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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

138th Mandan Rodeo Days brings drama, action and family fun July 1-4

MANDAN, N.D. (June 1, 2017) –Dramatic chuckwagon races, parades, award-winning professional rodeo, festivals, fireworks and family fun----all this and more return to Mandan July 1-4 for the 138th annual Mandan Rodeo Days Celebration, presented by Dakota Community Bank & Trust.

This is North Dakota's largest Independence Day celebration and the 2016 Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) Badlands Circuit Rodeo of the Year.

Crowd favorites are back at Dacotah Centennial Park --- Kyzer Stoddard's daredevil roman riding, determined young mutton busters and in-arena interviews of winners.

This year's celebration begins at 7:30 p.m. July 1 with a night of PRCA Xtreme Bulls. Thirty bull riders will face 30 proven bucking bulls from Mandan's own Chad Berger, as they compete for more than \$20,000 and world championship points. Xtreme Bulls tickets are \$20 for ages 6 and up. Although there is no advance ticket discount for the Xtreme Bulls, tickets are available now online at www.MandanRodeo.com.

While tickets for both the bull riding and the rodeo are available at the gate, buying rodeo tickets in advance gives spectators a discount. Advance tickets for the rodeo are available now at all Petro Serve locations in Bismarck and Mandan. Other ticket outlets are Western Unlimited, Branded Envy and both Boot Barn locations in Bismarck; Butcher Block Meats, Dan's Supermarket and the Mandan Progress Organization in Mandan. Reserved seat tickets are only available at the Petro Serve on Main Street in Mandan from now through July 1.

The rodeo begins Sunday, July 2 at 7:30 p.m. with Family Night. Gates will open at 5 p.m. with a free hot dog feed. All sorts of kids' activities are planned-- roping, barrel racing, barrel train rides, photo and autograph opportunities, and the *Just Clowning Around* rodeo clown dress-up contest. The first 50 kids under age 6 receive a free stick horse for the Stick Horse Race. Families may also register for a grand prize – a gas grill. Earlier on Sunday is the Miss Rodeo Mandan luncheon and the 2nd annual Remarkable Kids Rodeo, where 30 kids with disabilities participate in their own rodeo events.

Monday, July 3 at 7:30 p.m. is Patriot Night. Gates again open at 5 p.m. and the first 50 children under age 6 will receive a free stick horse. Spectators are encouraged to wear red, white and blue to honor both active-duty military and veterans. Two rifles and a diamond necklace will be raffled to raise money for Veterans Outdoors Adventures of North Dakota and Dakota Leathernecks Detachment #1419. A live auction following the rodeo will also benefit those charities. The evening concludes with a free fireworks display.

The final Independence Day rodeo performance begins at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4. The day begins early in downtown Mandan with the Mandan Road Race, followed by the Art in the Park festival (also July 3), the Independence Day Parade and much more. The final night of rodeo action features the Tribute to the Six Pack match bronc riding just prior to North Dakota's largest fireworks display.

A full schedule of events and details are available online at www.MandanRodeo.com.

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Saddle bronc riding is one of seven professional rodeo contests that will be featured at the 138th annual Mandan Rodeo Days, July 1-4. Photo by Jackie Jensen.