

RODEO ACT: Mustang trainer has adopted several horses

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didn't deserve his interest." He was, she said, "blown away" when he saw their athleticism and ability.

At this event, the nation's top professional trainers are assigned a wild mustang for 120 days, during which the trainer brings the horse from unmanageable (with trainers on high alert for their own safety), to a competitor in a variety of skills. The horse and rider perform in front of judges in trail riding, cow class and reining, accomplished and capable of becoming a full-time working horse. The highest scoring team advances to the finals where they perform in free-style for final judging.

In Kerr's first competition the following year, his mustangs, Poncho and Lefty, placed fourth and fifth. The highlight was being voted Fan Favorite. For Kerr, there was no future that didn't involve mustangs, challenging the life-long skills Kerr had developed in training domestic horses.

A Champion of the Legends trophy, the first-place award at the Mustang Makeover, came to Kerr in 2012. He again won Fan Favorite on Maypop. All the mustangs are sold at auction after the competition,



PHOTO PROVIDED

Bobby Kerr's Mustang Act will thrill crowds at the Sisters Rodeo.

but Kerr has often bid on his own accomplished horses and taken them home.

Along with annual competition at Mustang Makeover, Kerr travels across the nation to perform at rodeos and horse events. He has continued to enter competitions, and became the IPRA Contract Act Showcase winner in Oklahoma City.

With his touring act, Kerr proudly allows ordinary Americans to learn something about this grand tradition of the West, its wild-ranging horses. These beautiful steeds demonstrate the versatility and trainability of the mustang and help raise awareness about the challenges of maintaining wild horse herds.

Over the last several years, adoption of wild mustangs has declined, with the rangelands of the West being decimated by an overpopulation of the horses and grazing needs of ranchers. The wild horse population can be sustained at about 30,000 animals, but there are currently

over 50,000 rambling across the West, mostly in Nevada.

In drought years, the brutal deaths of these elegant creatures come as starvation and dehydration, numbering in the thousands.

The Mustang Heritage, sponsor of the Supreme Mustang Makeover, is supported by the federal Bureau of Land Management Wild Horse and Burro program. More than 7,000 formerly wild horses have been adopted as a result of the Makeover. Nationwide advertising by Bobby Kerr's performances and other campaigns to increase public awareness are also benefitting the need for adoption.

Sisters Rodeo begins June 7 with Xtreme Bulls, followed by four rodeo performances June 9-11. 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. More information is at www.sistersrodeo.com.

TOLLGATE: Project is set to begin soon

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drinking, cooking, toilets, etc.

Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire Chief Roger Johnson explained how the district will handle fire protection during the shutoff:

"We make a temporary change in the fire apparatus assigned to a fire with the 911 center," he told *The Nugget*. "We will dispatch multiple water tenders to any fire during the shutdown."

Some residents expressed concern about the potential presence of asbestos in the pipes, due to their vintage. Asbestos was — and in some instances still is — used as an insulating element. It can pose dangers to health if inhaled.

The Tollgate board acknowledged this concern:

"Some of the pipes contain asbestos," the board told *The Nugget*. "Tollgate is working with Oregon Department

of Environmental Quality and Deschutes County Department of Solid Waste."

DEQ spokesman Greg Svelund told *The Nugget* on Monday that the Tollgate project involves "non-friable" asbestos — which means it is not readily subject to crumbling, powdering and becoming airborne. Inhalation is the key safety concern with asbestos.

Non-friable asbestos is much less of a safety concern than friable asbestos.

"We do not need a licensed asbestos abatement contractor since we are not removing the non-friable AC pipe," the board noted. "We are just replacing the failed valves."

Residents will need to boil their drinking water after the water is turned back on, until Tollgate receives a water testing result approved by the Oregon Health Authority, Drinking Water Division.

"We are hoping to have the approved test results within a day of the water being reactivated to the properties," Tollgate management wrote in a website update.

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