

Sisters youth is a rodeo star

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Sisters saw a whole lot of top cowboys and cowgirls come through town for the Sisters Rodeo last weekend. Later this month, Sisters' own rodeo star, Adriene Steffen, will leave town for Lebanon, Tennessee, where she will compete in the NJHFR (National Junior High Finals Rodeo) in barrel racing and breakaway roping.

Steffen, a sixth-grader at Sisters Middle School, qualified for national competition as the top barrel racer in Oregon in junior high school rodeo. She was also the Oregon Jr. High School Division Rodeo Association Rookie of the Year.

Rodeo is a family sport. Her dad, Randy, a director for the St. Paul Rodeo, and her brother competed through high school and college. She's been going to the NFR (National Finals Rodeo) in Las Vegas, Nevada, for 10 years.

"I grew up around it, but I've only done it four years," she told *The Nugget*.

She rides three horses in barrel racing, breakaway roping, pole bending

and goat-tying. She's taking two to Tennessee — her barrels horse, Koa, who "loves attention," and her breakaway horse, Fancy.

The rodeo features roughly 1,000 contestants from 43 states, and Steffen admits she's "excited and kinda nervous" about facing all that top competition. But Steffen enjoys everything about rodeo, and notes that it's not just about winning.

"You get to be competitive, but you also get to make friends," she said.

In rodeo, Randy notes, your closest competitor might be the one cheering you on the loudest in your event.

Adriene is also a volleyball player, so she splits her time in training. Outside of volleyball season, though, she trains almost every day in her events. She's also taken clinics with legendary barrel racer and frequent Sisters Rodeo competitor Charmayne James.

"I've met her multiple



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Adriene Steffen is headed to Tennessee for national competition in junior rodeo.

times," Adriene noted.

It remains to be seen how far the young rider will go down the rodeo road.

"I kind of want to go professional," she mused. "But I don't know how that'll turn out."

In any case, she'll have a significant event under her belt this summer, competing for over \$80,000 in prizes and \$200,000 in scholarships with the best young rodeo athletes in the world.

Account to assist injured motorcyclist

Michael Hooley, a long-time Sisters resident, was severely injured in a motorcycle accident on Indian Ford Road on May 28.

The 65-year-old man suffered broken femurs in both legs, a broken pelvis and fractures to vertebrae in his neck. While he told *The Nugget* last week that he is making a remarkably strong recovery, he has a long period

of rehabilitation ahead of him.

A donation account has been set up at Mid Oregon Credit Union to help him and his wife with expenses during a recovery which is expected to take many weeks. Donate at any branch, including the one in Sisters, or mail checks to Mid Oregon Credit Union, P.O. Box 6749, Bend, OR 97708.

CLARIFICATION

The barre classes at Aqua Hot Tubs Health & Wellness, located at 413 W. Hood Ave. are not limited to women. Carolyn Janke notes that

"I'm in the process of creating classes specifically for men, integrating flexibility, proper alignment and strength training."

For more information call 541-790-9679.

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