

Rodeo Comes To Rutherford Corn Crib Arena will hold bi-monthly events in Bostic

By **SCOTT BOWERS**

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BOSTIC — The Corn Crib Arena is now the first fully-operational rodeo arena in Rutherford County and the ambitions are as large as the Carolina blue sky that surrounds the pastoral setting.

On a crisp Autumn afternoon in Bostic the Walker family — father, Mike, and siblings Kyle and Myra — see their dream come to life. The family is the owner and operators of the new Corn Crib Rodeo Arena in Bostic.

Siblings Kyle and Myra Walker had wanted to go into business together and do what they loved.

“I grew up around animals,” said Myra. “I rode horses; I was around cows, bulls and all sorts of farm animals. I had never ridden in a rodeo but I had friends who were involved and I grew to love it.”

The Corn Crib Arena hopes to deliver bi-monthly rodeos including

a potential visit from the Professional Bull Riders (PBR).

“We hope to have a PBR event here in the fall,” said Myra. “The original idea was to host them in July but we need the extra time to get some things done.”

Todd Lattimore, the Corn Crib’s event coordinator, believes many other rodeo organizations will soon be on the schedule.

“We will certainly have riders from Tough Enough, Southern States and many others come and be part of events here at the Corn Crib,” said Lattimore.

The Corn Crib is completing work on an announcers stage, bathrooms and even a campground. The Corn Crib is selling food and various clothing items such as cowboy hats and belt buckles.

The opening events held this past Saturday featured riders

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Skylar Langley

turns past the second barrel in the Barrel Racing event at the Corn Crib Arena in Bostic on Saturday, November 17.

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Rodeo

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from the Foothills Youth Rodeo Association.

“It is a lot of fun,” said Dylan Boyd, 9, who was taking part in the calf riding. “I enjoy riding.”

Boyd was one of many young riders, including

of Rutherford County and the youth of the county.

“I think this will have a positive economic impact on the county,” said Lattimore. “We have riders here today from several states, as well as riders from around North Carolina and

Boyd's younger brother, Dalton, 6, who took part in the first rodeo held at the Corn Crib.

Events included Mutton Busters, Barrel racing, Pole racing, Shoot Dogging, Calf riding and Bull riding.

"This is a nice place," said bull rider Michael DeShea.

DeShea, a rider from the Winston- Salem area, rides in the Western Mesquite Rodeo Association and came to Rutherford County to ride in the Bull riding event.

"They have brought in good stock and they should do really well here," DeShea said.

The stock will be a combination of stock held by the Walkers and the Corn Crib and stock provided by Jeff Robinson, who provides stock to the PBR. Both Walker and Lattimore believe the rodeo will be embraced by the citizens

Rutherford County. So, many riders will be coming through and spending money right here in the county" Walker is hopeful that the rodeo will become another outlet for the youth of Rutherford County.

"Rodeo is a positive environment for young people," said Walker. "It teaches kids respect for fellow riders and animals.

It teaches patience and responsibility. We have established fines and penalties for bad language or bad behavior."

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) has placed rodeo on its list of sports that the association recognizes. The NCHSAA may someday host events at the Corn Crib.

"It is early yet, but we will talk with them," said Lattimore. "We are going to a high school rodeo and it may become something we do."

The Walkers continue to work at other jobs while the Corn Crib gets up and running.

"We love it," said Myra.

"It has been busy and a lot of work but it is all worth it to have this day."



An unidentified rider takes a sharp turn during the Pole Racing event at the Corn Crib Arena in Bostic on Saturday, November 17.

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