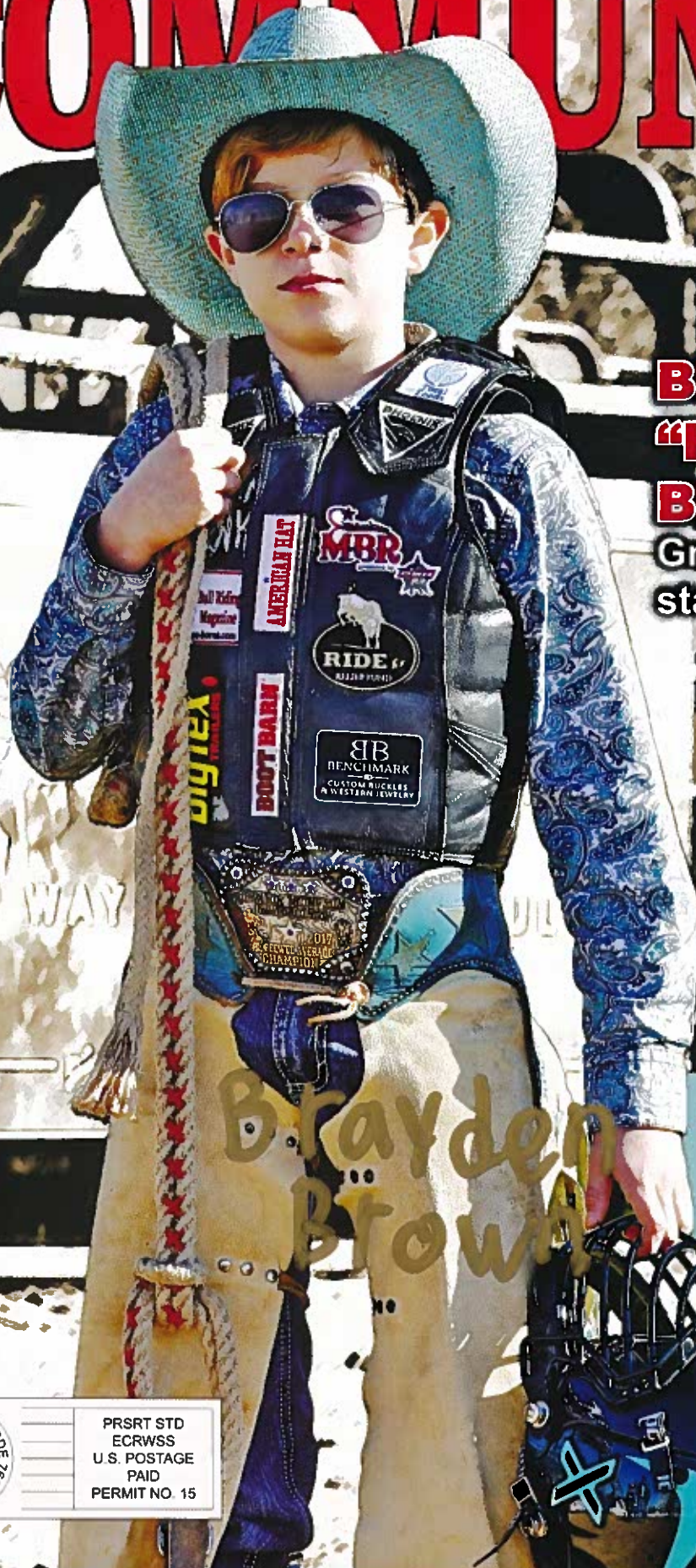


# COMMUNITY *life*



## **BRAYDEN "HOLLYWOOD" BROWN**

Grandview rodeo  
star making his mark

Brayden  
Brown

**ALSO FEATURING:**  
SWAU's Glen Robinson  
CHS sophomore Merit Davis  
Cleburne's Sam Mann



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Courtesy photo

Brayden Brown started riding sheep when he was only 3 years old. He then graduated to calves, mini bulls and steer.

But in his son, he could see riding was something he was good at and wanted to support him.

"There's a lot of natural ability that falls in this and he does have that, but there comes a point where that fades off and you have to work at it," he said. "Which is exactly what Brayden does day in and day out."

Brayden transitioned from riding sheep

to miniature bulls after receiving several good complements from PBR riders who thought he would be good at it.

"It's all really fun because when they open that gate, the bull just starts bucking and the adrenaline in your veins pumps up to 100 and you are having so much fun," he said. "First starting off you are always a little nervous, but I'd say my favorite part is that first jump just sitting

right in the middle of it. You never know what is going to happen really. Every time is like getting on your first bull."

Mini bulls, Branden Brown said, are genetically modified to achieve their small size.

"They are just as snorty and mean as a regular size bull," he said. "Our bull at home — Little Zeb — you go out in the pasture and pet him but when you put him in the bucking chute

**"He got out there and rode off-handed until it was over. When he was done, he finally said, 'Yeah, dad, I think it might be broken.'"**

**— Branden Brown**

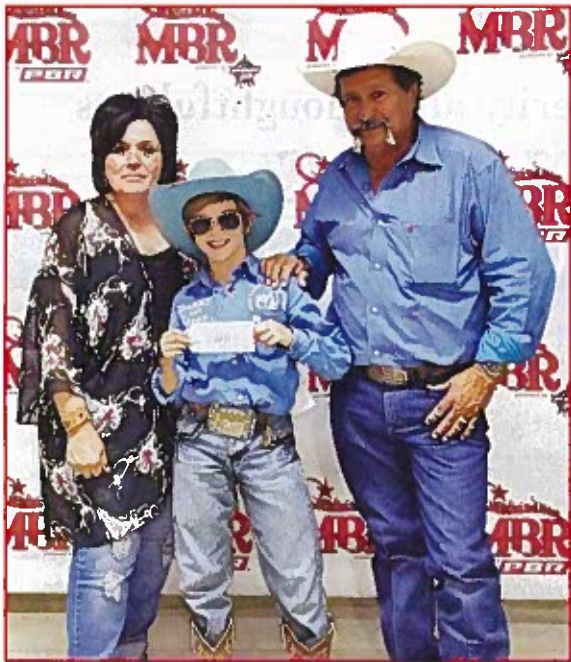
that dude will eat your breakfast. You have this big, massive bull, but they have these cute little legs."

Brayden's talent for mini bull riding is complemented by his iconic "Hollywood" get up.

"I started wearing aviator (sunglasses) and one guy said, 'Hey, you look like you are going to Hollywood,'" he said. "When he said it everybody started saying it."

You'll also never see him wearing anything





Courtesy photo  
**Brayden Brown, second from right, prays with fellow mini bull riders before they get in the chute. Left: Brown, center, receives a check from the owners of the Miniature Bull Riders Association, Cirlido Leal, right, and Lillie Leal.**

without turquoise in it.

"Turquoise is my favorite color," he said. "I think it is a really cool color. Whatever I can find in turquoise that's what I'll wear."

His mom, Stephanie Brown, said he has always had a charisma about him.

"There is just something about him; the way he presents himself, the way and walks and talks to people — everybody is just attracted to him," she said. "Even the little girls that he tries to run away from. He can be 'Hollywood' at anything he does, but he chooses bull riding and we will support him in that."

Despite the risk getting on a bull of any size entails, Brayden said he is willing to take that chance.

"I never worry about getting hurt because I've got God with me," he said. "He's going to take care of all of it."

An attitude like that is one that even inspires his dad.

"You see kids all the time climb down in the bucking chute and they are just a jittering because they have fear in them," he said. "I told Brayden the second he gets out there and his hands start shaking he might as well quit because you are scared."

"But he said, 'Dad, I don't get scared because God is going to take care of me whether I get hurt or not.' And that has always stuck with me and inspired me to help him as much as I can. He really does have God on his side."

Brayden has been bucked off a bull and slammed into the ground a few times, but has staved off any serious harm so far. During the 2017 MBR Chris Shivers World Finals in Las Vegas, Brayden fractured his wrist in three places.

"The bull laid down on my wrist," he said.

Even with broken bones, Brayden finished in the top and placed third in the entire world of mini bull riding.

"He got out there and rode off-handed until it was over," Branden Brown said. "When he was done, he finally said, 'Yeah, dad, I think it might be broken.'"

Since then, Brayden has been taking things slow to allow his body heal so he can compete in the PBR Iron Cowboy on Feb. 27-28 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

"This event kicks off the greatest weekend in Western Sports," PBR CEO Sean Gleason said. "This will be one of our most highly anticipated majors of the season. It's a unique format right in the heart of Texas and our fans, who appreciate the raw talent that it takes to succeed in such an exciting venue will find no better event in which to cheer on our riders."

Every show Brayden competes in, he earns his way there by raising money through lemonade stands or more recently, leather work.

"We make leather bracelets, key chains, wallets — pretty much everything you can think of," he said. "My business is called Vegas Bound Leather Co. and it helps us to get us on the road to where we need to go to rodeo."

Brayden and his family will set up a booth of their leather products outside of Boot Barn in Burleson or at Antique Alley.

"I've been to Las Vegas, Oklahoma a couple of times, I rode in New Mexico, Louisiana and a few places in Texas this past year," he said. "Vegas was definitely my favorite. When you go up there and it is world finals time and you see all the bright lights and all the big people are cheer-

ing you on it's so much fun."

Brayden shares much of his experience through his Facebook page and as a columnist for the *Humps N Horns* magazine.

"I write an article [Talking 'Bull' with Brayden] about every month with them," he said. "I talk about everything related to bull riding."

His biggest message is to glorify God in all he does.

"God is who created all of us and he has given me the talent for riding bulls and I praise him for that," he said. "Every time I get on a bull I pray and hope for the best. I ride under Mark 16:15, which is 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel.'" "I've been to Las Vegas, Oklahoma a couple of times, I rode in New Mexico, Louisiana and a few places in Texas this past year," he said. "Vegas was definitely my favorite. When you go up there and it is world finals time and you see all the bright lights and all the big people are cheering you on it's so much fun."

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