



Stewart to announce U.P. Rodeo 2022

IRON RIVER — With 27 years of rodeo announcing under his belt, PRCA announcer Andy Stewart is sure to be a hit at the U.P. Rodeo. The Monroe, Louisiana, native is known for his smooth, charismatic voice and has consistently been nominated as one of the top five PRCA announcers of the year.

He averages 160 performances over 43 weeks each year and has entertained crowds at such top-notch rodeos as the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Cheyenne Frontier Days and the RAM National Circuit Finals.

Stewart's decision to become a rodeo announcer began back in High School, when he would imitate the announcers he heard at rodeos and on TV.

"I did it so much that my mom dared me to give it a try. So, I did," Stewart said.

"I enjoy it, and it gives me satisfaction knowing someone bought a ticket and left having a good time," Stewart has said of his career choice. "It's all about entertaining the crowds and having fun."

Stewart is married to his wife of almost 30 years, Shelley. He has two children and two grandchildren.

Dennis Cummings honored as 2022 Wild West Parade Marshal

IRON RIVER — For 20 years, Dennis Cummings worked as a Wild West Parade volunteer for the U.P. Rodeo. For many

years before that, he worked with other area organizations to assist with the rodeo parade.

"Last year we lost Den-



The Green Hat Clown comes to town

IRON RIVER — Austin Singley is an award-winning rodeo clown, entertainer, and stuntman out of Clearfield, Utah. His true love for performing and making people laugh began in Jr. High School theater class, and since then he has built an incredible career around his passion.

Inspired by decorated rodeo clown and Coors Man in the Can Keith Isley, Singley began his journey to becoming a Professional Rodeo Clown in the Summer of 2009. Over the last 12 years he has crisscrossed the country entertaining tens of thousands of rodeo fans, working diligently to create the most unique and innovative clown/specialty acts, and quickly building his popular and trademarked brand as the Green Hat Clown.

Singley's journey in the PRCA began in 2015, where he now proudly works for some of the best rodeo producers in the industry and gets to share the stage with some of his heroes. He has three horses he takes on the road with him: Bandit, his black Azteca Gelding Trick Riding Horse, and his brand-new matching set of Clydesdale Geldings out of the Budweiser bloodline, Wilson and Windsor, who are his trusty Roman Riding Team.

Though rodeo has become his top priority, most people would be surprised to learn just how many irons in the fire Singley has.

In 2010, he founded his first business, BATZ Entertainment LLC, where he is the executive artistic director and oversees the design and production of live shows and events.



In 2016 he took his talents to Los Angeles, Calif. when he landed his dream job as a jet skier/stuntman in the internationally acclaimed, WaterWorld Stunt Show at Universal Studios Hollywood. In addition to that, he has made several appearances in movies, commercials, and television shows, most recently seen in the hit TV Show, Yellowstone.

In 2017, Singley headed to the mid-west to work for Dolly Parton at the Dixie Stampede Dinner Show in Branson, Missouri, where he alternated between performing as the Master of Ceremonies and the Comedian.

After leaving the Stampede in early 2018, Singley later returned to Branson in 2019, this time with his entire production company and opened a theater on the Branson Strip, where he headlined his own show - Comedy Hypnosis with Austin Singley. By the time Covid struck in 2020 and

forced the closure of Branson Tourism, Singley had performed a total of 500 shows for 250,000 guests, and had hypnotized nearly 15,000 people.

Singley has since returned to the Rocky Mountains of Northern Utah, where he spends his time working horses and traveling the country doing rodeo full time.

In his limited down time however, he can be found building custom homes as a general contractor or taking his Comedy Hypnosis Show on Tour.

You can follow all of his adventures on Instagram @Green-HatClown!



Shamco, Inc. named 2022 U.P. Rodeo Wild West Parade Grand Marshal

IRON RIVER — When the 54th annual U.P. Rodeo Wild West Parade makes its way through downtown Iron River on July 9, the owners of a long-time local business will be heading up the procession as Grand Marshal.

Shamco, Inc. got its start back in 1997, with Jerry Sha-

mion and two of his sons, Todd and Eric. Soon after, Scott joined his dad and brothers in the business. Jerry's youngest son, Ryan, followed suit in 2009.

Shamco is a cut-to-length timber harvesting and trucking company, more recently adding a lumber mill operation,

encompassing the full spectrum of logging needs. Though they lost Jerry in 2020, Shamco remains a successful, efficient and innovative company.

The Shamion family has deep roots in the logging industry and the local community. Because of their involvement in and promotion of various community events and worthy causes, as well as providing much needed industry in our small town, employing approximately 35 people, the U.P. Rodeo would like to say thank you to this local business.

Shamco's generosity is well known to the U.P. Rodeo, as they have been a long-time supporter of the event. Shamco has financially contributed as a sponsor for many years and have also sponsored rodeo queen pageant contestants. They have volunteered at the rodeo grounds and even allowed rodeo personnel to utilize their office when the need arose. For years, spectators of the Wild West Parade have been treated to decorated Shamco trucks and equipment and when there was an interest in the seeing the newest logging equipment up close, Shamco delivered, bringing a machine to the rodeo grounds for all to see.

Informing others about the forestry industry is also important to Shamco. For many years the Shamions have participated in educational programs with, not only the West Iron County and Forest Park School Districts, but also the Purdue University Forestry students who visit the Upper Peninsula annually.

Educating the students on sustainable forestry, how to protect the forests, how they are safely harvested and then utilized are all part of the experience.

Raising funds and promoting awareness for the American Cancer Society has also been a priority for the business. Back in 2014, members

of the Shamion family began their quest to raise funds for the American Cancer Society by unveiling their set of pink logging equipment, meant to bring awareness to the cause and generate action to help eliminate cancer.

Next came the inaugural Iron County Relay for Life, initiated by Shamco. The community-based event, which raises funds for the American Cancer Society, is a way to spread awareness, honor lost loved ones and share survivor stories. Since its inception, the Shamco team has remained steadfast in their support of the organization, not only participating in the relay itself, but also helping with other affiliated events.

More recently, family matriarch, Chris Shamion took it one step further by starting her own fund-raising bike ride, aptly named Granny Gearing Up – Pedaling for a Cure. "This is not a race," Shamion said, "but a ride to be done in memory, honor and encouragement for those who have had, or are having their own cancer journeys."

All funds generated through sponsorships of those riding are also donated to the American Cancer Society.

The Shamco family will soon be celebrating 25 years and during that time they've been a great asset to Iron County.

"Because we live and work in the communities we serve, giving back is important to us," said Scott Shamion. "We don't feel like it's something extra. Supporting the community and the people that have helped make you successful is the right thing to do."

The Board of Directors of the U. P. Rodeo is proud to salute Shamco, Inc. for their community minded efforts. We invite you to join us for the 54th annual U.P. Rodeo Wild West Parade to say thank you to this year's Grand Marshal – Shamco, Inc.