

CHIEF JOSEPH DAYS SET TO RIDE AGAIN

■ PRCA rodeo gets started Wednesday at the Harley Tucker Memorial Arena in Joseph

Chief Joseph Days has earned a host of recognition over the years, including a place on the list of top-10 rodeos to attend. It is a rodeo that dates back to 1946 with the rodeo action not taking place in the Harley Tucker Memorial Arena.



Angelika Ursula Dietrich/For the EO Media Group



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The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeo begins Wednesday afternoon with the slack at 2 p.m. before the main action gets started at 7 p.m. on family night. The same schedule is set for Thursday, Friday and Saturday with the rodeo slack on Saturday beginning at 2:30 p.m. Thursday is “Tough Enough to Wear Pink” night to support cancer screening.

By Jeff Budlong, For the EO Media Group

It’s that time of year, again. A small Oregon town will once again transform into a center of top rodeo action where well-known cowboys and cowgirls put it all on the line. The six-day event begins Tuesday with the bucking horse stampede kicking off the 74th Annual Chief Joseph Days.

“It is a tradition and we have heard from people from Boise, Spokane, Lewiston, Idaho, Portland that they have been coming to this for 30 years because this is what their family does,” said Stacy Green, who helps promote the rodeo. “For people who are close, it is a big reunion because you know that you are going to see everybody. It is a big social gathering.”

The town, which has a population of little more than 1,000 people, is said to swell to more than 10,000 for the rodeo that is always held the last full week of July.

The Professional Rodeo

Cowboys Association rodeo begins Wednesday afternoon with the slack at 2 p.m. before the main action gets started at 7 p.m. on family night. The same schedule is set for Thursday, Friday and Saturday with the rodeo slack on Saturday beginning at 2:30 p.m. Thursday is “Tough Enough to Wear Pink” night to support breast cancer screening.

The rodeo has earned a host of recognition over the years, including a place on the list of top-10 rodeos to attend. It is a rodeo that dates back to 1946 with the rodeo action now taking place in the Har-

ley Tucker Memorial Arena. Cowboys and cowgirls will take part in bareback riding, steer wrestling, team roping, saddle bronc riding, tie-down roping, barrel racing, steer roping and bull riding. Not surprisingly, it is the bull riding that draws the largest crowd on the final night of the event.

“We have top cowboys competing and some of those are world ranked,” Green said. “They love the intimacy of Chief Joseph Days because fans are right there by the action, and Joseph is small and makes it easy to get around.”

General admission tickets are \$15 on Wednesday and

Thursday and \$17 on Friday and Saturday. Reserved tickets on Friday and Saturday are \$20.

The PRCA rodeo is the biggest draw, but Chief Joseph Days also hosts the Little Buckaroo Rodeo for special needs children and adults on Wednesday at 9 a.m. at the Harley Tucker Memorial Arena. It features multiple events including goat tail untying, stick horse barrel racing and a bouncing horse race.

There are plenty of other activities throughout the six days outside of the rodeo and range from dances to an all-night cowboy breakfast.

LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL

All-around effort leads to second-place finish

■ Union County All-Star team puts up big offensive numbers in Portland

By Jeff Budlong
For the EO Media Group

PORTLAND — The Union County Little League All-Star softball team rode strong pitching and an offense that put up big numbers to a runner-up finish at the state tournament in Portland last weekend.

“We worked really hard with late nights and learning new things by practicing, and it was really amazing to see all the little things we worked on come together so well,” coach Meghan Counsell said. “Our pitching was just outstanding. It was some of the best pitching out of the girls we have seen.”

The team of 9- through 11-year-olds dominated its first three opponents, all in pool play, opening with a 34-0 win over South Valley in three innings Friday. Union County scored 13 runs in the third inning and 11 players had at least one hit in the game.

Kiera Counsell allowed two hits and struck out seven in the pitching circle.

“The pool-play tiebreaker was runs scored versus runs allowed, so the only reason the score got that way was because the scoreboard was not working and we were really hitting,” Coach Counsell said.

The second game on Friday saw Union County down Willow Creek 12-2 behind two hits and five RBIs from Brea Rudd, and Cabella Gregory had two hits and drove in two.

It was Austyn Meuser’s turn in the pitching circle and she responded with a three-hitter in six innings of work. She struck out eight and allowed one earned run.

Saturday saw Union County record the 18-3 win over host Beaumont/North Portland Scappoose as Gregory and Kiera

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GameDay to be at Oregon season opener

By James Crepea
The Oregonian

EUGENE — Oregon’s season opener will be in the spotlight all day long on Aug. 31.

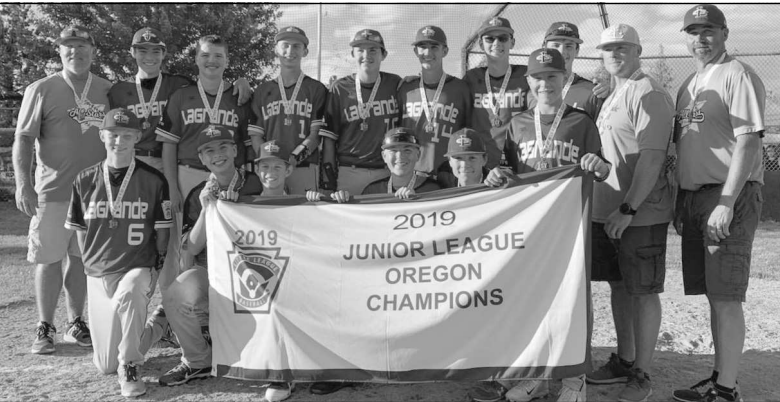
ESPN’s College GameDay will be at Sundance Square in Fort Worth, Texas, on the morning of Week 1 of the college football season to preview that night’s marquee matchup between Oregon and Auburn in the Advocare Classic at AT&T Stadium.

The game, which will likely be a top 15 matchup, will kickoff at 4:30 p.m. PT as ABC’s Saturday Night Football broadcast.

Oregon is 14-10 all-time in games in which College GameDay is in attendance, six losses on the road or in neutral site games. The Ducks lost both their games in which GameDay was in attendance last season, an overtime loss to Stanford at home and at Washington State.

Auburn is 9-9 when College GameDay visits the site for its games, last winning during the 2017 Iron Bowl.

La Grande All-Stars punch ticket to regional tournament



Courtesy photo

The La Grande All-Star team celebrates with its banner after winning Oregon Little League Juniors tournament Wednesday in Bend.

By Jayson Jacoby
EO Media Group

BEND — After facing the prospect of having to win five straight games in four days, the La Grande junior baseball all-star team wasn’t going to be fazed by a puny 1-0 deficit.

Or by two puny 1-0 deficits.

La Grande trailed Murrayhill by a single run in the first inning of both games Wednesday in the championship round at the state tournament in Bend.

Both times the team of 13- and 14-year-olds showed the resolve

that brought them back through the losers bracket and, ultimately, to La Grande’s second consecutive state title.

La Grande beat Murrayhill, from Beaverton, 6-1, in the first game Wednesday afternoon, then returned to the diamond for a 14-7 title-clinching win in the evening.

La Grande now advances to the regional tournament July 27-Aug. 3 at San Jose, California.

Coach Doug Schow said this year’s team, which has four returners from last year’s state champions, quickly recovered from the

nervousness that he believes was a major contributor to their 8-6 loss to Del Norte, California, in Saturday’s opening round.

La Grande won games Sunday, Monday and Tuesday but still needed to beat Murrayhill, the tournament’s only undefeated team, twice on Wednesday.

Murrayhill scored a run on an error in the second inning, but La Grande responded with two runs in the third to take the lead.

Schow said Murrayhill’s starting pitcher threw harder than any

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