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## **Cowboy Christmas Returns to Navajo Nation Capital**

WINDOW ROCK, AZ. - “Cowboy Christmas” will return to the Navajo Nation capital.

Approximately 400 contestants from throughout the country will vie for \$74,000 in prize money during the Navajo Nation Fourth of July Celebration and PRCA Pro Rodeo on July 4-6<sup>th</sup>. After a two-year absence, Navajo Nation officials decided to bring back what rodeo fans have enjoyed for the past 24 years.

Frederick H. White, Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Executive Director, said, “We know how the Navajo people love rodeo especially PRCA Pro Rodeo. Rather than making our people drive hundreds of miles off the Navajo Nation just to see professional cowboys and cowgirls, we wanted to bring these professional athletes here to the Navajo Nation.”

White added that it is no coincidence to have the Navajo Nation host a PRCA Pro Rodeo during July fourth, noting, “We know many professional rodeo athletes travel cross country and are constantly on the road. The Navajo Nation is in a prime location to capture some of their tourism dollars. Since it is during July fourth, we know many of these athletes will travel with their families. We want them to have an enjoyable experience here on the Navajo Nation.”

TJ Holgate, PRCA Pro Rodeo Coordinator for the Navajo Nation, echoed White, and said, “There are many PRCA Pro Rodeos that are held during July fourth, which is why we also want them to perform here. The Navajo Nation is very honored to have an approved PRCA Pro Rodeo here in the capital of the Navajo Nation. It is with great pride that we are also part of what professional cowboys and cowgirls call Cowboy Christmas Run. Many former and reigning world champions are expected to compete here on the Navajo Nation. We hope the fans enjoy the rodeo as much as the contestants enjoy competing here.”



Holgate said rodeo fans should especially enjoy the PRCA Pro Rodeo this year because Carr Pro Rodeo of Dallas, Texas will make its debut to the Navajo Nation. Carr Pro Rodeo whose motto is “Living Life in Eight Seconds” was selected by the Navajo Nation as the stock contractor for the July fourth extravaganza.

“The Navajo Nation selected Carr Pro Rodeo because Pete Carr has some of the best livestock in rodeo,” said Holgate. “Carr Pro Rodeo knows how to raise strong bucking animals. It’s going to be a whole new look. He has a horse of the year and a lot of other award-winning animals. We’re all excited to see something new. The Navajo Nation made a good choice.”

Case in point, Carr’s horse - Real Deal was named the 2005 PRCA Bareback Horse of the Year, but Real Deal is only part of the overall great rough stock that will be giving contestants a run for their money.

Carr said he is looking forward to bringing his livestock to the Navajo Nation, noting, “I know rodeo has a rich history on the Navajo Nation, and there are some great rodeo fans. I hope I can put on the kind of show that they want to see over and over again.”

Taos Muncy, 2011 PRCA World Saddle Bronc Riding Champion of Carona, New Mexico is expected to get rodeo fans excited along with Cody Wright of Milford, Utah who was the 2008 and 2010 Saddle Bronc Riding Champion in the year 2008 and 2010. Cody will compete against his brothers Alex, Jake and Jesse Wright who are also PRCA contenders.

Reigning 2012 College Bareback Riding Champion Tanner Aus of Granite Falls, Minnesota is expected to compete along with former three-time world champion Will Lowe of Canyon, Texas. Justin McDaniel, former world bareback riding champion of Porum, Oklahoma is also expected to ride along with other great PRCA cardholders.

Seven-time World’s Team Roping Header Champion Jake Barnes of Scottsdale, Arizona is expected to compete for the top prize money in team roping. Seba Dalkai team roper Derrick Begay will team up with Cesar de la Cruz of Tucson. Another local Navajo favorite is Eric Rogers of Round Rock who will team up with Kory Kootz of Sudan, Texas.

In the tie down roping event, 2004 World Champion Monty Lewis of Hereford, Texas is expected to vie for top dollars along with local Navajo calf roper Roy Begay of Window Rock. Also expected to compete is Shank Edwards of Tatum, New Mexico who is currently standing ninth in earnings for the year.

Ethan Thouvenell of Napa, California who won the 2012 San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo will vie for the top in the steer wrestling event along with other prestigious PRCA cardholders throughout the country.



Two-time World's Barrel Racing Champion Brittany Pozzi of Victoria, Texas is expected to compete for the top prize money along with local Navajo favorites Raynell Holgate of Page, Arizona and Ruth Bitsui of Corrales, New Mexico.

In addition to selecting a new stock contractor, the Navajo Nation has also added junior barrel racing to the PRCA Pro Rodeo. There are more contestants entered in barrel racing than any other event. Approximately 80 contestants are expected to compete in the PRCA Pro Rodeo barrel racing event and an additional 20 contestants who will vie for an iPad in the junior barrel racing event.

Rodeo fans will also see the wild west come alive during a wild horse competition, which will be held in conjunction with the PRCA Pro Rodeo on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The PRCA Pro Rodeo will be held at 6 p.m. on July 4<sup>th</sup> and 7 p.m. on July 5-6<sup>th</sup> at the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds.

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Navajo comedy duo James and Ernie will provide entertainment at 7:30 p.m. prior to a concert by Creedence Clearwater Revisited (CCR), which will begin at 9 p.m. at the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds. Tickets for CCR can be purchased online at [www.holdmyticket.com](http://www.holdmyticket.com) or on the day of the event.

Another added attraction to the Fourth of July Celebration is an event called "Country Western Battle of the Bands," which will be held on Friday, July 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1 p.m. at Nakai Hall on the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds. The winning band will open for Country Music Artist Gary Allen during the Navajo Nation Fair. There will also be a country and western dance on July 6<sup>th</sup> at 9 p.m. at Nakai Hall.

For more information about the overall Fourth of July Celebration and PRCA Pro Rodeo call Delilah Goodluck, Public Information Officer at (928) 871-6632 or obtain information at [www.navajonationfair.com](http://www.navajonationfair.com)