

Stonyford Rodeo Vet

Doctor Leroy Burnham has volunteered his services again as standby Veterinarian at this year's Stonyford Rodeo. Dr. Burnham has been filling this important post off and on since 1965; he has been doing the job continuously since 2013, after Dr. Art Neves passed away. Dr. Burnham has been a fixture in Willows for more than half-a-century, since he began his practice there after graduating from the UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine in 1963. A native of San Leandro, in the San Francisco East Bay, he chose to practice his new profession in Willows; his many animal patients and their owners are glad that he did.



The service that Dr. Burnham provides is a necessary one for the Stonyford Rodeo, without a qualified veterinarian in attendance the rodeo could not happen—neither the state nor the PRCA would allow it. For all of the 74 years of its existence, local-area veterinarians have volunteered their services. In the long-ago past, Dr. Patricia Speck, of Williams, performed this task; later, and for more than 20 years, Dr. Art Neves, of Willows, did the honors; now Dr. Leroy Burnham attends the two days of rodeo, prepared to act as necessary to aid injured animal contestants.

This year—2018—will be the Stonyford Rodeo's 75th year. The festivities will begin on Friday, May 4, at 1 p.m., with the annual rodeo queen contest in Stonyford's Brother Moore Arena. The crowning of the queen and her court will be at 3 p.m., and barrel racing will follow in the arena.

The next event to occur is the Stonyford Rodeo Parade, which will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 5. The rodeo's long-time American Flag bearer, Sandra Corbin and husband Barry, will be the parade's Grand Marshals and rodeo dedicatees. Special guests will include Carmel Moore Ellerman, her children, and other Moore family members. The Ellerman children performed at Stonyford rodeos in the 1970s and '80s as the trick riding *Flying Cossacks*. The Moore family that included Earl, Lawrence (Sharky), and Beulah Moore Vanlandingham (all deceased) were instrumental in getting this rodeo and its *Gay Nineties Parade* off to a successful start—the parade in 1939 and the rodeo in 1943.

The rodeos will begin at 1 p.m., on Saturday, and noon on Sunday. They feature two new performers: clown and barrelman JJ Harrison, and specialty act John Payne, aka *The One Arm Bandit*. Don Jesser will return to announce, and Growney Brothers will again provide the stock.

Tickets are available now at the Horsemen website: www.stonycreekhorsemen.org. Or, you can soon get them at any of these area locations: Stonyford General Store, Stonyford; Carl's Feed, Willows; Boot Barn, Chico, Anderson & Yuba City; Bucke's Feed & Grain, Orland; Marie's Lakeshore Feed, Clearlake; Rainbow Ag, Lakeport; Ace Hardware, Arbuckle; and Hust Bros., Colusa (formerly, Colusa Motor Sales). Pre-rodeo tickets purchased online or from any of the businesses listed above are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children 7-12 years and older— children 6 years and under are free. Tickets purchased at the gate are \$15 and \$7. So get'em early and save money!

Also, don't forget to pick up a copy of the new, 75th anniversary book, *75 Years and Counting, A History of the Stony Creek Horsemen's Association, Inc., and its Rodeos and Parades*. The book costs \$25 and is available for mail-order purchase (\$4 s/h) by emailing admin@stonycreekhorsemen.org, or at any of the following locations: Stonyford General Store, in Stonyford; Susan's Country Cuts, in Elk Creek; Willows Hardware, Ace Hardware, or the Burnham Veterinary Clinic, in Willows.

