

Sampson crowned Happy Canyon Princess

Last Sunday, Norene Sampson was chosen 2012 Happy Canyon Princess, along with Marisa Kash Kash in Pendleton. Sampson interviewed for the position back in October.

As princess, Norene will represent the tribes and Native American women in rodeos and other events, including the Rose Parade.

Happy Canyon is a part of the Pendleton Roundup. Applicants are chosen based on beauty, regalia, speech capability and horseback riding skills.

Norene wishes to make the following statement:

I am honored to be the 2012 Happy Canyon Princess along with Marisa Kash Kash of Pendleton.

I will represent Native American women in a positive manner and with pride. I enjoy being at the Pendleton Round Up, and am more than happy to go and tell people about the Happy Canyon Pageant.

I am honored to be chosen to represent, as I was always under the impression that this position was held by young ladies of the Umatilla/Cayuse Tribe. I know better now... I've been told that Bridgett Kalama was a Happy Canyon Princess too.

I would like to say thank you for the support of my family and friends who helped make this a reality.

First, to my good bud, Cyrus Conner for encouraging me to run. To my Mom and Dad, who have made so many sacrifices for me—like leaving the



Norene Sampson at Pageant.

Courtesy photo.

Bowling Tourney in Carson City and driving 10 hours and all night to get me to the interview in Pendleton. Mom liked dodging jack rabbits all night as we drove in the middle of no where. A memory I'll not soon forget. Was good laughs.

My family, for all the hard work, long hours in making the horse regalia. Mom and Aunts: Eugenia Tappo, Birney Greene-Boise, Margie Tuckta, Angie Spino and Val Fuiava. Cousins: Jolene Switzler and Cena Wolfe. Sister, Daleena Stevens. The horse regalia is beautiful. A lot of work in such a short time.

Aunt Birney and Teeny, I will never forget your all day/all night efforts, just so I could wear the regalia at the 2011 Round Up. Thank you very much!

Mom and Bobbi Jim, I thank you for the new beadwork and the repairs to the outfit I will wear. To Gramma Anna for the use of the antique dress.

To apply, I had to have three letter of recommendation. Thank you Angie Stacona, Bryan Lund and Carol Stevens for your letters. I was complimented on them during my interview back in October.

To the rest of my family and friends, A big thank you for the support and all the words of encouragement. Congratulations out to the other Happy Canyon Princess, Marisa Kash Kash. I look forward to a new friendship and camaraderie with all that will be involved with our reign. It's going to be a fun and memorable year!

Norene Sampson

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