

Performance July 12th

from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
at the Tipton Fairgrounds



Kenda Firkins with Shawnee

Tipton native daughter to bring natural horsemanship exhibition

Kenda Courtney Firkins says she began riding horses the day she was born.

“My mother rode on the same day of my arrival. I guess I wanted to ride so much, I said, ‘Let me out of here!’” said Kenda.

Kenda will present a natural horsemanship exhibition on Saturday evening, July 12 in the arena at the Tipton Fairgrounds. The show will begin at 7 p.m.

A 1982 graduate of Tipton High School, Kenda now lives in Keller, Texas where she operates The Last Chance Stables.

The daughter of Orville and Dixie Courtney, Kenda was given her first horse at six months of age. She said Pixie, a bay pony, was her confidence builder. “She was very patient and she taught me a lot, unbeknownst to me at the time,” said Kenda.

Kenda rode many different breeds of horses in area shows, trail rides and for pleasure. At the age of 15, she bought her first horse, Bill Bars, a gentle giant built for speed. She competed with

him in barrels, pole bending, flags and other speed events.

She has worked with the likes of Jack Brainard, legendary Texas horseman, Pat Parelli, founder of the worldwide Parelli Natural Horsemanship Organization, Ray Hunt, AQHA world reining champion Craig Johnson, Karen Rholf, an associate Parelli professional in Dressage Naturally, and Christi Rains, a three-star licensed Parelli professional.

Kenda teaches the basics of horsemanship, how to be in control of all four feet to feel the movement of different gaits, and when to ask.

“My program in horsemanship is not about ‘riding.’ It must start with the psychology of the horse,” said Kenda.

On July 12 Kenda will demonstrate her riding skills and the personal bond she has with her horse, Shawnee.