

Two-legged, four-legged athletes shine at the Chief Joseph Days Ranch Rodeo

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

A crackling thunderstorm capped by a torrential downpour couldn't dampen the spirits of hardy Wallowa County rodeo fans.

A crowd of more than 400 jammed into the Harley Tucker Memorial Arena for the 10th anniversary of the Chief Joseph Days Ranch Rodeo, on Saturday.

The rodeo is a scholarship fundraiser a students in Wallowa, Joseph and Enterprise high schools. This year's recipients included Addie Kilgore of Joseph, Darby Gasset of Enterprise and Ashley Starner of Wallowa.

The rodeo set a number of records including attendance. Twelve teams competed for the prize money,

another record, as did about a dozen ranch bronc riders and nearly that many lady breakaway ropers. The event raised more than \$4,000 for scholarships — also a record.

The Quail Run Ranch team headed by Barrie Qualle proved that the third time is the charm as they walked away with their third consecutive team championship along with a \$1,280 check and new belt buckles.

They had stellar performances in team doctoring and team sorting portions of the competition. The Quail Run Ranch edged the Five S crew by four points, 90-86.

The teams competed in four events, which also included team doctoring and team pasture roping.

A massive thunderstorm hit the rodeo grounds around the time the

event began, quickly turning the ground into a quagmire.

Horses had the advantage, bucking off at least half of the riders were bucked off. Wyatt Warnock proved the only local cowboy to place, coming in third. However, Enterprise Police Department officer George Kohlhepp, who was bucked off short of a ride at the Mountain High Broncs and Bulls Rodeo two weeks ago, topped off his bronc, finishing just out of the money.

One young cowboy took a terrible spill and ended up sliding into the arena fence and taking a trip by ambulance to Wallowa Memorial Hospital. His condition is unknown as of press time.

The Chieftain will publish more scores in next week's issue.



Ellen Bishop/For the Chieftain

Wyatt Warnock from the International Livestock team works the team sorting competition at the Chief Joseph Rodeo Days Ranch Rodeo Saturday. The goal was to sort cattle sequentially according to the numbers on their backs.



Ellen Bishop/For the Chieftain

Monty Johnson scored a well-deserved 81 with this ride, winning the ranch broncs competition of the Chief Joseph Days Ranch Rodeo 2017. Johnson's ride came just as rain turned into hail at the rodeo grounds in Joseph. A number of bronc riders came away covered in mud.

Chief Joseph Days Ranch Rodeo Results

- Overall:** 1. Quail Run Ranch; 2. Five S Ranch; 3. Yatah Hay Land and Cattle; 4. Lightning Creek Ranch.
Team branding: 1. Five S; 2. Morgan Family.
Team Doctoring: 1. Quail Run Ranch; 2. Yatah Hay Land and Cattle.
Team Sorting: 1. Quail Run Ranch; 2. Intermountain Livestock.
Team Roping: 1. Five S Ranch; 2. Lightning Creek Ranch.
Ladies Steer Stopping: 1. Marianne Yost.
Bronc Riding: 1. Monte Johnson; 2. Colt Prather; 3. Wyatt Warnock.
Calcutta: 1. Karen Ramunha, \$1522.50; 2. Nick Powers, \$913.50; Mel Coleman, \$609.
Top Hand: Devin Thompson.
Best Cowgirl: Marianne Yost.
Gun Raffle: Amber Fritz.



Ellen Bishop/For the Chieftain

AT LEFT: Cody Ross of the Marr Flat team floats out a loop during competition in the Chief Joseph Days Ranch Rodeo on Saturday in Joseph. ABOVE: Fred Steen drops a loop for the heels while teammate Devon Thompson tracks the head during the steer doctoring competition in Saturday's Chief Joseph Days Ranch Rodeo Saturday.

Golf: Still time to enter this weekend's tourney

The third annual Invitational Golf Tournament is Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 7-9.

If you haven't put in your entry yet, there is still time.

Many golfers who have been around awhile recognize this tournament as a stepped-up version of the Elks Tournament of old. It is, only with one difference ... this event is an open field. Everyone is invited to participate.

tee time

Rochelle Danielson

For people who may be unfamiliar with the game, the play is two-man best ball. A practice round is offered Friday.

The two-day contest begins Saturday with a shotgun start. The second

round is Sunday. There'll be payouts in gross and net and tee prize giveaways. Saturday night prime rib is on the menu, and later, a team auction with a Calcutta auction will be held for the Sunday round. The sole survivor tops off the tourney.

Alpine Meadows is well into its busiest time, with the RVs and campers along with boats and bikes (golf clubs too) coming up Highway 82.

If this is any sign of how busy

Wallowa County recreational sites are going to be in the next three months, then the golf course is going to be even busier.

The Wine-Down ladies turned out to wind down Thursday evening. Six two-woman teams played a nine-hole scramble. Gross score winners were Tammy Crawford and Kate Crawford with a 44. Teams were Nancy Hook and Karen Coppin, Judy Ables and Cheryl Kooch, Lil Harshfield

and Josie Conrad, Mary Moe and Char Williams and Sherrie Currie and Rochelle Danielson.

The Wednesday evening "two-person" team league is 12 teams strong. The league is still open to both men and women. Check with Bill Ables for details.

Rochelle Danielson writes about golf for the Chieftain.

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