

Night Time Is The Right Time For Rodeo In Grand Ronde

■ Tribal rodeos have gotten bigger, better every year and will showcase a full summer of events this year.

By Peta Tinda

The Spirit Mountain Northwest Professional Rodeo Association (NPRA) event was bigger and better this year, with lots of action for rodeo fans that came to see the bull riding, steer wrestling, team roping and barrel racing at the Spirit Mountain Rodeo arena.

"It's a great venue," said Jan Fults, of the Northwest Youth Rodeo Association. "It's a really nice rodeo and the setting is just beautiful. We always have a good time when we come here."

The NPRA is the Western United State's largest professional rodeo organization, with a membership of over 1,000. It annually sanctions over 80 rodeos throughout Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada and California.

About 500 fans turned out to watch the 200 cowboys from all over Oregon and Washington compete for cash prizes on some of the toughest live stock around. Stock contractor P9 Rodeo Company provided the bucking horses and bulls for this year's show, including the notorious Shoot-Out bull "Rip City."

The rodeo was held in the evening, starting at 7 p.m. The late start took advantage of the

cooler temperatures and gave riders who participated in the Tillamook rodeo, held earlier in the day, a chance to get to Grand Ronde.

Michaelle Kimsey, longtime rodeo volunteer and wife of Spirit Mountain Rodeo Board Chairman Marvin Kimsey, said that the evening show was such a success that they would repeat the formula next year.

"It's growing every year," said Kimsey. "We really have to hustle to keep up, but we're doing."

Many other Tribal members helped out by volunteering to ensure a first-rate rodeo.

Tribal member Bud White, Vice Chair of the Spirit Mountain Rodeo Board, said they began work on the arena, "As soon as the rain stopped," in preparation for this year's rodeo season.

New for this year were two more sets of covered bleachers, as well as a new roof for the Elders' seating area.

The Shoot-Out bull "Rip City," remained unriden after cowboy Joe Melling stayed on "For about three seconds," said Kimsey. Rip City, and the \$1,000 bounty on his head for an eight second ride, will return for the August 2 NPRA rodeo, also held at Spirit Mountain Arena.



Rodeo Board Chairman Marvin Kimsey



Precision and Pride — The Rodeo Bandits, a drill team from Mollala, Oregon, excited the crowd with their precision horseback riding on both days of the rodeo. Tribal member Cheri Hodgson, of McMinnville, is on the team.



Red Sky — The Spirit Mountain NPRA rodeo was the first Grand Ronde Rodeo at night, thanks to the new stadium lights at the Spirit Mountain Arena.



NWYRA:
July 26 & 27 — 10 a.m., both shows.
 NPRA Rodeo:
August 2 — 7 p.m.
August 3 — 1 p.m.
 Oregon Junior Bull Riding Association:
August 9 & 10 — Time TBA



◀ **Next Up** — Tribal member True Rimmer watches the rodeo with his stickhorse ready. There were many child and youth events at the rodeo, including stickhorse racing, junior ring toss, and junior calf roping.

Photos by Peta Tinda



► **Jumpin'** — Professional cowboys from all over Washington and Oregon put on an exciting show for the rodeo fans who came to Grand Ronde.

▼ **In Sequence** — One of the over 200 cowboys who came to Grand Ronde for the Spirit Mountain NPRA rodeo is bucked off during the rodeo's opening act, "The Stampede," where cowboys attempt to stay on a bucking horse. The event kicked off the rodeo, which ran for two days.

Rodeo Results:

- Bull Riding: 1st place, Joe Melling, 2nd place, Bryan Barker, 3rd place, Shaun Roggenkamp.
- Bareback: 1st place, Jacob Fiddy, 2nd place, Jack Peterkin, 3rd place, James Chrogan.
- Saddle Bronc: 1st place, John Gonzales, 2nd place, Joe Melling.
- Steer Wrestling: 1st place, Sam Willis, 2nd place, B.J. Campbell, 3rd place, Kain Garcia.
- Calf Roping: 1st place, Tony Green, 2nd place, Joe Thompson, 3rd place, Ryan Gallagher.
- Team Roping: 1st place, B.J. Campbell and Bucky Campbell, 2nd place, Tommye Flenniken jr. and Waylon McCurley, 3rd place Mike Fuller and Brady Minor.
- Barrel Racing: 1st place Jordan Crossley, 2nd place Kayde Jo Davenport, 3rd place, Sammy Jo Willis.
- Breakaway Roping: 1st place, Karen McFarlane, 2nd place, Shayne Arnold, 3rd place Lylan Corey.

