

## QUEEN: Strong field sought to represent Sisters Rodeo

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than big hair and sparkly outfits,” Breckel said in a speech to a large crowd. “They strive to inspire the next generation of cowgirls and cowboys.”

Breckel served as the Deschutes County Rodeo Queen for 2016. She is a Mountain View High School and Baker Charter School graduate who hopes to pursue an education in the medical field. Currently, she is employed at GPI Pro, a camera stabilization company in Bend.

“We’re friends and neighbors, strangers, coming together united as one,” is how Breckel described rodeo. “I am proud to be representing not only the sport of rodeo and the Western way of life, but also this remarkable association.”

As a way to encourage others to pursue their goals, Breckel expressed, “Work at it until it is accomplished. It took me three tryouts and two years of dedication before I won my first title.”

“She’s a social butterfly,” said her mom, Michelle. “She has done skits for the family at major holidays since she was a small girl, because she wanted to entertain us.”

Throughout school years, Breckel’s only competitive sports interest was related to horses. She was a member of the Mountain View Oregon High School Equestrian Team.

“Horses have always been her passion,” said Michelle.

Her older sister, Montana, said Breckel was always the first to try anything, like getting on a scary horse or taking the toughest challenge, and has always been the life of the party.

The rodeo queen contest is rated on speaking ability, responses to questions posed by judges, and mostly on horsemanship. Breckel will represent Sisters Rodeo at all the rodeos in the Columbia River Circuit and at special community events throughout Oregon and southern Washington.



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Emylia Breckel is the 2017 Sisters Rodeo Queen.

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## DRUMMER: Sisters Folk Festival assisted in program

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their goals they are awarded an additional \$35,000 a year for the following two years; representing a total of \$280,000 for arts programming in Sisters schools.

“All of the sites are doing K-8 music and arts education, but each has a slightly different focus and goals,” said Studio to Schools project lead Brad Tisdell. “All of these efforts are to identify the best practices in arts education from the state.”

Tisdell is also the creative director of Sisters Folk Festival, and manages their educational outreach programs.

“There is great programming at the high school and middle school. We see this grant as an opportunity to support existing programs and fill community needs,”

he said. “We receive a ton of support through My Own Two Hands for both music and the visual arts. Grants like Studio to School can complement the work that is already being done within the school district with partners like SFF.”

“The biggest thing that stuck out with me while working with Dale is recognizing the kids that have a hard time engaging in everyday music are very excited,” says Shelly Hicks. “These kids are contributing to class, asking questions, in a way that they may not normally contribute.”

The residency culminated last Friday with an all-school assembly where all students in class or grade groups played two minutes of rhythm.

“All the students have been very caring and supportive of one another,” says Largent. “It’s really beautiful to watch the kids relate to one another. This school and community is really special.”

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