

Two Meade County cowboys make bull riding debut

Dave Mitchner
Messenger Staff

The Lone Star Rodeo Company made an appearance at the Meade County Fair on Wednesday, July 23. Many would agree the star of the show was the bull riding. Saved for the very end, the bull riding event was highly anticipated and much looked forward to by many in the audience.

Two young men from Meade County, Sean Snyder and Peyton Wolfe, fulfilled their dreams of debuting as bull riding cowboys at The Lone Star Rodeo in the company of their bull riding peers. Having never gripped a bull rope before, lifelong friends Snyder and Wolfe paid their entry fees and prepared to mount bulls to ride be-

fore the Meade County audience.

The two young riders grew up racing dirt bikes together and had been searching for a new source of adrenaline to train in. They settled on bull riding.

For all of the hours of the day, the hot July sun had beaten down upon the fair, blazing everyone and everything in its path. Once the sun dropped below the horizon, rodeo spectators enjoyed not only the thrill of the show but also enjoyed the first cool hours of a long day spent at the fair. Relief was evident as guests to the rodeo settled in to be entertained.

As Snyder and Wolfe prepared for their nod for the gate pull, they reflected upon their chances of a successful ride. Before the Meade



Reaper takes Sean Snyder for a ride.

County boys prepared for their rides, the bulls tossed every cowboy that settled down on top of the bull rope within seconds. Lone Star brought some high-ranking animals out for the cowboys to try their chances with. Every bull offered could post a high score, but not a

single rider had qualified in this event. Several seconds before the 8 second buzzer would sound, each rider found themselves flat on the arena dirt. Bull fighters John Wayne Lackey and Jake England were busy ensuring the safety of the human athletes.

The young bull rid-



Photos by Dave Mitchner | *The Messenger*
Bullfighters John Wayne Lackey and Jake England rush to protect Peyton Wolfe from the Texas Technician.

ers' mothers were obviously nervous as they prepared to watch their sons settle down onto the monster bulls. Wolfe drew a bull named "Texas Technician", whereas Snyder drew "Reaper" for his ride. Both made a heck of an effort, holding on for dear life, but much

like every other rider that night, the bulls bucked them clear. The young riders were able to walk away from being thrown having enjoyed the experience. Both look forward to a lengthy career in bull riding and cannot wait for their next opportunity to ride again.

Shining a clearer spotlight on invisible disabilities

Anastasia Basham
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Unbeknownst to most people, the month of July is about more than just summer barbeque get togethers and pool days to beat the heat. July is also national Disability Pride Month, commemorating the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26th, 1990. For most people, the ADA may not be a document you often think of or find any importance for, but for many individuals, this became a true quality of life change. Each disabled individual has their own personal challenges, especially those who suffer from "invisible" disabilities. Before the ADA, every disability was easy to ignore and discriminate against in the workplace, at school, even in doctors' offices. Those who did not immediately appear "disabled" faced even more

pushback when advocating for accommodations that would help with their daily tasks.

So, what exactly is an "invisible" disability? Some could assume it is a long way to say someone's health condition is fake or not severe. Unfortunately, this assumption happens daily and is a very damaging way of thinking. When one hears the word disability, many people create a very specific image in their head. An older gentleman using a walker to get around. A little girl in sports with a prosthetic leg. A little boy with visible deformity. The wheelchair bound woman at the store shopping for groceries. All these examples can be seen by onlookers. A visual representation of how a person might live and their daily struggles. It is easy to put people into boxes. But what about the child struggling in school because they can-

not hear the teacher talking and no one can translate into sign language? The woman at work who constantly deals with debilitating migraines from malformation in her brain, but no one takes her seriously because she looks "normal?" The man who is an ambulatory wheelchair user due to chronic knee pain he has had since birth but is called a "fake" since he can walk. All these people could appear able bodied from a quick first impression.

The first impression that a person is able bodied is not inherently wrong. How would one assume that someone has chronic pain? One cannot. The challenge is to never assume someone is lying just because of the way they appear. As easy as it sounds, it is common for those with "invisible" disabilities to be yelled at and berated by others trying to "defend" other disabled people. This on-

going problem also happens in doctors' offices as doctors often downplay a person's pain due to their outward appearance. Diagnoses are frequently missed due to this first impression as well, leaving a person experiencing symptoms for years with no answers. Living with a disability that cannot be seen by the naked eye is usually a life of constant invalidation and imposter syndrome. Mobility aids that would drastically improve an individual's life may not be used purely because they are embarrassed to be seen in public with them. Not asking for needed breaks when in groups of people in fear of being ridiculed can lead to flare ups. Having to take time off work for flare ups or surgery can be risky (especially before the ADA existed) and stressful.

For the month of July and every other month after that, challenge yourself to remember that dis-



Photo by Anastasia Basham
A photo of a zebra swallowtail butterfly. Zebras themselves have become a symbol for rare diseases/conditions for those who live with them because they are unique and unexpected. This representation comes from a saying that young doctors learn in medical school that goes "when you hear hoofbeats, think horses, not zebras," emphasizing doctors to look for the most obvious and expected diagnosis first.

abled people do not have a "look." Next time you see a healthy person exiting a car parked in an accessible parking spot, take a moment before running up to them and accusing them of faking just for better parking. A person using a white cane is not "pretending"

just because they are not wearing sunglasses or appear to be looking straight at you. Autistic adults are still autistic even if they do not appear to act like your six-year-old son. Appearances vary but that should not and does not invalidate their experiences.

Family roadside stands offer fresh produce for community



Photo submitted by Carla Laslie.

Produce and plants offered by Outlaw Farm on the weekends on Highway 313 near Buck Grove Church.

Tammie Beasley
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Chris Chapman started Boss Lady's corn as a project with his daughter Addie about 12 years ago. He initially started setting up corn to sell on Highway 313.

Chapman's grandfather, Richard "Bus" Chapman bought the farm they now live on from his brother-in-law in the 1960's. Chris's dad, Richard "Dickie" Chapman, bought the farm from Bus, his father, in 1976. Chapman Farms produces hay and straw with some row crops along with sweet corn. Chris owns a commercial agricultural spray business as well. His family helps sell the corn at the produce stand. The Jones family in the Old Weldon Commu-

nity of Meade County began selling produce at their farm in 2012. Prior to that, Lonesome Pine Livestock Farm had been cattle and tobacco farm. In the early 2000's, the Jones' ended their long history of tobacco production and opted to grow vegetables to market directly to the consumer to cover the income loss.

John Jones and his wife Sharon own and operate the farm.

Jones' daughter, Julia, and his niece, Caroline Jones, are also active in the farm operation.

Jones' dad, retired Reverend Garry Jones, is still a big part of the farm. Though his role is largely advisory, he does help with hay and grain harvest. He pitches in whenever there is a need or when things get behind. His focus now



Photo submitted by Carla Laslie.

Karissa, daughter of Chris Chapman, helps man the corn produce stand for Boss Lady's Corn on the weekend on Highway 313 near Buck Grove Church.

is mostly on his flower gardens, woodworking, and restoring old horse-drawn farm equipment.

Along with his dad, Jones' brother "Pete" helps with the cow herd and does most of the mechanic work on the farm as well as maintenance around the farm.

All of the produce the Jones' market is directly off their farm. They do not buy produce from a produce truck, or have it shipped from down south. They grow everything they sell.

The Jones' vegetables are raised in a big garden. They are seasonal and very weather dependent. They sell produce off the farm only, not at farmers' markets or on street corners. They sell a wide variety of vegetables that are commonly grown in a Kentucky garden. Offerings in-

clude several varieties of tomatoes, new potatoes, green beans, onions, radishes, cabbage, beets, broccoli, sweet corn, zucchini, squash, strawberries, cantaloupe, watermelon, fresh eggs, and pumpkins in the fall. They hope to have blackberries next year.

They are open on Saturdays, depending on the weather, mid-June to September from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Follow or friend them for availability and changes on their Lonesome Pine Livestock Facebook page. The farm is located in Old Weldon at 735 Bethel Church Road in Brandenburg.

Outlaw Farm was started around 1988 when James and Carla Allen Laslie bought their daughter, Aurora, some pygmy goats. They moved on to Boer



Photo by Tammie Beasley | *The Messenger*

John Jones with his depleted produce stock on a Saturday morning around 11 am. Consumers must come early to ensure they can get the produce they want.

goats until she went to college in 2011. They kept a few heads of cattle until 2017 when they sold all the cattle and just focused on the garden.

The Laslies started dabbling in vegetable sales in 2022. In 2023, they added vegetable plants to their offerings. They set up a produce stand at the end of their lane in Ekron until 2024 when Chris Chapman, owner of Boss Lady's Corn, asked them to set up with him on Highway 313.

James Laslie retired from Nutrient in 2023. He had been employed by Keller Manufacturing in Corydon, Indiana from 1979 until they closed in 2004. Carla Laslie retired this past February from the United States Post Office after 30 years of service.

Carla's father, Carl "Eddie" Allen bought the family farm that the Laslies live on in 1966. The family farmed and operated it as a cattle farm with some row crops until the early 1990's when they began leasing the farm out.

The Laslies grow vegetables to include tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, okra, cucumbers, potatoes, green beans, onions, and fruit such as raspberries. They have added raspberry bushes, and some perennial and annual flowers to the mix.

They are set up near Buck Grove Church on Highway 313 on Saturdays and/or Sundays depending on the availability of the produce. Sometimes they still set up their stand at the end of their lane in Ekron.