



PRESS RELEASE

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SWD Rodeo marks triumphant return

Lake Charles –The Southwest District Livestock Show and Rodeo makes a long-awaited return to Lake Charles, presented by RAM and First Federal Bank of Louisiana. Like many local events, the 2021 Livestock Show & Rodeo was cancelled due to Covid 19 and hurricane-related damages. The upcoming performances will mark the 83rd year for the family-favorite event. Professional rodeo competitors from across the nation will vie for \$250,000 in prizes beginning at 7:30 p.m. Thursday & Friday February, 3 & 4, and 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Saturday, February 5. The annual livestock shows, which host more than 2,500 4-H and FFA exhibitors from 7 Louisiana parishes and awards more than \$50,000 in scholarships, begin at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 1. A detailed livestock show schedule can be found at LakeCharlesRodeo.com. The livestock shows are free and open to the public.

The prelude to the big event will be the arrival of the trail riders into Lake Charles and the Western Heritage Rodeo Parade beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 3. The parade will begin on Ryan Street at E. LaGrange Street in Lake Charles, and will travel south on Ryan before ending at McNeese Stadium. Participation in the parade is free, and local organizations and businesses are encouraged to enter. Entry forms are available at LakeCharlesRodeo.com

Area youngsters will take part in some rodeo action of their own this year as part of the newly added Justin Boots Mutton Bustin' event. Presented in part by Texas Roadhouse, the crowd-favorite event features lil' buckaroos aged 5-6 and a stable of wily sheep. Anything goes, and usually does, as contestants hold on as long as they can in the wildest ride of their young lives. The event will take place during each of the 7:30 nightly rodeo performances, with 6 brave contestants riding each night.

Bullfighter and clown Rudy Burns returns as barrel man and comic relief for this year's SW District Rodeo. Known for his mischievous personality and outrageous antics, Burns is well-known to Lake Charles rodeo fans and families alike. Entertainment will also feature the gravity-defying tricks and Roman-riding feats of the amazing Dusti Dickerson.

During Rodeo Week, local businesses are encouraged to decorate their storefronts in celebration of the Lake Area's western heritage and to welcome rodeo participants and fans back to Lake Charles. The dates of this year's "Rodeo Week" are officially January 31 – February 5.

Tickets are on sale now at www.LakeCharlesrodeo.com. Tickets will be available at the Burton Complex Box Office beginning January 24th through the rodeo performances. Coupons for \$4 off the price of an adult's ticket and \$1 off the price of a child's ticket are available at First Federal Bank of Louisiana locations. For more information, call (337) 944-9710 or visit www.lakecharlesrodeo.com.