Battalion Classifieds

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LOST AND FOUND

\$100 reward for trombone lost near east Kyle during Tech game. No questions asked. Todd 846-7443. 35110/30.

LOST--5 ¼ in. computer diskette labeled 'The GMAT Course Master Disk.' Call Bill 845-4714. 34t10/22

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HELP WANTED

ycare Workers part-time and substitutes. 04 Cavitt, Bryan. 3 - 5 p.m. M-F. No ph

000 GOVERNMENT JOBS List \$16,040 - \$59,230/yr Sow Hiring, Call 805-687-6000 Ext. R-9531. 34t12/16

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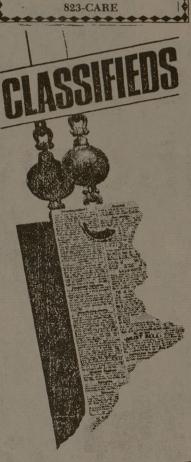
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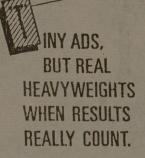
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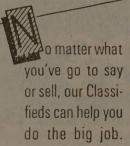
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'The wildest show behind bars'

Texas Prison Rodeo celebrates 55th year

ment of Corrections in October to get a chance — if only for eight seconds — to be ro-

Every Sunday in October people pour into Huntsville to watch the inmates perform at the TDC's Texas Prison Rodeo.

A carnival atmosphere fills the streets near the prison unit, which is nestled in the heart

Concessionaires sell souvenirs and food while a small inmate band plays country music for visitors as they wait for the arena gates to

People stroll down the rodeo midway leading to the arena, hardly conscious of the prison guards perched on platforms and in towers with riot guns.

The inmates and guards didn't seem to worry Sunday's crowd of more than 18,000 they came to see a good show and that's exac-

The Texas Prison Rodeo is in its 55th year and though attendance is sparse enough that officials have said this may be the rodeo's last year, for now it's still the "wildest show behind

That's because determined convicts from 27 different TDC prison units try out for the rodeo. They come from all walks of life and their prison terms range from three years to

As the rodeo's theme song says, "they're payin' their dues and they have nothing to lo-

"Convict cowboys" from around the state come to the "Walls" Unit of the Texas Departing into the arena for big prize money. It's also unlikely they'll end up endorsing jeans and boots for western-wear companies. These guys are taking a chance on having a bull or bronc kick them in the head, with their only reward a few extra dollars in their meal ac-

This year's rodeo has 83 inmate participants, 43 cowboys and 40 "redshirts.

The cowboys take turns displaying their skills in traditional events such as bareback bronc, saddle bronc and wild-bull riding.

The "redshirts" are convicts who compete in teams of four in their events. Dressed in bright red shirts and white pants, the redshirts compete in wild-cow milking, calf racing and the "hard money" competition.

'Hard money" may be an understatement. All 40 redshirts are lined up on one end of the arena. On the other end, in the middle chute, is the meanest Brahma bull in the rodeo. Tied between its horns is a cash prize of as much as

The redshirt who's brave enough -or greedy enough - to grab the pouch wins the

The rodeo also features country music per-formances. This year, Ricky Skaggs, Willie Nelson, Reba McEntire and George Jones have appeared. The Judds will close out this year's rodeo with their performance October

Rodeo tickets are available at ticket outlets



A guard keeps watch over inmates and vis Sunday's prison rodeo performance.

Story and photos by

Greg Bailey





An inmate cowboy carries along a little



A saddle bronc contestant looks the ground over for a soft place to land after thrown. Only one cowboy managed to stay in the saddle Sunday.

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