



The Circle Banner

One on One with Kolt Barber, Before the Show

I had the privilege of interviewing Kolt Barber last week, who will be performing a concert after the PRCA rodeo on Saturday night, August 15th, at the McCone County fairgrounds. The following is our interview (a little out of order...this was my first interview of this nature and I skipped around a little bit, so in order to make sense, I did rearrange the questions for you guys). I will say, Kolt was a real pleasure and I am looking forward to, not only meeting him in person, but to hearing his classic country show. I know everyone attending the concert will really enjoy themselves! -MEH



MEH: I am really looking forward to you coming here, have you ever been to Circle before?

KB: I have never been to Circle before, I am looking forward to it.

MEH: Have you been to Montana?

KB: I have. I've been to Montana several times. I love it. If I wasn't in Tennessee, I'd be in Montana. It's one of my favorite places. I love the beautiful scenery and I love the lifestyle and there's not a lot of people.

MEH: There is not! Well, Circle has a population in town, of about 600 people.

KB: Nice!

MEH: And our county has about 1,500. So, a little more people in the county. So, we are a very small town. But we are very excited, because our rodeo is celebrating it's 10-year anniversary and we typically have more people come out on rodeo night than the population of town. So, we are pretty excited to be adding a concert this year too!

KB: Absolutely, it's going to be a great event.

MEH: I listened to your album this week. Country music is my genre of choice and I thought your album was fantastic.

KB: Thank you very much.

MEH: It is reminiscent of the kind of country music I love, which is old school. It reminded me of John Anderson with that deep voice.

KB: Thank you, I get that a lot.

MEH: You wrote all of the songs on Replay, which is your new album that came out in March of this year. Do you have a preference between writing or performing?

KB: You know, I like both equally. Somedays I'm in a writing mood, somedays I'm not. But I'm always ready to perform. But I do enjoy both equally.

MEH: Is writing more of an internal thing that you do on your own, as opposed to performing, which is so external, where you have to be so outgoing? Or does it work for you like you said, depending on your mood?

KB: Yeah, for me writing is such a personal thing. A lot of my songs come from life experiences, what I'm feeling in a moment. Sometimes I will sit down just to write something particular. But the ones that come from those life experiences, to me, are always better. And as far as performing, I will say for me, the moment I take the stage everything goes away. It's a complete euphoric moment; from the time I step onstage, until the moment I step off. It's just a place I love to be. There's an interesting sense of quietness inside of me when I am onstage.

MEH: How about a fun fact? When I was in my 20's, I had the privilege of meeting Willie Nelson, who is my idol. I cried because I was an idiot and made a fool of myself! Who are your idols, and have you ever gotten to meet them?

KB: Gosh, there are so many. I guess my top two would be Keith Whitley and Waylon Jennings. I didn't get to meet Keith Whitley but I did get to meet Waylon Jennings when I was younger and it was just awesome. I met him through a friend of mine, who knew I was a big huge fan and he was very gracious and very kind. We were able to sit and have lunch together, talk guitars and music. Those guys, there is a respect there for what they did, who they were, they were the epitome of an artist and weren't copy cats.

We play a lot of their music. But there are so many others too, Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, all of those guys are just iconic. I could go on and on.

MEH: Those were all the outlaw country singers. Do you have any current country singers you like, or do you tend to steer towards those classics?

KB: There's a lot of great country guys. Country music of course has changed. The world changes, we change, fashion changes. I like Luke Holmes, Morgan Wallen, some of the Texas country guys, Cody Jinks I like to listen to. Then you go back to the middle, to Alan Jackson, John Anderson, Darryl Singletary; those guys music was a part of life.

MEH: You are a rancher in Tennessee? Is that your "day job"?

KB: Yes. When we are not traveling, or in the studio, or anything music related, then I am on the ranch. I have black angus cows and quarter horses. And we train on my ranch, all different kinds of horse disciplines: ranch, roping, dressage, western dressage. It's really cool to get to come off the road and do that. I love it. I have a great group of people around me, on both the music side and the rodeo team and then back at the ranch, I have great people there as well. So, I am just very blessed and thankful.

MEH: Do you find that translates into your music and how you perform?

KB: Yeah, definitely. A lot of people, when they hear my stuff, they say "we know who you are and what you do, because the ranching and farming comes through in your music". And that's a compliment to



me. When you have lived it and done it, it's a part of who you are and is going to be interwoven into that tapestry of the music.

MEH: You used to be in the rodeo circuit, what events did you do?

KB: A little bit of all of it, until I had too many broken bones. I have always loved rodeo. The cowboy lifestyle has always been a part of who I am. I always try to keep that going, which is one of the reasons why we decided to do the American Cowboy Showdown, which is a rough stock rodeo and concert together. It's an IPRA (International Pro Rodeo Association) sanctioned event, with prize money, points, buckles and we took all of that and tried to add a country music show and make an event. A lot of rodeos will just have the rodeo. So, we have tried to add a little twist on that. Our last show we did was a packed house that sat 5,400 and we had standing room only. It's just an exciting event with saddle bronc, bareback, bull riding and barrel racing. So, it's a very fast paced, high energy event and cowboys and

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Wow, That Sure Was A Hot Christmas...In July!



Marilyn Bateson (l), with her grandsons Cooper (l) and Corbin (r) were checking out what Nadine, of Island Scaping brought to the Farmers Market, on Christmas in July, on Friday the 24th.



I was surprised that the pool was not full, with free entry paid for by Redwater Valley Bank. And it was hot enough, for sure!



Many local businesses were having open houses for the day and giving away "Christmas Giveaways". Lehner Insurance was having a grand opening in their brand new offices at 207 Main Street. (l-r) Megan Knuth, Kaylen and Todd Lehner.



Grasslands Federal Credit Union was practicing safe social distancing, while serving lunch. Everyone enjoyed the rootbeer floats as well!



Virginia Richardson brought Cora Herden and her brand new leopard friend, to the free Museum Day, sponsored by Circle Insurance Agency and Redwater Realty.



If you were looking for some "Christmas" bargains, there was even a group yard sale at Brette Pawlowski's house, with several of the high school classes trying to raise money for the upcoming school year.

Mailing Label

A New Adventure For Comforting Hands

Eight years ago, Dalene Cornelia, started her journey towards mental health and physical well-being through massage therapy, by opening her own business, Comforting Hands. She has been a much appreciated, and often times highly needed, respite to many of us on a rough day. Throughout her journey, she may not have known how she would end up, or if she would be successful, but she has managed to build a business that has catered to people from ages 3 to 93.

One month ago,

Dalene and her husband Larry's, soon to be daughter in-law Maddison, encouraged them to make the move to Billings, to be closer to her and their son Jonathan. So, with very little arm twisting, the house search began and she was quickly successful, leading to this current announcement in the Banner. As of October 1st, Comforting Hands will be moving to its winter home in Billings.

Dalene has expressed, with tears in her eyes, her excitement for the new adventure, but will miss all of her current

clients, who are more like family to her. She has said numerous times, that she has been encouraged and supported by everyone and that she has received way more than she has given over the years, and for that she is grateful. Everyone's friendship and love are the things that she will cherish and miss the most.

Comforting Hands will be open in Billings after October 1st and she can be reached at the same phone number, 406-939-2929 and will be located at 6 West Antelope Trail, Billings, MT 59105.