

Outlaws compete on horseback

By Kathryn Godsiff
Correspondent

The Rimrock Riders Event Center at Brasada Ranch in Powell Butte is an equestrian venue with two arenas, grandstands, a café and ample space for trailers and spectator vehicles. And when it's full of cheering teenagers, their parents and friends, the happy noise echoes to the big metal spans that hold the roof.

Such was the scene at the second Central District OHSET meet last weekend, when teams from Sisters and 13 other schools on the east side of the Cascades congregated to compete in events ranging from saddle seat equitation to steer daubing and barrel racing. The cheers were for whoever was in the limelight at the moment.

The meets, usually held at the Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center in Redmond, were relocated due to the High Desert Stampede rodeo that occupied the main arena at the fairgrounds. The Rimrock Riders Event Center covers a much smaller area

than the fairgrounds, which lends itself to a sense of intimacy while also challenging the athletes to rethink some of their strategy in a smaller space.

Sisters athletes and their mounts competed in nearly all of the 25 events on offer. Talent is evenly spread between the performance events and gaming, with particular strengths in driving, dressage, hunt seat equitation and Canadian flags (a gaming event). Athletes may compete in up to five individual events and as many team events as they choose.

Team Coach Annie Winter said, "The kids have all improved from the last meet. They took on the lessons learned there and have had good successes."

She liked the smaller venue and said that with the entire team staying on the grounds for the weekend that it became a good team-building time.

Jackson Robinson, the sole male on the team, is one of the success stories of OHSET. A non-rider last

year, he competed in the in-hand classes with an experienced gelding borrowed from Hayden Wester. Now with a year of riding lessons, daily work with the horse, and support of his teammates, Robinson competes in several gaming events. His father, Rob, quipped that he definitely is the most improved on the team.

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– Annie Winter

"It's a great program for him. He started with no experience and now gets to work with great people," he said.

OHSET will be back at the Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center in Redmond for the third meet of the season, April 14-16.

Results from Central District OHSET Meet #2

Driving: Emily Ogen 1.

Hunt Seat over Fences: Sophie Winter 3.

Saddle Seat Equitation: Charlotte Barton 3.

Hunt Seat Equitation: Ellie Cooke 2; Mia Cooke 5.

Dressage: Emily Ogen 3; Sophie Winter 4.

Western Horsemanship: Rebecca Rubbert 4; Emily Ogen 8.

In Hand Obstacle Relay: Sisters 10 – Ellie Cooke, Charlotte Barton, Emily Ogen, Madison King.

In Hand Trail: Rebecca Rubbert 5.

Reining: Emily Ogen 8.

Trail Equitation: Emily Ogen 10.

Canadian Flags: Sisters 2 – Rebecca Rubbert, Brooke Knirk, Emily Ogen, Sophie Winter.

Working Pairs: Sisters D 11 – Charlotte Barton, Emily Ogen; Sisters A 12 – Mia Cooke, Sophie Winter.

Keyhole: Jackson Robinson 11; Sarah Rubbert 12.

WEATHER: April expected to be about normal

Continued from page 1

51 mph, which occurred on March 8.

The outlook for April from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for near normal temperatures and near to above normal precipitation. Normal highs for Sisters rise from 55 degrees at the start of April to 62 degrees at the end of April. Normal lows rise from 29 degrees to 32 degrees.



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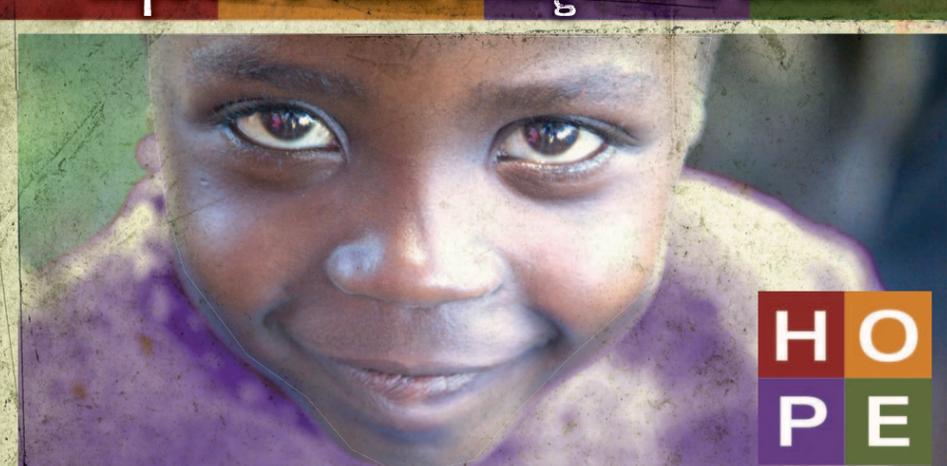
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