

***By Russ Pankonin***

***The Imperial Republican***

Rodeo fans who love to watch the bull riding can get their fill Saturday night at the Chase County Bull Riding Challenge.

The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. MT at the fairgrounds arena.

The event is being put on jointly by the Chase County Fair, Chase County Tourism and the Wauneta and Imperial Chambers of Commerce.

V Lazy S Productions, owned by Mark and Kelly Ward of Tryon, will run the event.

This marks the first year for the event here and organizers hope it can become a sanctioned event on the Professional Bull Riders circuit.

While this is not a sanctioned PBR event, Ward expects to draw some PBR cardholders to compete in Saturday night's event. Entries will be limited to no more than 40 riders.

Ward and other stock contractors will supply the bulls for the event.

While the event will be held in the fairgrounds arena, Ward brings in his own chutes and panels so the action can be brought much closer for fans viewing from the grandstands.

The number of rides each cowboy will receive will depend on the number of entries. Successful riders will come back for a short-go to determine Saturday night's champion.

Kenny Smith of Wauneta, a member of the Chase County Fair Board, has worked hard to bring the event to Chase County.

He said he believes it will be an evening full of excitement as cowboys strive to make an eight-second qualifying ride.

Smith said Saturday's event result from an effort by the fair board and other organizers to bring new and fun events to the county, in addition to the fair activities in mid-August.

Smith said the fair board has obtained a license to operate a beer garden during the bull riding event and for the dance to follow.

Smith said that anyone purchasing a ticket can attend the dance for free. The dance, featuring The Drivin' Dynamics, will be held in front of the grandstand immediately following the bull riding.

Rain and Hail Insurance Service, Inc., and four of its area agencies will serve as the major sponsor for the bull riding event.

The area Rain and Hail agents participating include HomeTown Agency in Wauneta, Grant and Wallace, AmFirst Insurance Services in Hayes Center, Benkelman and McCook, Heritage Insurance Agency in Grant and Western Insurors in Imperial, Grant, Madrid and Ogallala.

Wauneta Crossroads will be the sponsor of the short-go and eight other area businesses will be chute sponsors.

These include Advanced Automotive Parts and Repair, Wauneta Seed, Inc., Fanning Farm Repair, Double D Hauling and Spreading, Champa Group, all of Wauneta; Valley Pro Irrigation, Lindskov Ag LLC, both of Imperial; Chase County Tourism, and Pioneer Seed.