



"BOWLEGGED H" MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2016 • VOL. XXIV NO. 2 • HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™



TABLE OF Contents



10



12



14

FEATURES

10

Move 'Em Out

Curious about how the world's largest livestock show and rodeo disappears from NRG Park so quickly? Take a look into the logistics of flipping the grounds for the multitude of events that happen following the Show.

12

Olga's Tale

Meet Olga Jean Christopher, who, in 1947, at the age of 10 years old, unknowingly broke barriers as a girl raising a calf scramble animal to be exhibited at the Houston Fat Stock Show. However, the Show's rules at the time had another path set for young Olga.

14

Jump for Joy

If the words White Lightning conjure up images of moonshine, then meet one of the stars of the annual Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo — White Lightning the mule! Find out more about his competition success in the sport of coon jumping, a recreational activity derived many years ago from using mules to hunt for raccoons...a must-see contest in NRG Arena each year during the Show.

MORE

2

2016 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ Highlights

6

2016 Auction Buyers

16

Miracle Farm

18

Outgoing Vice Presidents

21

Outgoing Committee Chairmen



NOV Carnival

Photo by Meredith Flaherty



SUMMER 2016
Volume XXIV • No. 2

"Bowlegged H" Magazine is published quarterly by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™. Copyright © 2016

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

Pat Mann Phillips, *Officer in Charge*
Katie Lyons, *Chairman*

Vice Chairmen

Becky Lowicki, *Copy Editor*
Kate Gunn Pagel, *Assignments Editor*

Editorial Board

Samantha Fewox
Melissa Manning
Nan McCreary
Kenneth C. Moursund Jr.
Ken Scott
Marshall R. Smith III
Lyn Stewart
Emily Wilkinson

Photographers

Linda Evans
Meredith Flaherty
Lisa Norwood
Debbie Porter

Reporters

Stephanie Earthman Baird
Kate Bradley
Sarah Brock
Scott Hill Bumgardner
Mollie Dreibrod
Leigh Evans
Abimbola Farinde
Ashley Kearney
Allyson Bandy Lambert
Sarah Langlois
Lawrence S Levy
Michael Maddux
Sandie Marrinucci
Gigi Mayorga-Wark
Crystal McKeon
Taylor McLaughlin
Wendy McNatt
Marina Olson
David Simpson
Elizabeth Slaven
Sandra Hollingsworth Smith
Gina Steere
Katy Stewart
Amy Tanner
Sarah Tucker
Ashley Wright
Todd Zucker

MARKETING, PUBLIC RELATIONS & PRESENTATIONS DIVISION

Clint Saunders, *Managing Director, Communications*
Betsy Ellison, *Manager, Social Media*
Lindsay Partridge, *Graphic Designer*

Staff Photographers

Francis M. Martin, D.V.M.
Dave Clements

Comments and Questions:
magazine@rodeohouston.com

SHOW OFFICIALS

Chairman of the Board

Jack A. Lyons

President & CEO

Joel Cowley

Vice President & COO

Dan Cheney

General Manager

Joe Bruce Hancock

Vice Presidents

Jim Brock

Andrew Cantu

Curtis W. Clerkley Jr.

Ronnie Gulihur

Jeff Harris

Parker Johnson

Jeff M. Jones

Greg Miller

Gary Nesloney

Mike O'Kelley

Pat Mann Phillips

Tony Rich

Ken Shaw

Wesley Sinor

Robbie Smith

Jim Bob Taylor

Sharleen L. Walkoviak

David B. Yates

Executive Committee

Jim Bloodworth

Brady F. Carruth

Wayne Hollis

J.P. "Hap" Hunnicutt

Don D. Jordan

Ed McMahon

Chris Richardson

Charles R. "Butch" Robinson

Paul G. Somerville

R.H. "Steve" Stevens Jr.

Joe Van Matre

P. Michael Wells

James A. "Jim" Winne III

Lifetime Members of the Executive Committee

Don A. Buckalew

J.M. "Jim" Clepper

Tilman J. Fertitta

John O. Smith

Keith A. Steffek

James M. "Jim" Windham

AGRICULTURE

EDUCATION

ENTERTAINMENT

WESTERN HERITAGE



FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Greetings, fellow Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ volunteers, members and friends — thank you for reading "Bowlegged H" Magazine. While this magazine is a benefit for our members and volunteers, we know that it also reaches a variety of audiences, which is why the Magazine Committee and the Show are dedicated to filling it with great information and exciting features that touch on all aspects of our organization and event. We hope that you enjoy this summer issue, and we welcome any feedback, story ideas or thoughts. Please send them to magazine@rodeohouston.com.

We had a great 2016 Show, with more than 2.4 million fans in attendance, and nearly 1.35 million of those purchasing tickets for RODEOHOUSTON® rodeo action and concerts. The success of this year's Show far exceeded our expectations, and the Show proves once again that Houston is rooted in Western tradition. You can read more interesting facts and figures from the 2016 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo within this issue, including a few fun numbers. For example, did you know that 76 semitrailers full of toys were used as prizes at the Carnival, presented by NOV? Learn more on page 2.

This summer, other Show officials and I will be making the rounds to award nearly \$13

million in scholarships to Texas youth. I know I speak for my fellow Executive Committee members and Show officers when I say that this is one of our favorite and most rewarding parts of the job — meeting and learning more about our scholarship recipients.

As we do every year, we will bid farewell to six outgoing vice presidents this summer. For the past three years these individuals have dedicated their time and passion to serving the Show as officers in charge of many committees. They have done an outstanding job representing the organization and its mission, and I want to personally thank them for their commitment. You can read more about them on page 18.

As I enter into my final year as chairman of the board, I look forward to the months ahead and hope you will continue to support our mission throughout the next year as we work to prepare for March 7 – 26, 2017. Mark your calendars now for the 85th anniversary of the world's largest livestock show and rodeo! 🤠

All my best,

Jack A. Lyons

20

HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™

THAT'S A WRAP!

16



ATTENDANCE

2,462,030 total attendance for all activities on the grounds

1,345,983 total paid Rodeo/concert attendance

247,491 people entertained at the World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest

LIVESTOCK SHOW

30,911 livestock competitions and horse shows entries

\$12,350,133 junior auction sales (record total)

\$674,815 Junior Commercial Steer Sale

\$372,835 Ranching & Wildlife Auction

\$828,000 calf scramble and judging contest winnings

\$1,420,351 Champion Wine Auction

SOCIAL MEDIA

240,808 public posts regarding the Show
192,000,000 people reached worldwide



FOOD CONSUMED

146,000 pounds of potatoes	22,000 fried Oreos
115,000 barbecue sandwiches	18,000 cinnamon rolls
69,000 turkey legs	18,000 ears of roasted corn
53,000 funnel cakes	14,000 servings of dipped-and-deep-fried cookie dough on-a-stick
45,000 corn dogs	
44,000 sausages on-a-stick	7,000 pierogies (Polish dumplings)

KIDS COUNTRY

1,900 kids competed in the tractor pull
3,000 children participated in mutton bustin' in Kids Country
19,000 people rode camels
109,000 little farmers hosted by TDECU Fun on the Farm

SUPER SERIES CHAMPIONS • 2016



TIE-DOWN ROPING

TYSON DURFEY
WEATHERFORD, TEXAS • \$55,750



BAREBACK RIDING

KAYCEE FEILD
SPANISH FORK, UTAH • \$56,750



TEAM ROPING

CLAY TRYAN • LIPAN, TEXAS • \$55,000
JADE CORKILL • FALLON, NEVADA • \$55,000



SADDLE BRONC RIDING

CLAY ELLIOTT
NANTON, ALBERTA, CANADA • \$55,500



STEER WRESTLING

DAKOTA ELDRIDGE
ELKO, NEVADA • \$56,750



BARREL RACING

MARY BURGER

PAULS VALLEY, OKLAHOMA • \$54,750



BULL RIDING

SAGE STEELE KIMZEY

STRONG CITY, OKLAHOMA • \$56,000



RODEOHOUSTON® committed **\$2,172,100** to its contestants in 2016.

RODEOHOUSTON Super Shootout®: North America's Champions

presented by Crown Royal • Each event champion walked away with \$25,000.

BAREBACK RIDING Austin Foss • Terrebonne, Oregon • Team San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo

BARREL RACING Lisa Lockhart • Oelrichs, South Dakota • Team Calgary Stampede

BULL RIDING Aaron Pass • Kaufman, Texas • Team Cheyenne Frontier Days

SADDLE BRONC RIDING Cort Scheer • Elsmere, Nebraska • Team Calgary Stampede

STEER WRESTLING Nick Guy • Denver, Colorado • Team Cheyenne Frontier Days

SUPER SHOOTOUT Calgary Stampede

TEAM AWARD

JUNIOR MARKET BARROWS



GRAND CHAMPION

Exhibitor: Kylie Rieger, 16

Breed: Other Crossbred

Hometown: Lexington, Texas

Club/Chapter: Lexington FFA

Price: \$209,000 (world record)

Buyers: Excel Contractors, Jackie and Jon Hodges, Becky and Kelly Joy, and Shane and Dennis Steger



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Exhibitor: Jake Weatherford, 17

Breed: Other Crossbred

Hometown: Dumas, Texas

Club/Chapter: Dumas FFA

Price: \$129,000 (world record)

Buyers: Mickey and Jim Clark, Robert Clay, Linda and David Johnson, and Sheila and Emmett Story

JUNIOR MARKET BROILERS



GRAND CHAMPION

Exhibitor: Kacey Russell, 14

Hometown: Beeville, Texas

Club/Chapter: Bee County 4-H

Price: \$135,000

Buyers: Jeff Aronoff, Kathleen and Thomas Mach, and Gregory N. Miller



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Exhibitor: Isaac Hayden, 14

Hometown: Barry, Texas

Club/Chapter: Blooming Grove FFA

Price: \$100,000

Buyers: Anne and Chris Richardson, Kristina and Paul Somerville, and Jennifer and Joe Van Matre

2016 CHAMPION AUCTION BUYERS

JUNIOR MARKET GOATS



GRAND CHAMPION

Exhibitor: Aspen Martin, 14
Hometown: Mason, Texas
Club/Chapter: Mason County 4-H
Price: \$171,000 (world record)
Buyers: Skip Avara, Mary and Ken Hucherson, Melton Electric, and Pam and Archie Thompson



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Exhibitor: Cody Sells, 13
Hometown: Taylor, Texas
Club/Chapter: Williamson County 4-H
Price: \$147,000 (world record)
Buyers: Dean Law Firm, Michelle Iversen Jeffery, KCEF Foundation, and Pamela M. Logsdon, CPA

JUNIOR MARKET LAMBS



GRAND CHAMPION

Exhibitor: Kaleigh Lawson, 17
Hometown: Spring Branch, Texas
Club/Chapter: Comal County 4-H
Price: \$261,000 (world record)
Buyers: The Hildebrand Family, in memory of Tommy and Ruth Hildebrand



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Exhibitor: Kaegan Edwards, 15
Hometown: Sudan, Texas
Club/Chapter: Sudan FFA
Price: \$135,000
Buyers: Mimi and Tom Dompier, Anne and Chris Richardson, Jennifer and Joe Van Matre, and Lynda and Jim Winne

2016 CHAMPION AUCTION BUYERS

SCHOOL ART



GRAND CHAMPION

Exhibitor: Brandon Leal, 18

School District: Pasadena ISD

Art: "Comradery Like No Other"

Price: \$185,000

Buyers: Mimi and Tom Dompier, The Somerville Family, Jennifer and Joe Van Matre, and Lynda and Jim Winne



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Exhibitor: Lucy Chen, 16

School District: Katy ISD

Art: "The Entertainer"

Price: \$220,000 (Show record)

Buyers: Mimi and Tom Dompier, Mary and Ken Hucherson, The Somerville Family, and Jennifer and Joe Van Matre

JUNIOR MARKET STEERS



GRAND CHAMPION

Exhibitor: Aspen Martin, 14

Breed: Charolais

Hometown: Mason, Texas

Club/Chapter: Mason County 4-H

Price: \$375,000

Buyers: Champagne Cowgirls, in memory of Donna Bruni



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Exhibitor: Robert Hurst, 17

Breed: All Other Breeds

Hometown: Friona, Texas

Club/Chapter: Parmer County 4-H

Price: \$335,000

Buyers: Robert Clay, Heather and Sean Congdon, Mary Alice and E.D. Lester, and Olympia Drywall Company

JUNIOR MARKET TURKEYS



GRAND CHAMPION

Exhibitor: Caitlin Morgenroth, 11
Hometown: Saint Hedwig, Texas
Club/Chapter: Guadalupe County 4-H
Price: \$102,000
Buyers: Jennifer and Doug Bosch, Billy Parker, Dick Scott, and Misty and Tyson Weihs

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Exhibitor: Camden Mooney, 14
Hometown: Saint Hedwig, Texas
Club/Chapter: Guadalupe County 4-H
Price: \$80,000
Buyers: Jennifer and Roger Camp, Tommy Fogle, Al Simon, and Robin Young-Ellis and Joe Ellis

RODEO UNCORKED!®

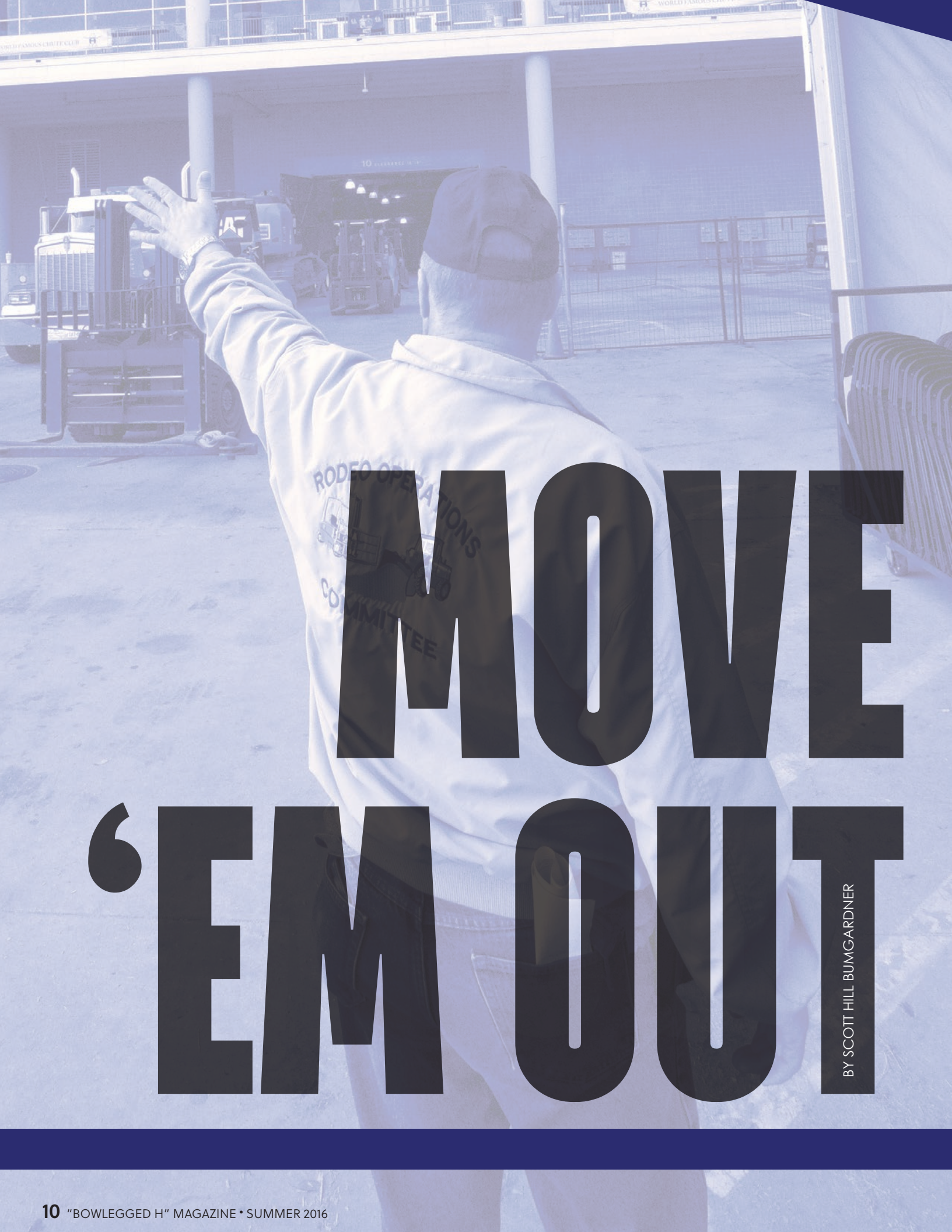


GRAND CHAMPION

Wine: Orin Swift Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon, Mercury Head, Napa Valley, 2013
Price: \$125,000
Buyers: Dinell and Jay Chapman, J. Alan and Julie Kent, Vanessa and Chad Stroberg, and Dr. Jennifer and Todd Youngblood

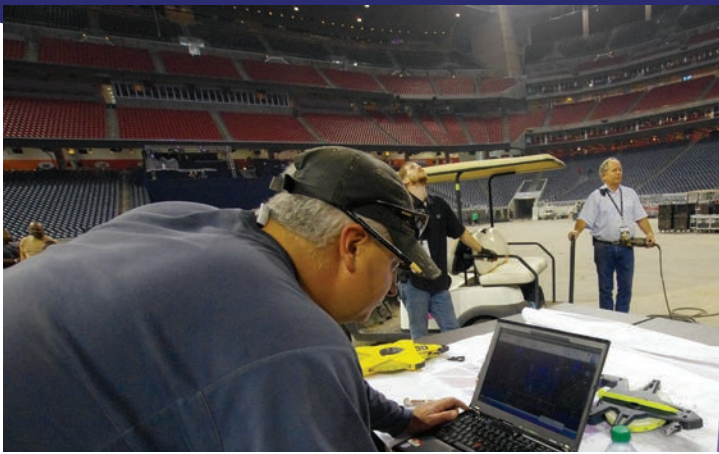
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

Wine: B.R. Cohn Winery Cabernet Sauvignon, Olive Hill Estate, Sonoma Valley, 2013
Price: \$125,000
Buyers: Curtis Clerkley and Leah Stasney, Victoria and Parker Johnson, Becky and Kelly Joy, and Lisa and Tom Laird



MOVE ‘EM OUT

BY SCOTT HILL BUMGARDNER



Each year, many amazing transformations occur at NRG Park to accommodate the needs of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™, other sporting events and conventions.

Imagine the logistics of removing a foot of dirt from NRG Stadium's two-acre floor and setting up for the 2013 George Strait concert-only production, all within less than 24 hours. These transformations are not magic, but instead are the result of hard work by an organized team of Show volunteers and staff working to accomplish this giant task.

SMG manages NRG Park and is responsible for removing both the football field and the Rodeo's dirt floor from the stadium to storage. The Show's Buildings and Grounds Department, led by managing director Greg Golightly and director Bobby Richardson, along with the Rodeo Operations Committee, all work in a coordinated effort to accomplish the duties that enable the Show to run smoothly. Both Golightly and Richardson are longtime employees who worked previously for the Houston Astros baseball organization. Richardson also is the management coordinator of the Rodeo Operations Committee, working in collaboration with current committee chairman, Vincent R. Kruemcke.

"Our goal is to assist buildings and grounds and do whatever we need to do to make the Rodeo happen," Kruemcke said. Consisting of 300 members, all certified to operate a forklift, and many of whom are heavy equipment operators, the committee starts working onsite two weeks prior to the Show with two daily shifts of 10 to 12 volunteers.

The World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest is held on the south end of NRG Park and hosts more than 200,000 visitors during a three-day period. Once the event wraps, the work begins to flip the space back into a working parking

lot for the 20-day Show, all within a day's time. However, transformation is not limited to the World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest. The committee also is constantly replacing livestock bedding and pens as the Show transitions from one type of animal to the next. When the Agricultural Mechanics Project Show rolls into the east side of NRG Center, all of the livestock pens and bedding used for hogs, lambs and goats in the previous weeks must be removed overnight.

Richardson has a full-time crew of six to eight staff and an equal number of seasonal employees. He relies heavily on Director of Operations Rick Tyrrell and Director of Facility Services Ray Perez, who both are in the Buildings and Grounds Department. Regarding the rapid setups and turnovers, such as preparations for the Final Four® college basketball playoff tournament just weeks after the 2016 Show wrapped, or the 2013 George Strait concert, Richardson said, "Quick turnovers are always a challenge; there are a lot of moving pieces to the puzzle."

For example, the Final Four setup team began moving in the morning following the final Rodeo performance. This meant that the Show's teardown crews were lined up and ready to go with forklifts and manpower immediately following the Keith Urban concert in NRG Stadium on Sunday, March 20. The stadium and NRG Park were completely transformed into the college sporting event of the season within days.

Setting up and tearing down all of the many elements that turn NRG Park into the world's largest livestock show and rodeo is an important job. There is no magic here, just a well-oiled, experienced team that is hard at work. 🛠️



Photo Courtesy of SMG-NRG Park

Photo courtesy Olga McLaren (pictured with husband of 58 years, Theron P. McLaren.)



OLGA'S TALE

BY SARAH TUCKER

Girls were allowed to participate in the calf scramble for the first time in 1982. The Show has come a long way since Olga's 1942 tale, and today more girls than boys vvy for a chance to catch and halter a calf in NRG Stadium.

2016

Girls: 316

Boys: 283

more than 50 percent female

The year was 1947 and the Houston Fat Stock Show was in full swing at the Sam Houston Coliseum, with singing cowboy Gene Autry as the star performer. Olga Jean Christopher, a 10-year-old from Cleveland, Texas, was on the path to make history as the first girl to show a calf awarded from the calf scramble.

Olga's intent was not to break this new ground; in fact, she was not even planning to participate. But, when her cousin was unable to raise his calf awarded from the event, Olga chose to do it. She named him Lucky and raised the calf as her own.

Showing an animal was nothing new to Olga. As an active 4-H member in Liberty County, she was used to raising chickens and other animals. She also was a recipient of the Gold Star Award, the highest honor for 4-H students. "4-H was really important in the country," Olga said. "We did lots of projects and showed at county fairs."

When it came time to show her cousin's calf at the Houston Fat Stock Show, she thought nothing of leading Lucky in front of the judges, despite not being the one who caught him in the calf scramble. However, Show officials thought otherwise.

According to a newspaper clipping from the time, Olga was not allowed to show her calf because she was a girl — girls were not able to participate in the calf scramble program until the mid-1980s. Instead, another young competitor had to show Lucky for her.

And, lucky he was — Olga's Hereford calf made the cut and sold for \$435 at auction, right behind the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion that year.

During the auction, Olga was allowed to walk Lucky around the arena with her younger brother and a county agent, which may be one reason why Lucky sold for as much as he did. "My father said [we sold for so much] because 'you and your brother were so cute,'" she said.

While Olga continued to compete at the county level and attend the Show, she never entered the livestock arena again. Now living in Houston with the surname McLaren, she remembers her time at the Houston Fat Stock Show fondly, and has memories of shaking hands with many judges, as well as sleeping in the hay next to Lucky in the Coliseum. One of her favorite memories includes meeting Gene Autry, the Show's very first star entertainer, at the calf scramble banquet. 🍷

Olga Jean's Calf . . . Brings Third Price, "Frank" Sells Also

It pays to be a girl, sometimes. That's Olga Jean Christopher's opinion now. Two weeks ago she wasn't so sure.

Because she was a girl,—the only girl,—officials wouldn't let Olga Jean show her scramble calf week before last. Joe Mack Poland did it for her. But last Wednesday, Feb. 5, the calf Olga Jean has been feeding out for James Cannon was third highest to sell in the auction at Houston Fat Stock Show. Sold at 50 cents per pound, the 870-pound calf brought \$435. The two others selling higher were the first and second place winners.

"Frank," Joe Mack's 830-pound now-famous calf, sold to Weingarten's for \$265.60, at 32 cents per pound. Named for its donor, Frank Briggs, editor of Farm and Ranch, Dallas, the calf made a trip to Dallas for the State Fair, took blue ribbon honors at Trinity Valley Exposition last October, and ended his little career at the Houston show.

Clipping and photo courtesy Claris McLaren



JUMP FOR JOY

BY SANDIE MARRINUCCI

Photos by Lisa Van



The crowd focuses its attention on the mule and its handler in the arena. Excitement is at a fever pitch. Will the team shatter a world record or does the mule have a different agenda today? The team walks toward a 10-foot box drawn in the dirt in front of a jump made of parallel posts and a moveable crossbar. After a great deal of encouragement from the audience and its handler at its side, the mule — best be described as a long-eared Pegasus — flies up and over the jump from a standing position.

This is Coon Jumping, an event that has quickly become a fan favorite at the Houston Livestock Show™ Horse Show. “The Coon Jumping event is not only exciting to watch, it’s a unique experience you won’t find anywhere else in the Houston area,” said Aaron Osborn, chairman of the Donkey and Mule Committee. “This competition is held in NRG Arena, a more intimate setting that lets you get close to the action. There’s a powerful dynamic at work here between the crowd and the mule. It’s as if audience participation motivates the mule to compete at a higher level.”

Osborn has been associated with the Donkey and Mule Committee for 11 years and has seen it all when it comes to coon jumping, from champions that continue to break records year after year, to the occasional “Eeyore” that tries to sneak under the jump instead of leaping over it.

Mules jumping over fences started in the southern woods of the United States with raccoon hunters. Since raccoons are nocturnal animals, hunts are held at night, with riders wearing headlamps to light the way. When they encounter a fence, riders dismount, throw a jacket or a blanket over the wire to make it visible to the mule, and urge the mule to jump the fence. Of course, the competitive nature of humans soon turned this sport into a contest to see whose mule could jump the highest, and coon jumping as a competitive event was born.

A mule is a cross between a female

horse and a male donkey, or a jack. Mules have a unique structural characteristic inherited from their donkey genetics that enables them to do standing high jumps. Unlike horses, which need a running start to jump, a mule can leap into the air from a standstill. Mules have jumped up to four feet high in competition at the Show.

White Lightning, a little white mule owned by Terrie Lay of Tennessee, is a legend in his own time. Only 41 inches tall at the withers, he consistently wins his class every year at the Show and now has his own fan club. Lay, who has been competing with him since the early 1990s, said, “The secret to winning is finding a mule that really loves to jump. White Lightning not only jumps fences on our property, he’s jumped right through the barn window to escape the farrier. He’s quite a character.”

“[Coon Jumping] is a unique competition based on the athleticism of the mule, as opposed to the glitz and glamour of other equine events, and we wouldn’t miss it,” Lay said. “It’s something you don’t see every day, and even if you don’t win, it’s still a heck of a lot of fun for everyone.”

STUBBORN AS A MULE BUT SHINES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

It’s clear that mules such as White Lightning love to show off and play to the crowd when they compete, which makes them even more endearing to the Show audience. Mules, experts say, will obey humans when treated with kindness, except if a situation appears to be dangerous. That’s when they become “stubborn as a mule,” and put self-preservation first. That’s also how this competition ends. Mules instinctively know their limits and will refuse to jump when the jump post is set too high. At that point, the team with the highest successful jump wins a cash prize, a trophy, a commemorative belt buckle and a ribbon. It’s all in a day’s work for the teams that come from all over the U.S. to compete and have fun. It’s a not-to-be-missed event, so be sure to put it on your future Show schedule! 🎉





COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SERIES

Miracle Farm

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY ASHLEY WRIGHT

In 1989, Lenora Detering opened a facility that would change the lives of young men forever. Her mission was, and still is, to help at-risk youth learn respect for themselves and others, all while earning a high school diploma.

Located in Brenham, Texas, on a 325-acre working ranch, Miracle Farm is a beacon of hope for at-risk young men. The expansive facility can house up to 22 boys at one time. The farm boasts horses, cattle, a welding shop, group homes, a custom rodeo arena and even a few fishing holes. Throughout the property, several homes are set up for the young men who share housekeeping duties and are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their new homes.

Each residential-style home is supervised by “house parents” who help the boys stay focused, organized and motivated. These individuals dedicate their lives to making sure that these young men leave the program to become their best selves.

Miracle Farm’s programming is 100 percent donor driven. This means that there is no cost passed on to the students or their families. Executive Director Alex Hamilton said, “Miracle Farm is not a consequence, but an opportunity.”

Each young man who lives and

works on the farm understands hard work is a choice that he chooses to make every day. A typical day on the farm starts at 6 a.m. and includes horsemanship, roping, ranch management, woodworking, welding, and attending school on the property and a daily devotional session. According to Hamilton, the best part of leading Miracle Farm is seeing the look in a boy’s eye when the change happens and he realizes that he is worth something.

“Yes, this seems like a place I could stay,” said Micah Horace, a recent graduate of Miracle Farm’s high school program, as he recalled his first thought driving down the long, winding entrance to the farm.

At 17 years old, Micah did not have one high school credit. He came to Miracle Farm from the Houston Metro area and roping seemed like something done in Western movies. He admits that he was slow to acclimate to the changes of living on a farm. “The whole experience was a learning curve for me, but it changed my life,” he said.

Most of the at-risk young men enrolled at Miracle Farm come from urban communities, but once they arrive, they are assigned a horse and put together a schedule and long-range plan for obtaining goals, both agreed

upon by the young man and staff. Each young man is given certain levels of responsibility.

Micah began his training at the lowest experience level, known as greenhorn. He then worked his way up to ranch hand, followed by roper, and finally the most coveted position, top hand. Each promotion is assessed by a written test and a skills test.

As of 2015, Micah now holds a high school diploma, which he was able to earn while he lived and worked at Miracle Farm. When asked to summarize what he learned while being a member of the Miracle Farm community, Micah proudly said that it was to “look good, act good and be good in everything that you do.” He said he is grateful for the bright future in front of him, thanks to a place where miracles happen every day. Currently, Micah is working full time at the ranch as a mentor and role model for incoming students.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ is supporting this tremendous organization for the first time through a 2016 Educational Program grant. Miracle Farm plans to use the funds to continue to offer at-risk young men the chance for a brighter tomorrow. 🤠



THE WALL OF FAME LISTS THE NAMES OF ALL THE YOUNG MEN WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY GRADUATED FROM MIRACLE FARM. IT IS A MOTIVATION FOR A QUEST TO SUCCEED FOR ALL RESIDENTS.



“THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE WAS A LEARNING CURVE FOR ME, BUT IT CHANGED MY LIFE.”

— MICAH HORACE, RECENT GRADUATE OF MIRACLE FARM

OUTGOING VICE PRESIDENT

JIM BROCK

BY BECKY LOWICKI



Jim Brock knows all about giving from the heart. “Like so many other things in life, when given from the heart, whether in time, talents or treasures, the more you put in, the more fulfillment and gratification you receive in return,” he said.

Whether on a committee with more than 1,500 volunteers or one with less than 25 volunteers, Brock has seen firsthand how all committees and individual volunteers are important to the overall success of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™.

During his three-year tenure as a vice president of the Show, Brock served as officer in charge of All Breeds Livestock Sales, Breeders Greeters, Junior Commercial Steer Feeding and Management Contest, Livestock, and Western Heritage Community Challenge committees.

Brock said he has seen the value of that heartfelt commitment when meeting with the Show’s exhibitors and scholarship recipients, along with their parents and teachers. An avid outdoorsman and wine enthusiast, he enjoys hunting, fishing, golfing and spending time with his family. His wife, Joan, to whom he’s been married more than 33 years, is a Steer Starlette on the Steer Auction Committee and volunteers on the Trailblazer Committee. Their four grown children—Megan, Melanie, Mindy and John—also are all dedicated Show volunteers.

Brock is director, president and chief financial officer of Prime Offshore, an independent oil and gas exploration and production company, as well as an independent management and financial consultant specializing in restructuring, mergers and acquisitions. 🐾

JEFF HARRIS

BY KATE PAGEL



Jeff Harris, a life member of the Show since 1975, has served as officer in charge for all Horse Show committees since 2014. When asked how he plans to remain involved, he said, “Once you’ve joined the Horse Show, you’re a member for life.” He plans to take on anything asked of him as he transitions out of his current role as a Show vice president.

The Horse Show is supported by the Cutting Horse, Donkey and Mule, Horse Show Equipment, Horspitality, Paint Horse, Quarter Horse, Ranch Rodeo, Team Penning and Ranch Sorting, World Shows and Youth Horse Show committees.

Harris said that he considers himself blessed by the opportunity to serve the Show as a vice president, and that his already immense appreciation for the Show staff and volunteers has grown tenfold to what it was before. He praises the amount of work and effort that the Show’s staff and volunteers come together to accomplish and is perhaps proudest of the addition of scholarships for youth livestock show exhibitors, which totals more than half a million dollars.

Harris also had the chance to experience the Show as a participant this year, showing Brahman cattle in the Open Cattle Show, echoing his first memories of the Show nearly 40 years ago as a high school FFA student.

Outside of the Show, Harris has been a sales representative for Justin Boots since 1985. He credits his wife, Sherri, also a Show life member, with “holding down the fort” in Cat Spring, Texas, while he’s in Houston during the Show. Harris looks forward to spending some of his newly found free time watching his son, Jake, play baseball, basketball and football. 🐾

JEFF M. JONES

BY KATIE LYONS



Jeff M. Jones said that serving as a vice president for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ has been one of his most rewarding experiences, allowing him to see firsthand how the youth of Texas benefit from the hard work of the Show's more than 32,000 volunteers.

"The heartfelt, life-changing stories [students] share make you realize that we are truly making a difference in not only these kids lives but in generations still to come," Jones said.

He takes pride in the Show and the energy and dedication that all of the Show's volunteers have. "We are a Show with a heart, but the volunteer is what gives it a pulse and life," he said.

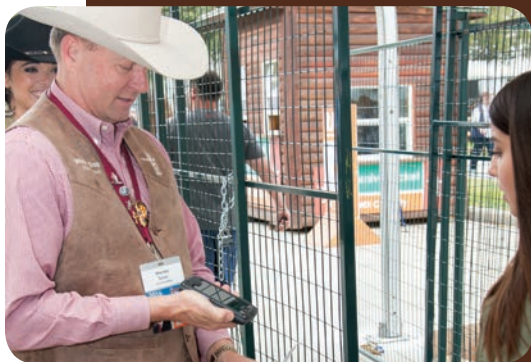
Jones served as officer in charge of the Health, Ticket Services, Transportation and World's Championship Bar-B-Que committees. "After being involved for 25 years, there is no way you can just ride off into the sunset. I will keep working on the World's Championship Bar-B-Que and Ranch Rodeo committees and do whatever is asked of me from the Show in the future."

Jones' commitment for the Show runs deep in his family. His father, William "Bill" Jones, is a lifetime director and former chairman, as was Jeff, of the World's Championship Bar-B-Que Committee. Jeff's mother, Patricia, is a Lifetime Committeeman and past Trailblazer Award honoree, and his wife, Katherine, is a life member and serves on the Trailblazer and Tours committees. They have four children: twins Jaymie and Jordan, Jacob, and Jessica.

Jones looks forward to spending more time with his family and job, as well as getting in a few activities, including hunting, golfing, horseback riding and fishing. 🐾

WESLEY SINOR

BY GINA STEERE



Wesley Sinor began volunteering for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ in 2003, and has no plans to step back from donating his time to the organization now that his tenure as a vice president is complete.

As a founding member, past chairman and now past officer in charge of the Gatekeepers Committee, Sinor said he plans to always be a part of that team. He said he also will stay involved with Grand Entry, participate in the NCHA cutting horse show each year, continue to support junior market auctions, Calf Scramble and Armed Forces Appreciation committees.

Sinor served as the officer in charge of Feed Store, Gatekeepers, Houston General Go Texan, Livestock, Rodeo Operations and Veterinarian committees. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Show as a vice president. While in this role, Sinor said he has grown to fully understand how the Show impacts both students and their families right here in Texas.

"Education has always been important to me. Meeting with the scholarship recipients and seeing how it has changed their lives has been the most gratifying thing that I've done," Sinor said. "Some [students] may be first in their family to go to college — others may be the first in their family to graduate high school. Some have overcome great obstacles to be able to go to college. After meeting these students, I can say the future of our state is in great hands."

Sinor said he will continue enjoying his hobbies of playing polo for the Houston Polo Club, showing cutting horses, and team roping. He is an owner of Sinor Engine Company, a third-generation family business which builds natural gas engines and compressors. His wife, Cassie, who he met through the Show, serves on the Steer Auction Committee. 🐾

OUTGOING VICE PRESIDENTS

SHARLEEN WALKOVIK

BY GINA STEERE



At the beginning of her tenure as a vice president, Sharleen Walkoviak thought she knew a lot about the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™, as well as the dedication of its volunteers. However, she soon realized that she had only experienced one of the many layers of enthusiasm and commitment of her fellow committeemen.

"These volunteers are profoundly dedicated to the specific mission of their particular committees and to the overall agricultural and educational mission of the Show," Walkoviak said. "Every committee believes they are the best committee at the Show and they have the feverish drive, dedication and results to prove it."

Walkoviak's experience with the Show is vast. She began volunteering on the Lamb & Goat Auction Committee in 1995, working her way up to chairman in 2011. She also served on Equipment Acquisition and Transportation committees, and was a recipient of the 2012 Trailblazer Award. In 2013, she was appointed by the Show to a search committee for finding candidates to fill the president and CEO vacancy.

As a Show vice president, she served as officer in charge of the Auctions Assistance, Carnival Ticket Sales, Graphics & Signage, Lamb & Goat Auction, Tours, and Trailblazer committees.

Walkoviak co-owns Covenant Technology Services, an information technology company in Texas. Her husband, Ron, also a member of the Show, serves on the Armed Forces Appreciation and Equipment Acquisition committees. "It has been a privilege and an honor to serve such wonderful people, and I could not have done it without the steadfast support of my husband, Ron," she said. 🐾

DAVID YATES

BY GINA STEERE



Although he volunteered in multiple capacities on the Parade Committee, David Yates said his experience serving as a vice president for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ is unmatched.

"I would have to describe my three-year tenure as vice president as one of the most rewarding and humbling experiences of my life," he said. "It has been a tremendous amount of hard work, but if I look back at the accomplishments that my committees have made to help educate the youth of Texas, it has been extremely rewarding."

Yates served as officer in charge of the Horticulture, Parade, Poultry Auction, School Art, School Art Auction, and Trail Ride committees. During his vice presidency, Yates said he enjoyed working with the management and staff coordinators of these committees, as well as current and past Show leadership. To him, the Show could not accomplish everything it does without the seamless cooperation between the staff and volunteers.

He said the most rewarding experiences were spending time with scholarship recipients and hearing their stories. "[The students] all have a wonderful story to tell about how they never would have been able to experience something in life without their scholarship."

Yates is the founder and president of Texana Supply, a wholesale and retail distributor of oilfield products for exploration and production companies in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. He is extremely grateful to his wife, Karen, and daughters, Alex and Dancy, for supporting him in his opportunity to volunteer with the Show in this capacity. 🐾

OUTGOING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN



Skip Avara
Horse Show Equipment



Tony Burt
Carnival Ticket Sales



George Buschardt Jr.
Hospitality



Victor Castaneda
Corral Club Division III
Vice Chairman



Stephanie Childress
Facility Services



Elaine Chrisman
Ladies' Go Texan



Mike C. Curley
General Horse Show



J.W. Daubert
Wine Garden



Ed Decora
Swine Auction



Gilbert Froehlich Jr.
Recycling



Matt Fuqua
Lamb & Goat Auction



Ted Gaylord
Auctions Assistance



John Glithero
General Horse Show



Steve Gordon
Corral Club - Division III



Freda Guzman
Asset Distribution



Jeff Hayes
General Horse Show



Phyllis Hillman
Corral Club - Suites East



Ray Hinsley
Grand Entry



Alan Hirshman
Special Children's



**Crystal Wilkerson
Janczak**
Calf Scramble Greeters



Lannis Jenkins
Houston General Go Texan



Russell Jones
Corral Club - Level West



Wm. L. "Bill" Jordan
Sheep & Goat



Michael Khushf
Corral Club Division II
Vice Chairman



Vincent Kruemcke
Rodeo Operations



Tom Laird
Corral Club -
Directors' Club



Thomas Peña
Corral Club - The Cantina



Kevin Peter
Legal Advisory



Karen Pruitt
Wine Competition



Nano Scherrieb
Scholarship Administration



Mark Schultz
Corral Club - Equipment



Tayma Shaya
Health



Robert Shockley
Corral Club -
Chairman's Club



Gus B. Smith
Agricultural Mechanics



Ryan Smith
Mutton Bustin'



Gregg Steffen
Parade



Archie Thompson
Corporate Development



Chris Underbrink
Breeders Greeters



Donna Webster
Horticulture



**James R. "Jamie"
Whitfill**
Rodeo Express



Tommy Winkler
Go Texan Contests



Tonya Yurgensen-Jacks
Rodeo Ticket Sales



P.O. Box 20070
Houston, Texas 77225-0070
Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
HOUSTON, TX
Permit No. 9791



Connect with
#RODEOHOUSTON

rodeohouston.com

