

Little Buckaroos ride again at CJD

The Chief Joseph Days Rodeo will host the Little Buckaroo Rodeo for special needs individuals for the second year on Wednesday, July 27 in the Harley Tucker Arena. This year there will be no age limit on competitors. There is no admission fee, either.

“They just need to be disabled in some way to be part of this,” said organizer Debbie Scudder of Enterprise. “I think this is going to be quite an outreach to people with disabilities in our community.”

Scudder is prepared for up to 25 competitors in the event.

“The first 25 that show up will participate,” she said. “This year Sports Corral supplied belt buckle awards for all competitors.”

Sports Corral also supplied stick horses, hats and more for the event and are sponsoring the event along with the Chief Joseph Days board of directors.

A volunteer cowboy or cowgirl accompanies every competitor, and the CJD royalty again will help out.

Volunteers are usually very happy to step forward because the “job” is so much fun, Scudder said. But even so, the willingness to help out in Wallowa County astounded her.

“Last year was just amazing,” Scudder said. “I’m so impressed with this community. I have people from last year volunteering to do it again this year.”

Providing this special opportunity to folks with developmental disabilities is not a new idea in rodeo. Special-needs rodeo began clear back in 1983, when PRCA cowboys adopted it as a fun way to give back in their sport. Special education teachers, like Scudder, and persons interested in therapy horses have been involved in the process ever since.

Little Buckaroos in Wallowa County will be able to ride the (teeter totter) bull, rope the (dummy) steer, untie a bow from a goat’s tail and race stick horses. Competitors also are welcome to participate in the parade.

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