

Mexican Rodeo brings showmanship to PC Fair

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

A new treat to the Phillips County Fair this year is the addition of a Mexican Rodeo and Fiesta Sunday, July 28 at noon.

The event will be brought to Holyoke by Roberto Torres of Denver who has also worked with the National Western Stock Show Mexican Rodeo and the Colorado State Fair and Rodeo.

The Mexican rodeo is rooted in showmanship and properly representing the Mexican heritage. Dancing is incorporated into the show and charros (Mexican cowboys) don traditional clothing including colorful suits, chaps, boots and sombreros.



This young charro showcases some of the roping tricks that are typical of Mexican rodeos.

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The events are aimed to pay tribute to Mexican heritage. No judging will take place during the events and the contestants do not compete for prizes.

Mexican rodeos can be traced back to the 16th century where ranch work competitions on large cattle-raising estates in Mexico first occurred.

During the opening ceremony, a large band will play while contestants enter the arena on horseback, carrying both the Mexican and American flag.

The difference between a Mexican rodeo and a traditional American rodeo lies in the different types of events. Mexican rodeos incorporate more horse events, lots of roping events and even some trick roping events.

Traditionally, Mexican rodeos include events for reining, heeling, steer tailing, bull riding, team roping, bareback riding, forefooting, forefooting on horseback and the pass of death.

An event known as Escaramuza, which roughly translates to skirmish in English, has been popular with Mexican rodeos since the early 1990s. The event includes teams of women, who are dressed in large colorful dresses, putting their showmanship on display as they present choreographed patterns on horses.

The show will bring five bull riders, five mare riders, six trick ropers, three dancing horses and eight girls who will participate in the Escaramuza.

While steer-tailing and horse-tripping events have been common-practice in Mexican rodeos in the past, due to concerns for animal safety, those types of events will not take place in Holyoke.

Torres encourages everyone to come out and enjoy a little bit of Mexico with the fun and

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exciting tradition.

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