



Hanging on for eight seconds, Scott Harman had a wild ride at a rodeo in Weatherford, Okla., earlier this year. Mr. Harman has ridden in over 21 rodeos since the beginning of 2009. Photo Courtesy Hirschman Photo

Area resident pursues his 'life-long dream'

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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Decatur Community High grad Scott Harman realized a life-long dream last month when he qualified to become a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

To win his card, Mr. Harman, 24, had to ride in at least 15 association-sanctioned rodeos in Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma. He actually has made 21 since January, he said, adding that he was in competition with 36 other cowboys to make it to the professional circuit, and only the top 12 made the cut.

The bareback bronc rider said his goal was to hit all the rodeos on the regional circuit and make it to the finals every time.

In Kansas City from October 22 to 24, Mr. Harman got seventh in the average of all days. He received 72 points for fifth on Thursday, 66 points on Friday and 75 on Saturday for fourth.

All that is left is to buy his rookie card, which costs \$500, and pursue his next goal of winning the "Rookie of the Year" title from the association next year.

Scoring is based on dollar winnings, he said, and rodeo is an expensive sport. Entry fees range from \$80 to \$300 for each event and Mr. Harman says he is doing it all on his own. He would like to have sponsors, but it hasn't happened yet.

Still, there are some things more valuable than money — and experience is one of them. He spent \$300 to enter the National Western Stock Show Rodeo in Denver and didn't place, but, he said, he gained some great experience.

"Cowboys support each other," Mr. Harman said. "Even though we're competing against each other, we'll share tips and advice. We're all there to help each other."

The idea is to stay on a wild, high-kicking horse for eight seconds without anything but a handle attached to a strap, called "rigging," to grip. Besides the rigging, he wears a special padded vest, leather chaps and a special glove.

Scott, the son of Ron and Renee Harman of Norcatur, has had rodeoing in his blood since he was a little boy, said his mother. He grew up riding horses and started rodeoing when he was a senior at Deca-

tur Community High School. He graduated in 2003 and then, on rodeo scholarships, attended junior colleges in Colby and Coffeyville, then Northwest Oklahoma State University at Alva. He was an agribusiness major with a minor in agriscience.

In 2003, he said, he attended a rodeo school in Burwell, Neb., conducted by former professional cowboys Corey Hughes, John Clark and Casey McGoodin. He also took some training at Bruce Ford's rodeo school in Kersey, Colo.

No matter where he competes, from the Dakotas to Oklahoma, he has a built-in cheering section. Someone from his family — either his grandparents, Bob and Anita Montgomery, or his parents and aunts and uncles — is almost always there to watch him ride.

His mother said she gets nervous in the stands.

"I get real tense," she said, "especially if his hand gets caught

in the riggin' and he's under the horse. I am so proud of him."

Mr. Harman said he appreciates the support.

"I have been blessed," he said. "I thank everybody, my friends and my family, for all their help."

He has some young fans, too. His mother said that kids hang around behind the chutes to get her son's autograph. Sometimes he'll sign the entry number he wears on his back and give it to one.

"Maybe someday I'll be famous," he said with a grin, "and that will be worth something."

Until he wins some big rodeos or gets some sponsors, Mr. Harman said, he is paying his own way. He works on a 129,000 acre ranch near Valentine, Neb. His boss, a former rodeo cowboy, supports his efforts. So to pay the bills, he does what cowboys do — breaking horses and putting up hay. Until it's time for the next rodeo, he said.

Then it's "Cowboy Up."

A Card Shower to Honor Betty Walker

The children of Betty (Boeka) Walker are requesting a card shower in honor of her 80th birthday, Friday, November 20, 2009. Her family includes sons Dan of Lincoln, KS and his fiancée Bonnie Mermis of Hays, Dennis and his wife Jo of Clayton, 2 grandchildren, Thad Walker and Danielle Walker, and 2 great-grandchildren, Madison and Meadow all of Wichita. A family dinner is planned at a later date.

Cards will reach Betty at:
Box 12D, RR2,
Hoxie, Ks 67740



City of Norton Snow Ordinances

The City of Norton wants to remind the public of our three snow ordinances. One requires the removal of snow and ice off public sidewalks within 24 hours after the fall of the snow or sleet. The second ordinance relates to removing parked vehicles from emergency snow routes. When the City of Norton publicly announces through the news media that an emergency snow condition exists, it is a violation to have any vehicle or trailer parked on a designated emergency snow route. The third ordinance makes it a violation for any person to pile or dump snow on any cleared street from a private driveway or sidewalk so as to constitute an impediment or hazard to normal traffic on the street. The city of Norton thanks everyone for their efforts in complying with these ordinances.



Sharon Batson received \$50 in scrip money from Mainstreet IGA owner Natalie Hadley for being the first instant drawing winner in the Christmas On Us drawing. She got her winning ticket at Mainstreet IGA. Another instant drawing will be made early next week, with the winning ticket numbers appearing in Tuesday's Christmas On Us ad in The Telegram. —Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

Resident first Christmas On Us instant winner

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Sharon Batson, Norton, won the first Christmas on Us instant drawing, winning \$50 in scrip money for getting a winning ticket at Mainstreet IGA.

Batson learned she won by checking the ad in The Telegram. Her ticket, number 145234, was one of four drawn this week.

The scrip money can be used at any of the participating stores

including: Destination Kitchen, Mortensen Computer Service, Stitch up a Storm, Kellie's Inc., Ag Valley Co-Op, Sander Furniture and Gifts, Engel's, Nex-Tech and Mainstreet IGA.

Batson plans to use her money at Mainstreet IGA since Thanksgiving is quickly approaching.

"I will probably spend it here. There's a ham I'm looking at," she said.

Store owner Natalie Hadley

congratulated Batson on being the first winner.

UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

Brought to you in part by Kansas Department of Commerce Travel & Tourism Division

Christmas with the Diamond W Wranglers
November 27 – December 20, Wichita
Enjoy a Cowboy Christmas! Remarkable music and chuckwagon-style dinner. Fun for all ages. Old Cowtown Museum, (866) 830-8283, diamondWwranglers.com

59th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting
November 28, Wakeeney
Christmas City of the High Plains, 6:00 PM
Santa, music, soup supper, craft bazaar. (877) XMAS-CITY, travel@wakeeney.org

Festival of Trees
December 3-6, Topeka
View beautifully designed Christmas trees, wreaths, purchase gifts and homemade goods, enjoy holiday entertainment. Ag Hall (785) 266-8686, shelterediving.org

Frost Fest
December 4-6, Hays
Christmas Past at Historic Fort Hays and the Ellis County Historical Museum. Sunday night Lighted Christmas parade in Downtown Hays. (800) 569-4505, chestnutstreetdistrict.com

Kanza Bowl
December 5, Topeka
NCAA Division II Bowl Game, West Texas A&M vs. University of Nebraska-Omaha. Hummer Sports Park 1:00 p.m. (785) 295-3750, hummersportspark.com

Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade
December 5, Lawrence
Horse drawn carriages, wagons and coaches decorated for the season. Santa is the grand finale. Downtown, 11:00 AM (785) 838-9400, visitlawrence.com

Homes for the Holidays Homes Tour
December 5-6, Abilene
Tour six spectacular homes. Tours of two historic mansions also available. Dec. 5, 4-8 p.m.; Dec. 6, 1-5 p.m. Tickets \$15 (785) 263-2231, abilenekansas.org

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