



Children's patient Katie Bieler clowns around with Leon Coffee, Interstate Batteries Texas Stampede barrelman.

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## NASCAR, holiday marketplace join Texas Stampede roundup

**T**he Interstate Batteries Texas Stampede has a white-knuckle grip on the reins of every mainline Texas stereotype: cowboys and cowgirls, 10-gallon hats, shiny buckles, wild horses, snorting bulls, big prizes, top-name concert artists and a whole lot more, all beneath the shadow of the famous Dallas skyline. And all these tall-tale icons are brought together for the noble purpose of helping children.

### New attractions

The 2005 Interstate Batteries Texas Stampede grows even larger this year with the additions of Chevy Speed Stampede NASCAR and concert weekend, and the Children's Medical Center Christmas Stampede, a holiday marketplace filled with all the sights, sounds and aromas of the season. Other scheduled events include the Pace Picante Cattle Drive through downtown Dallas, a Texas Hold'em poker tournament, a 100-team barbecue cook-off and the hallmark Pace Picante ProRodeo Classic and concert series.

Texas Stampede was launched in 2001 by noted Dallas philanthropists Roy Gene Evans, Robert M. Farrell, Gifford O. Touchstone and Joel T. Williams, III, as a new and different way to support Children's and the pediatric population of North Texas. The first event was a rousing success, and the Stampede has grown each successive year.

"Our goal is to continue to develop Texas Stampede to be the signature event in downtown Dallas, one that can generate millions of dollars for Children's on an annual basis and provide an additional element of publicity in the community about the important role that Children's plays," said Williams, who has served the hospital in volunteer leadership capacities for 28 years, was board chairman for eight years and is the current chairman of the holding company board for the hospital.



World-class contestants compete in seven different events throughout the Stampede weekend including saddle bronc riding.

## Continued growth

In its first four years, Texas Stampede has contributed more than \$2.2 million to Children's and has developed national recognition as an organization. The Pace Picante ProRodeo Classic is second in importance only to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo and brings together the best rodeo contestants and livestock in the business. Twelve contestants in each of seven rodeo events compete for \$500,000 in prize money at this, the championship finale of rodeo's regular season.

Each day's rodeo events are followed by a full-length concert. This year's concert lineup features Cross Canadian Ragweed, Dierks Bentley, Martina McBride

and MercyMe. Each rodeo offers crowd-pleasing interludes like the "chuck-wagon races," in which miniature Conestoga wagons are raced around the dirt floor of the stadium, pulled by teams of kids, often former patients who have been helped back to health at Children's.

"The wagon races are off-the-charts fun to watch; the little kids are absolutely hysterical. They have different stunts they have to do during the relays – put on big hats, or run a part of the race with a stick horse between their legs. It warms your heart to see kids being silly and having such a good time. And it always reminds me why we started



Former patients from Children's participate in the chuck wagon races at the 2004 Texas Stampede.



Barrel racing champion Kelly Kaminski plays with Children's patient Jorge Cardenas, 3, while visiting the Children's playrooms. Kaminski was one of several Interstate Batteries Texas Stampede competitors who visited patients at Children's when in town for the 2004 Stampede.

Texas Stampede: to help kids," Williams said.

"As a parent, you only have to have a child here once to understand how incredible a place Children's is – and I had that experience a long time ago. Now, anything I can do to help make this the best experience possible for

families who have to come here, I want to try to do," Williams said. ■

# 2005 Texas Stampede Schedule of Events

## La Riata Gala & Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament

Saturday, Oct. 15, 3 p.m. to midnight  
Frontiers of Flight Museum

## Stampede State Championship Barbeque Cook-off

Friday, Oct. 21, 5 p.m. to midnight  
Saturday, Oct. 22, noon to midnight  
Gilley's Dallas

## Chevy Speed Stampede

Friday, Nov. 4, noon to 11 p.m.  
Saturday, Nov. 5, noon to 11 p.m.  
Main Street — Downtown Dallas

## Pace Picante Cattle Drive

Tuesday, Nov. 8, 11 a.m.  
Main Street — Downtown Dallas

## Children's Medical Center Christmas Stampede

Friday, Nov. 11, 4 p.m. to midnight  
Saturday, Nov. 12, noon to midnight  
Sunday, Nov. 13, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## Interstate Batteries Texas Stampede Interactive Corral

Same hours as Christmas Stampede

## Interstate Batteries Texas Stampede Rodeo & Concerts

Friday, Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
concert by  
Cross Canadian Ragweed and Dierks Bentley

Saturday, Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m.  
concert by Martina McBride

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2 p.m.  
concert by MercyMe  
Christmas Stampede, corral, rodeos and concerts  
take place at American Airlines Center

For more information about these events and  
for ticket information, visit [www.texasstampede.org](http://www.texasstampede.org)  
or call 214-520-8874.