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For the Red Bluff Round-Up

BEST IN THE BIZ

Round-Up personnel are pro rodeo award winners

Red Bluff, Calif. (April 18, 2023) – Some of the best in the rodeo business make their way to Red Bluff this week, and it's to work the nation's largest 3-day rodeo, the Red Bluff Round-Up.

From Bob Tallman in the announcers booth, to announcer Wayne Brooks in the arena on horseback, and from rodeo clown JJ Harrison to soundman Austin Lopeman, all have been recognized for excellence at their job.

Announcers Bob Tallman and Wayne Brooks, photographer Click Thompson, rodeo clown JJ Harrison, specialty act Bobby Kerr, and pickup man Matt Twitchell were all recognized last December as being one of the top five best in their respective categories. Two of them were 2022 Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association winners: Thompson as PRCA Photographer of the Year, and Bobby Kerr as PRCA Dress Act of the Year.

For Harrison, rodeo clown from Walla Walla, Wash., being hired to work the Round-Up is an honor.

“A lot of times, in my job, people will ask, ‘do you work this rodeo? that rodeo? Cheyenne? Pendleton? Reno?’ They go through a list of rodeos, and people will always bring up Red Bluff. It's fun to say, ‘you bet I work the Round-Up. I'm their guy.’”

Announcer Bob Tallman has been announcing the Round-Up for more than 35 years, and has an interesting analogy for the hire of good personnel.

“It's the big chunks in the soup,” he said, of the right blend of announcers, clown, specialty act, pickup men, and more. “It's the meat and the magic,” he said, emphasizing that a smooth show for fans requires lots of work behind the scenes prior to the days of the Round-Up.

Fans may not know their names or accolades, but it's the personnel who make a rodeo shine, said JB Stacy, general manager of the Round-Up. “We hire the best people we can,” he said, “because Round-Up fans expect a good show and we want to give it to them.”

Other personnel for this year's Round-Up include official photographer Crystal Amen, pickup men Bronc Boehnlein and Bobby Marriett; sound director Austin Lopeman; rodeo secretary Debi Davis; bullfighters Josh Daries, Shane Jennings and Nate Jestes; and stock

contractors Bridwell Pro Rodeos, Flying U Rodeo, Four Star Rodeo, Powder River Rodeo, Rosser Rodeo, Big Stone Rodeo, C5 Rodeo and Calgary Stampede.

The Round-Up takes place April 21-23, with performances at 7 pm on April 21, 2:30 pm on April 22, and 1:30 pm on April 23.

Tickets range in price from \$20-\$40 and are on sale online at RedBluffRoundup.com, at the Round-Up Museum (670 Antelope Blvd., Suite 1, Red Bluff) and at the gate.

For more information, call 530.527.1000.

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Cutlines

Bob Tallman leans out a window in the announcers stand to get a better view of the action. The Texas man, a PRCA Hall of Fame member and multiple Announcer of the Year award winner has announced the Red Bluff Round-Up since the 1980s. Photo by Crystal Amen Photography.

Announcer Wayne Brooks is on horseback in the arena, calling the action at the Round-Up. Photo by Crystal Amen Photography.

JJ Harrison has fun with the crowd at the Round-Up. The rodeo clown has been selected numerous times as one of the top five best in the PRCA in the category of rodeo clown. Photo by Crystal Amen Photography.