

**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

Contact: Aleta Walther
Publicity Director
Oklahoma Events, Inc.
405/842-4141

FESTIVAL OF THE HORSE OFFERS MYRIAD EVENTS

If variety is the spice of life, Oklahoma City's inaugural Festival of the Horse will be a lively affair. Concerts and contests, golf and games, rodeo and racing, dancing and dining, are just a sampling of events and activities offered during the nine-day festival Oct. 20 – 28.

The brain child of state and city leaders, the festival encompasses 22 events, most of which have an equine theme, including:

- Horseshoe Pitching
- "Just say Neigh" Celebrity Golf Tournament
- Clotheshorse Collection Cabaret
- Mustang Convertible Car Giveaway
- Cutest Ponytail Contest
- Boots, Bolos & Bandana Day
- H-O-R-S-E Basketball Shootout
- PRCA Prairie Circuit Finals Rodeo
- Thoroughbred Racing at Remington Park

"No question about it, the Festival of the Horse offers something for everyone," said Lee Allen Smith, president of Oklahoma Events, Inc., the motivating force behind the festival. "The horse is an integral part of everyday life in Oklahoma and a major player in Oklahoma history."

The incorporation of an equine theme into a fall festival is an opportunity for state and city leaders to show their appreciation for Oklahoma's horse industry while offering a cornucopia of entertaining events.

Many of the events – some existing, some new – benefit a charity, including the United Way, Make a Wish Foundation and A Chance to Change.

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The festival kickoffs Saturday, Oct. 20 with the “Tour de Horse”, – three different tours which will offer an up close look at some of Oklahoma’s finest racing and horse show facilities. Opening day also will offer a horseshoe pitching tournament in Hafer Park in Edmond; horse racing at Oklahoma City’s Remington Park; a Thoroughbred auction at Oklahoma City’s Heritage Place; and the Oklahoma City Philharmonic will present a concert featuring Trumpet Virtuoso Allen Vizzutti.

The festival will conclude Sunday, Oct. 28 with the \$250,000 Mathis Brothers Remington Thoroughbred Futurity and the H-O-R-S-E Basketball “Sweet 16” Finals at Remington Park.

In between will be concerts at the Oklahoma City Civic Center by Tony Bennett; several performances of “Carmina Burana” presented by Ballet Oklahoma at the Civic Center; the Clotheshorse Collection Cabaret hosted by the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center; the “Just Say Neigh” Golf Tournament at Oak Tree County Club; and the “Call to Post” Luncheon to determine the starters in the Remington Park Futurity.

Ongoing events include appearances by the famous Budweiser Clydesdale eight-horse hitch at various venues, racing at Remington Park and the ’91 Mustang Convertible giveaway.

In support of the festival, Oklahoma City Mayor Ron Norick has proclaimed Oct. 26 as Boots, Bolo & Bandana Day.

“Like the horse, boots, bolos and bandanas are indicative of Oklahoma’s Western Heritage,” said the mayor. “A day within the Festival of the Horse is an appropriate time to celebrate our Western heritage by wearing Western fashions.

So dust off your boots and spruce your hat and come wine, dine, host, toast, giggle, wiggle, dance, prance and parade, all in the name of that mythical creature, the horse.

For more information on the Festival of the Horse or any of the events or activities, call 405/842-4141.

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