



Ellen Bishop/Contributed Photo

A cowboy competes in the saddle bronc competition at the 2021 Chief Joseph Days Rodeo.

Timeline of important events at CJD

Chieftain staff

1947: Built the arena and bleachers where rodeo is held today.

1950: Built first dance hall and named it "Hells Canyon." It was constructed out of an old Quonset hut in Joseph.

1952: Chief Joseph Days boosters took a three-day bus trip to advertise event around the Northwest. It was a trip made in a circle around the area that included the Joseph mayor and the Chief Joseph Days court. Previously, a group of people had flown to areas to promote the event.

1954: First kiddies parade.

1959: First grand marshal was Jay Dobbins. Dobbins had been named the county, state and national father of the year.

1960: Arena was dedicated as "Harley Tucker Memorial Arena." Tucker helped start Chief Joseph Days and was the stock contractor for the event.

1961: First girls sanctioned barrel race at the Joseph event.

1967: Rebuilt south side stands and covered grandstand.

1967: Community center caught fire due to firecracker and was repaired.

1968: Rebuilt north side stands and built covered grandstand.

1968: First Friday night rodeo performance.

1972: Two Saturday rodeo performances.

1982: First year for cow milking for local participants

1982: First coronation dinner.

1985: Held grand opening of new community center.

1987: Opened Thunder Room. It was an old sale yard that now hosts dances on Friday and Saturday night.

1988: First time for steer



Ellen Bishop/Contributed photo

A flag and fireworks display during the Chief Joseph Days Rodeo.

HARLEY TUCKER AWARD UP FOR GRABS

JOSEPH — The Harley Tucker Rodeo Series award is named in honor of the late Harley Tucker, who was a rodeo producer and stock contractor from Joseph. He helped found Chief Joseph Days and provided stock for all four of the rodeos that sponsor the series.

The cowboy with the most points after competing in the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show in Union, St. Paul Rodeo, the Elgin Stampede and Chief Joseph Days wins the award. The contestants must enter all four rodeos, and the winner is announced at the final performance of Chief Joseph Days Rodeo.

The winner receives \$3,000 and a silver belt buckle. Any cowboy winning the award three times wins a cumulative fund that is increased \$1,000 each year and currently stands at \$11,000. Pervious three-time winners are Butch Knowles of Heppner, Rocky Steagall of Irrigon and Brad Goodrich of Hermiston.

This year's standings entering Chief Joseph Days are:

- Caleb McMillian** 15.5
- Dylan Riggs** 11
- Derek Kolbaba** 7.5
- Jared Parke** 6.5

roping at Joseph event.

1991: Started presenting winner of the all-around handmade silver spurs made by Larry Bacon.

1991: Started the Tuckerettes. The Chief Joseph Days flag carriers have opened the event with a bang of speed and energy since 1994.

1995: Held a regal reception for 50th anniversary. Past presidents and grand marshals were invited with more than 250 people attending.

1995: Moved Cowboy Breakfast to the Rodeo Grounds.

1996: Opened a hospitality tent on the Rodeo Grounds still in use today.

1997: First time to be

nominated one of five best small outdoor rodeos by PRCA.

1997: First time a local girl, Teah Jones of Lostine, and previous CJD princess, becomes Miss Rodeo of Oregon.

1998: First Thursday night rodeo performance.

2004: Last Sunday afternoon rodeo performance.

2005: First Wednesday night rodeo performance.

2006: New arena lights installed.

2006: First year for steer riding for those 12 and under.

2006: First year for Tough Enough to Wear Pink.

2008: First ranch rodeo. It helps raise money for three

scholarships given to high school seniors.

2012: First year for mini bulls.

2017: First Back Country Bash.

2018: Built new bathrooms and souvenir booth.

2020: No rodeo due to COVID-19.

Fun:

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Harrison has made 10 appearances at the Wrangler's National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, won Comedy Act of the Year five times and is a four-time winner of the prestigious Coors Man in the Can award.

Voted a Top 10 Must See Rodeo, a 25 Best Fests of the West and winner of multiple best small rodeo awards, Chief Joseph Days features four nights of Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeos and six days of Western entertainment in the scenic hamlet in Northeast Oregon.

The festivities kick off Tuesday, July 26, with the Bucking Horse Stampede down Main Street. Wednesday night is the first of four PRCA rodeos, with Family Night, which features youngsters trying their hand at mutton bustin', a crowd favorite. Up-and-coming cowboys also compete, along with top competitors who hope to improve their standings and make it all the way to the Wrangler's National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas in December.

Thursday night celebrates Tough Enough to Wear Pink, where attendees and contestants wear pink to support breast cancer awareness. Miles for Mammograms, a fun walk to raise money for local cancer screenings, starts at 9 a.m. at the Thunder Room, adjacent to the arena.

Friday and Saturday nights play to packed crowds, as the competition heats up and winners are decided.

Whiskey Creek is back this year by popular demand to play live music at the Thunder Room right after the rodeo, where revelers can party and dance the night away. Safe buses are provided so no one has to worry about drinking and driving.

Rodeos start at 7 p.m. each night, and take place at the Harley Tucker Memorial Arena just west of Main

Street in Joseph. Each rodeo starts with the Tuckerettes, six fast-flying cowgirls who thrill with their daring riding patterns at breakneck speed, while carrying sponsor flags.

Other festivities for Chief Joseph Days include the junior parade on Friday, July 29, at 10 a.m. down Main Street, and the Grand Parade on Saturday at 10 a.m. down Main Street. Shopping vendors will line Main Street offering Western accessories.

A reenactment of the infamous 1896 robbery of the First Bank of Joseph will not take place following the Grand Parade as it did last year, said Jude Graham, curator of the Wallowa County Museum which sponsors the reenactment. She said some of the reenactors come from as far away as Portland and it's difficult to get them to come every year. She said the museum will probably host the reenactment every other year.

Chief Joseph Days is named in honor of the famous Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce tribe. Wallowa County — and particularly Joseph — is the ancestral homeland of the Nez Perce. Chief Joseph was lauded for his skills as a peace chief leading his people away from the U.S. Army and for his eloquence, when he surrendered in 1877 with the famous words, "From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

The Nez Perce host the annual Friendship Feast on Saturday, at the tent encampment adjacent to the Harley Tucker Memorial Arena. All are welcome to attend to enjoy traditional dancing and food. The Nez Perce provide buffalo and salmon; guests are asked to bring side dishes to share. Nez Perce tribal members participate in the Grand Parade on Saturday.

Chief Joseph Days was founded in 1946 by stock contractor Harley Tucker. The tradition celebrates the sport of rodeo, and honors the Western heritage of the Wallowa Valley.

For more information, visit www.chiefjosephdays.com.

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