riding, Saddle Bronc Riding, Bareback Riding, Calf Roping, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping and Women's Barrel Racing. These competitors will go head to head in this unique tournament format. In the first round, the livestock and timed event order are selected at random. The top four in each event qualify to participate in the next round.

In the final round, the contestants with the highest scores from round one in the rough stock events will get to select from an inventory of four animals. They choose to maximize their score and use strategy to limit which one of the animals they want their competitor to ride. As stock selections are made, the contestant coming in third or fourth will have very little choice but to accept the last animal available in the draw. Each animal will have a highlight reel and bio played on the big screen to help familiarize the spectators and contestants on the animals. On the timed event side of the final round, the contestants will decide which order they will compete derived from fastest times in the first round. In a timed event, contestants can either set the pace for the next three, or sit back and see where the time must be to win it all.

A winner will be announced as the event ends and winners in all events will be presented with a check for $10,000 from CINCH.