

HAPPY TRAILS: A REPORT FROM THE RODEO ROAD

By Mackenzie Carr
Miss Rodeo America 2012

Hello again,

With the month of June, came the opportunity for me to finally attend rodeos in my home state of Oregon. I kicked the month off with the Wild Rogue Pro Rodeo in Central Point and the Sisters Rodeo in Sisters. The Wild



Mackenzie getting ready to do the queen's run at the Sisters Rodeo.

Rogue is Oregon's first PRCA rodeo of the season and home to the only 100 point ride, and Sisters is the largest PRCA rodeo held during the second

New Dairy Princess Crowned for Columbia County

Columbia County's 2012 -2013 Dairy Princess Ambassador is Mikela Heimuller. Teri McGettigan, Columbia County's outgoing Dairy Princess Ambassador, passed her title on to Mikela May 12, 2012 at a coronation ceremony



Outgoing Dairy Princess Teri McGettigan (left) with Columbia County's newly crowned Dairy Princess Ambassador, Mikela Heimuller.

at Sauvie Island Grange. Heidi Larson Wismer, a former Oregon and Columbia County Dairy Princess Ambassador, presided over the coronation themed, "Cow's Night Out" with 80 guests in attendance.

weekend in June. Each evening, the rodeo performances claimed a good portion of my responsibilities for the week, but many times my job requires me to do more.

A major part of being Miss Rodeo America is education. The age of the person does not matter. What is most important is to ultimately create new rodeo fans. At both the Wild Rogue Pro Rodeo and Sisters Rodeo, I spent a lot of time talking to people throughout the community. They ranged from the Rotary Club to children in the hospital. Each group was interested in the sport, as well as what they could expect to see at the rodeo each evening. Teaming up with barrelman and longtime friend JJ Harrison, we visited grade schools to invite the kids to the rodeo. As Miss Rodeo America, I have spent time at a lot of elementary schools; however, this time it was different. JJ and I had to opportunity to play with the kids at recess prior to talking to them about the rodeo. I will admit, it was a little nerve wracking at first, but once



Mackenzie with longtime friend JJ Harrison visiting with school children.

the game of duck duck goose began, we were all having a blast. It was a great way to break up the typical assembly format that we normally stick to, while

still getting the same message across.

After I wrapped things up in Oregon, I celebrated my birthday while visiting the state of Nebraska for the first time. Having the opportunity to be a part of the Buffalo Bill Rodeo and NEBRASKALAND Days was so rewarding. The people involved with the rodeo and the Miss Rodeo Nebraska

Association are some of the nicest people I have met. They went above and beyond to treat me well, and even surprised me on my birthday. They called me up on stage and told me that someone wanted to talk to me. On speakerphone was my parents and sister to wish me happy birthday. The audience and my family then sang to me and a cake was brought out. It was the best birthday surprise I have ever had and I am so grateful for the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association's kindness.

I cannot believe my year as Miss Rodeo America is half over. It seems like just yesterday I was crowned in Las Vegas. The memories that I have made so far I know I will cherish forever. I am thoroughly looking forward to the next 6 months and all that they will bring. I would like to thank all of my sponsors, friends, and family who have made this dream a reality. I not only feel honored, but truly blessed to have this amazing opportunity.

Before being crowned, Mikela was interviewed by two judges, delivered a 4 minute speech on "Dairy Farming Around the World" and charmed the audience with a memorable milk commercial featuring sock puppets as her conscious, arguing about healthy drink choices with milk winning out. Dairy Princess duties include appearing at local and state events, parades, festivals, and county fairs, making presentations to elementary school students and promoting dairy farming and products along with nine other county Dairy Princesses. At Oregon State Fair, Mikela will serve delicious ice cream in the Red Barn and answer dairy related questions in the Milking Parlor. In January, she competes for the title of Oregon Dairy Princess

staff as a student intern at Midway Veterinary Hospital in Warren toward her goal of becoming a veterinarian. She is active in Key Club, Girls Golf, and Track & Field. Mikela's leadership roles include Lt. Governor

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