

GREAT AMERICAN STAMPEDE

EVENT BRINGS COLOR, ENDLESS ACTIVITIES

BY MIKE HENLE

For Cedar City Neighborhoods

CEDAR CITY — Cedar City's rich history will be exemplified Sept. 10-12 when the Great American Stampede is presented in Festival City, USA.

An impressive event, which is the result of dedicated souls from the Cedar City Lions Club, the 8th annual celebration has been termed a blockbuster effort certain to draw not only visitors from Cedar City but several surrounding states as enthusiasts gather to celebrate.

Just putting together the schedule for the stampede had to be a monumental task considering the endless activities set for the weekend. From a two-day collegiate rodeo to a parade and countless other activities, this event is a culmination of countless hours of labor.

Workers will turn a city block into what has been called Old Fort Cedar, Thursday, Friday and Saturday featuring various colorful displays.

Among the interesting displays at Old Fort Cedar will be western facades, horse-drawn rides, blacksmithing demonstrations and western entertainment and music along with goat roping, horseshoe tossing contests, a petting area with miniature horses and draft horse demonstrations.

If it's good, old-fashioned food you're interested in, the menu is expected to include Navajo beans, chuck wagon beans, roasted corn on the cob and flame-grilled burgers or hot dogs.

Perhaps one of the biggest charms of Cedar City is its parades. The Great American Stampede will present one of the best, Saturday,

FOR INFORMATION

To learn more about the stampede visit www.greatamericanstampede.com or call 327-2477.

with a horse parade highlighted by American Indians dressed in buckskin riding bareback on colorful ponies complemented by mountain men in authentic attire complete with pack horses carrying pelts.

Add in covered wagons loaded with gear; light carriages; champion draft horses featuring Clydesdales, Percherons and Friesians not to mention stagecoaches, freight wagons and beer wagons and you have a combination that will create memories for years to come.

Lions Club member Wes Stephenson, a Las Vegas transplant, has been involved with the event for four years.

"The event started out as a rodeo, and it has grown from there," said Stephenson, adding that soon-to-be-retired Mayor Gerald R. Sherratt deserves a huge pat on the back for his efforts to support the event. The former president of Southern Utah University and the founder of the Utah Summer Games, Sherratt's multi talents have been evident, to say the least, Stephenson said.

"Mayor Sherratt has led the Festival City idea, and he fosters, promotes and supports things that the Lions Club presents," said Stephenson.

Stephenson also added that hard-working, Heather Carter, gets credit for a parade that has expanded continually.

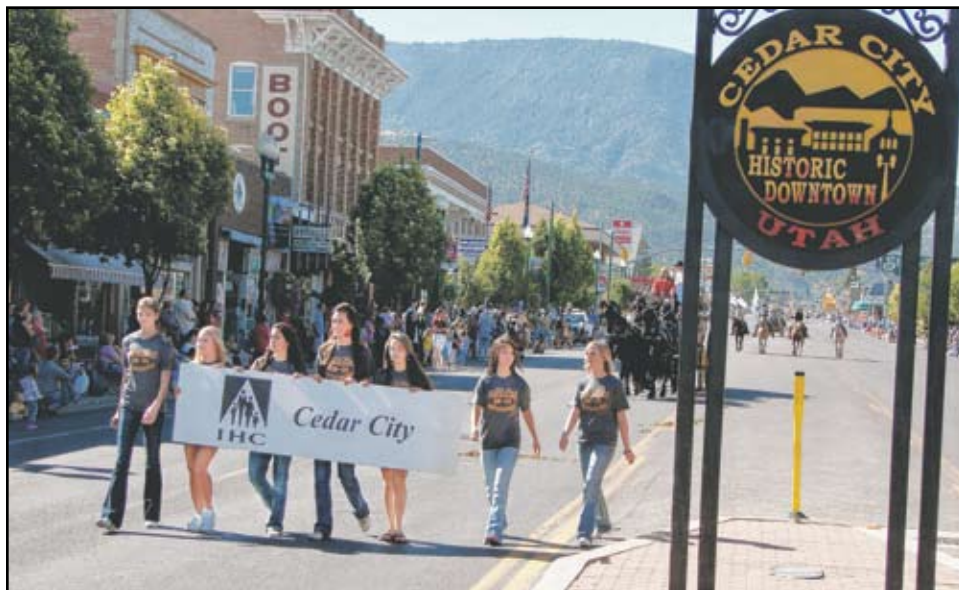
"Heather is a real go-getter,"

Stephenson said. "She doesn't think small and she has created a home-run, that's for sure."

Yet another member deserving of a plaudit is Roger Chambers, the Lions Club member and founder of the stampede. He recently sold his business and has retired, although his involvement with the Lions Club is not expected to cease by any means.

"He was there from the beginning and has headed up every one of them," Stephenson said. "Roger could be in the movies as a character actor and he actually sounds like one of the old cowboys. He is a stalwart in Cedar City. In fact, he's a rock in the Lions Club."

In short, the Great American Stampede is being presented at the perfect time considering the color, the



history and the rest.

In a city with 14 popular festivals, the Great American Stampede also features two nights of what has been termed 'bronc bustin' and bull ridin' featuring an International Rodeo Association event with a top-notch list of competitors

from SUU, Utah State University, Weber State University, Snow College, Dixie State University, Utah Valley University, Idaho State University and College of Southern Idaho.

The rodeo is scheduled for Cross Hollow Events Center on Highway 56

about two miles west of Interstate 15.

"It's a different world up here," Stephenson said of Cedar City, "And this is a wonderful family event. I lived in Las Vegas for 25 years before my wife and I moved here five years ago, and we love it."



Photos submitted by Wes Stephenson

TOP: A parade on Main Street was a feature of the 2008 Great American Stampede. ABOVE: A cowboy competes

in 2008's rodeo bronco busting event. The annual rodeo comes to Cedar City, Sept. 10 through 12.