

First Garrett County Maryland Rodeo

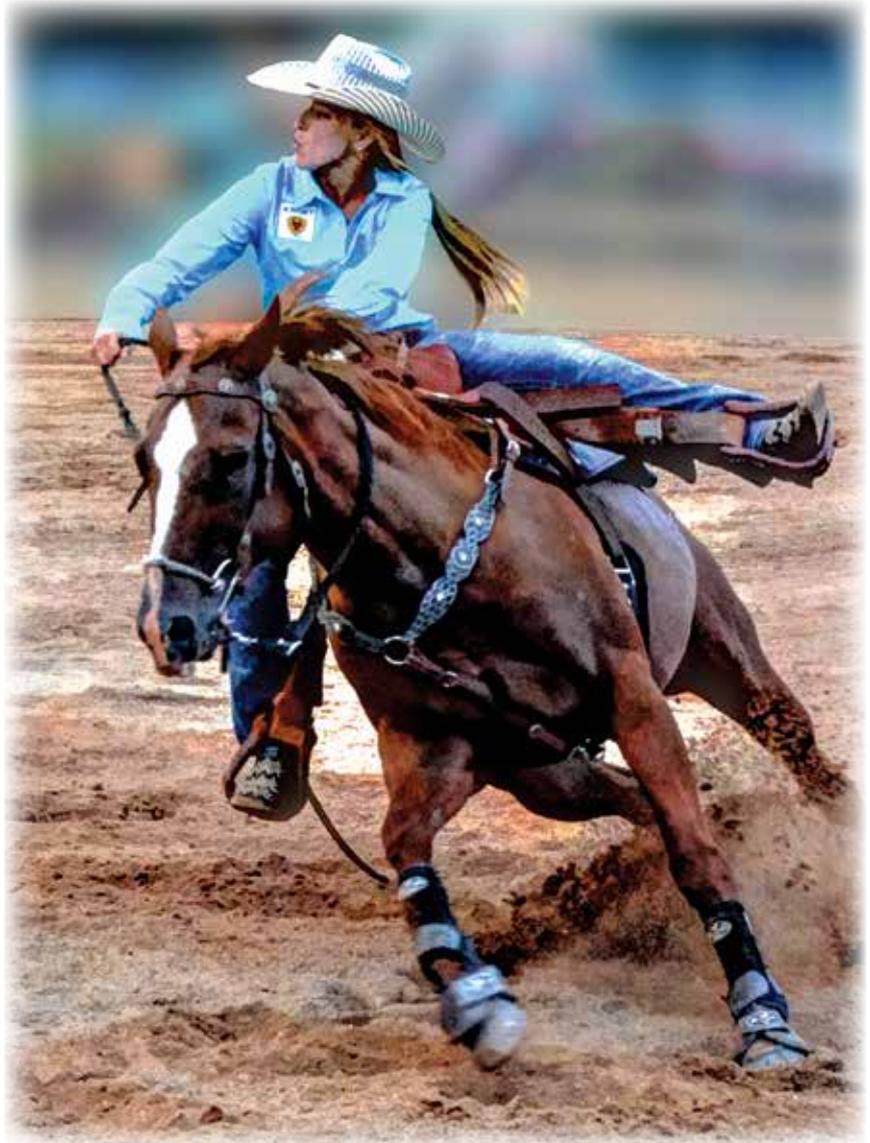
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Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Young Rodeo Contestants Make Debut at Garrett County Fair

For the first time ever, a passel of local youngsters with a passion for rodeo performed at the Garrett County Fair in early August of 2015. Competing as members of the Maryland High School Rodeo Association (MDHSRA), the Free State's two-year-old chapter of the National High School Rodeo Association (NHSRA), a talented group of young riders and wranglers participated in high school and junior high school divisions of traditional rodeo events. These included Barrels, Mustang Barrels, Breakaway Roping, Poles, Goat Tying, Bull Riding, Bareback, Chute Dogging, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping, Calf Roping and Ribbon Roping. Participants were decked out in full Western regalia as required by NHSRA rules.

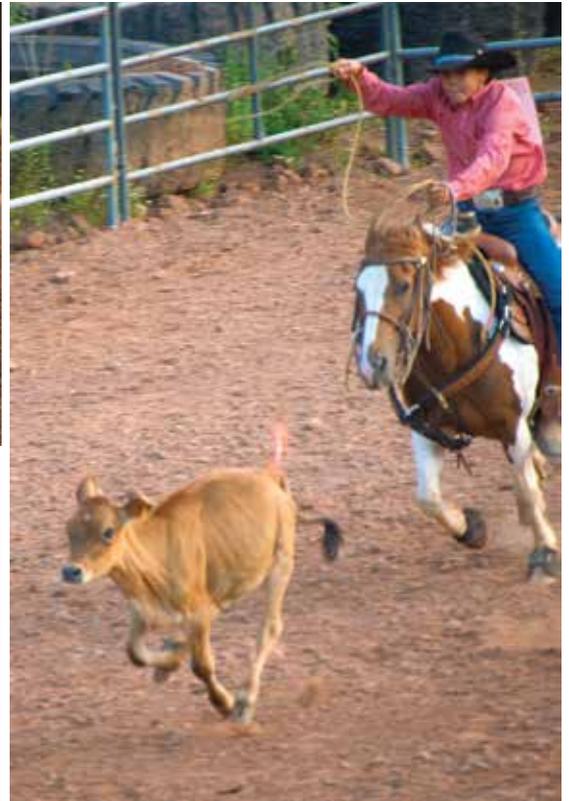
“We were really happy with the turnout in Garrett County,” says Katie Nechamkin, one of the founders and former president of the MDHSRA who now serves as treasurer. “We were very warmly received by the horse community.”

The national organization began as an idea conceived in the mind of a Texas educator, horseman, and fan of rodeos who grew up in the 1920s. In 1949, the NHSRA held its first official rodeo in Hallettsville, Texas. Now based in Colorado, NHSRA strives to promote education, sportsmanship, character, horsemanship, family involvement and a sense of community among its members, with the goal of preserving the distinctive heritage of the Western United States.



A young rider in good form during the barrel race competition.

“Lots of people like watching the kids,” Katie says. “They try so hard and are very earnest.” Given the success of MDHSRA’s two performances at the recent Garrett County Fair, it looks like youth rodeo is off and running in Western Maryland.

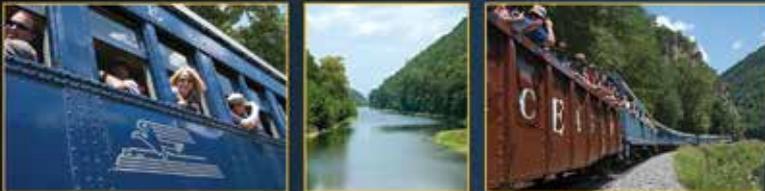


Bronco Busting (top left), Calf Roping (bottom left) and Steer Wrestling at the MDHSRA Rodeo at the Garrett County Fair.

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