

Joan Wells, women's world champion trick roper and inductee to the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Texas, will present a dazzling and unique performance of trick and fancy roping on Saturday, June 9, at the Lincoln County Museum's Heritage Festival at 1 p.m. CDT.

Wells wanted to be a cowgirl at an early age after learning about horses and trick roping from her cousin. She started roping at the age of four.

Her mastery of both the Mexican and American styles of roping is an exotically beautiful art. Her routine is choreographed to western music.

She performs such tricks as the intricate butterfly combinations to multiple rope spins, double tricks, the Big Loop, Ocean Wave and Texas Skip. Her routine requires dexterity, agility, precision and skill reflecting the roping style during the wild west era. She is the only woman in the world to perform the difficult horse catch. This involves roping a horse and rider from a spinning loop as they run full speed across the arena.

In 1979, she won the title as Women's World Champion Trick Roper by winning the Women's Free Lance and Texas Skip competition at the Will Rogers Trick Roping Contest in Claremore, Okla. In 2006 and 2007 she returned to Claremore to win first place honors at the Will Rogers Trick Roping Exposition.

Wells has made appearances throughout the nation on television. Gates open at 10 a.m. and admission is free.