

# Trick riders to be featured at rodeo

The McMillan Family Trick Riders are poised to bring great family entertainment to the 2016 Sisters Rodeo.

There are 10 children in the trick-riding family, four of them the natural children of Lynette and Mark McMillan and six foster children.

Four of the 10 siblings will be performing in Sisters, ranging in age from 8 to 16. Each with his or her own horse, these youth will be displaying their special skills at a variety of stunts that tax even the best of horse riders' imaginations. Suicide drags, vaulting tricks, one-foot drags and several types of stands-in-the-saddle fill the act.

"This is so great for these kids," says Lynette McMillan, "they feel they've accomplished something when they train and perform."

The youth are also responsible for many activities on their home ranch in Soap Lake, Washington, where the family raises cattle, including rodeo stock.

"We have the best job ever. We get to travel all over the country and see some pretty amazing things," 14-year-old Callahan McMillan said enthusiastically.

Lynette's mother was a professional trick rider in the 1940s, but she never allowed her daughter to learn those skills. As a mother herself, Lynette sent their girls to a trick-riding camp in Colorado seven years ago. When the girls came home, everyone wanted to learn.

Riley McMillan, 16, is pretty ecstatic about getting the opportunity to perform. "The best part of my job as a trick rider is when I present the American Flag, standing up on my horse. I am not sure if I will get as much joy and satisfaction from any other job!"

After a few performances in small venues, the family was encouraged to get professionally licensed. This has

resulted in traveling rodeo circuits and other horse venues to bring the thrill of unique trick riding by young people in feats of daring and wonder from the backs of speeding horses.

**" I am not sure if I will get as much joy and satisfaction from any other job! — 16-year-old Riley**

It seems the entire family likes the travel, the change of setting and pleasing crowds, but to at least one of the youth, there is more.

"It makes me feel good to make the crowd happy. I also like to fish everywhere I go," said 11-year-old Davey. "I have fished in seven different states."

The parents and their 10 charges also like to share their stories of success in the world of foster parenting, encouraging other families to take this rewarding step of giving a child a healthy home environment in which everyone is rewarded.

**" It makes me feel good to make the crowd happy. I also like to fish everywhere I go. — 11-year-old Davey**

Sisters Rodeo will begin June 8 with Xtreme Bulls, followed by four rodeo performances June 10-12. For tickets and information, call the ticket hotline at 541-549-0121 or 1-800-827-7522, or visit the ticket office at 220 W. Cascade Ave. in Sisters. For information visit [www.sistersrodeo.com](http://www.sistersrodeo.com).

# Quilt raffle funds Furry Friends

A quilt pieced by local quilter Valerie Fercho-Tillery is getting a second chance to raise funds to support Furry Friends Foundation in Sisters.

The quilt was originally won by Sandy Layne, who then donated the quilt back again.

"We were delighted when Sandy Layne came to our booth at the 2014 Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show," said Furry Friends Foundation founder and director Kiki Dolson. "A quilter herself, she had been showing the quilt she won from Furry Friends at other quilt shows in Oregon and Washington. She let us know that she would be donating the quilt back at the next quilt show so we could fundraise with it again. And sure enough the quilt is here on display at *The Nugget* office."

"It was so generous of Sandy to donate the quilt back."

Fercho-Tillery has now donated three pet-themed quilts to Furry Friends.

"The quilt was everyone's favorite," Dolson said. "I love the vibrant colors. Valerie's use of embellishments can only be appreciated when viewed in person. Her free-motion quilting adds texture and a dimension to the quilt that makes you want to touch it. The dogs are all even sporting glasses."

Raffle tickets are available online at [www.furryfriendsfoundation.org](http://www.furryfriendsfoundation.org) and at *The Nugget Newspaper* office.



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Valerie Fercho-Tillery pieced this colorful quilt for Furry Friends.

Tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5 or 25 for \$20.

The quilt will be on display and tickets for sale during the Sisters Outdoor Quilt

Show on the lawn by Sisters Chamber, July 9.

The drawing will be held after the Labor Day weekend, September 5.

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