

Lots of Round-Up events cater to kids and families

By JENNIFER COLTON

The Pendleton Round-Up comes once a year, bringing with it a whirlwind of rodeo action, cowboy entertainment and Wild West excitement. While adults have plenty to be excited about, Round-Up Publicity Director Randy Thomas says the event has just as much to offer families and kids.

Meet me at the Round-Up

The cornerstone of the Pendleton Round-Up is, of course, the rodeo itself. Children under age 2 don't need a ticket to the rodeo on any night and for kids over the age threshold, family days are Wednesday and Thursday. For one family ticket — usually a bit over \$100 — a family of two adults and up to six children can attend the rodeo. On Wednesday, family day also includes admission to the barbecue. The Round-Up also has other family and children's deals available, such as some instances where children under 18 get in for only \$1 per ticket in the West Grandstand. Contact the ticket office for more information.

On Thursday, the "Children's Rodeo" will open the arena to children with special needs. Special needs children can experience the rodeo in a less hectic atmosphere, includ-

ing practicing roping and riding a horse. For more information on the Children's Rodeo, contact Karen Parker, Children's Rodeo director, at Karen.parker@imesd.k12.or.us.

Thomas points out most of the livestock pens are open during the rodeo, so families can take a look at the stock and horses that will be competing, as well as watch participants getting ready.

The parade's the thing

Pendleton celebrates not one but two parades during Round-Up week. The Main Street Cowboys Dress-up Parade starts at 10 a.m. the Saturday before the rodeo, and the Westward Ho! Parade rolls out at 10 a.m. on Friday during the rodeo. Seating for the parade is available all along the route, with space for chairs and blankets.

The Dress-up Parade is a "typical" rodeo parade with candy, vehicles and festival atmosphere, while the Westward Ho! Parade is geared toward period dress around the time of the Oregon Trail. Thomas claims it is the longest non-motorized parade in the country.

Around the Round-Up town

Five blocks of downtown Pendleton will be closed off to traffic during the Round-Up. Vendors and local businesses will line the streets,



Photo: Rachael Owen/East Oregonian

During last year's Round-Up, Parker Campbell of Pendleton enjoyed her horseback ride at the Children's Rodeo despite the rainy morning.

and live entertainment is scheduled from noon until midnight almost every day that week. The carnival powers up at noon, most days.

"Outside of the Pendleton Round-Up, the town really sets up for families," Thomas said. "There's entertainment every block."

Members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation — the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla — will again set up a tribal village on the Round-Up Grounds, with more than 300 teepees for the event. Indians from around the Northwest travel to Pendleton to participate in the festivities, which include the Happy Canyon Pageant, multiple dance competitions and performances, and two beauty pageants. Native American vendors will also set up in Roy Raley Park to display crafts, jewelry, apparel and other items as well as Indian fry bread and Indian tacos. The Pendleton Round-Up

week provides an opportunity to glimpse the vibrant culture of the native people of Umatilla County.

Inside and outside of downtown, kid-friendly nonprofit organizations like the Pendleton Public Library usually get involved in the fun, too, with Round-Up story times, crafts and activities.

In support of local families, many concessions benefit local sports teams, clubs, nonprofits and events throughout the event, from burgers to ice cream. The Pendleton School District is closed during Round-Up week.

"There's a lot to offer," Thomas said. "We just encourage everyone to come down, put on their hats and boots and live the Western lifestyle for a week."

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