

Tribal member sisters barrel race at Yamhill County Fair

By Tanner Russ

Yamhill County News-Register

McMINNVILLE — The main attraction at the Yamhill County Fair on Wednesday, Aug. 2, was the bull riding and barrel racing in front of a packed Cascade Rodeo Arena.

The competitors for the night included barrel racing sisters Rylee, Tinlee and Lilee Bishop, all Grand Ronde Tribal members from the Willamina area, along with younger cousin Paityn Bruckner from Grand Ronde. They were among 23 barrel racers.

The Bishop sisters, along with their brother and Tribal member Brantley, are all under 15 years old and have been competing in barrel racing for years. Rylee, 14, began racing at the age of 4; Tinlee, 9, took up the sport three years ago; and Lilee, 7, began competitively last year. Cousin Paityn, 5, is the youngest of the group.

It runs in the family. The Bishop’s mother, Megan, and sister, Devon Bruckner, were barrel racing themselves when they were younger.

“I grew up doing it and my sister Devon grew up doing it, so we really wanted to get them into it,” Megan said. “They are actually all horses that we grew up doing it on. They’re born and raised on our parents’ place. We raised them all. (Lilee’s horse) Wild Thing, she’s our prized possession. But they’re all siblings, so it’s pretty cool to get them to ride on the horses we grew up riding on and rodeoing on.”

Due to the age gap between the sisters and their cousin, they don’t compete directly against each other in most competitions they ride in. According to Rylee, the lack of direct competition doesn’t hinder the girls’ connection on horseback.

“We sometimes have little challenges at home, but we don’t se-



Tribal member Tinlee Bishop, 9, competes in a barrel racing competition at the Yamhill County Fair and Rodeo in McMinnville on Wednesday, Aug. 2.



Tribal member Rylee Bishop, 14, competes in a barrel racing competition at the Yamhill County Fair and Rodeo in McMinnville on Wednesday, Aug. 2.



Tribal member Lilee Bishop, 7, competed in the barrel racing competition at the Yamhill County Fair and Rodeo in McMinnville on Wednesday, Aug. 2.

riously compete,” Rylee said. “We ride every day together for hours, and I help out my little sister with training and stuff.”

The “stuff” includes getting up at early hours to clean stalls, bucking hay and grooming the horses. All of those responsibilities, coupled with riding the horses and practicing for hours on end, strengthen the connection between horse and rider.

It’s also a way to instill strong values, according to Megan and Rylee. “We grew up cleaning 20 to 30 horse stalls on the weekends when our friends were out camping and stuff,” Megan said. “We were clean-

ing horse stalls, bucking hay, but it teaches you discipline. That’s what we want our kids to grow up learning.”

“It teaches me a lot of responsibility,” Rylee said. “I have to get up every morning; they’re the reason I get up every morning just to mess with them. Like 8 a.m., but on school mornings like 6 to 7 to get them ready.”

But it’s also an entertaining sport, according to Tinlee.

“It’s fun to go fast on your horse,” Tinlee said. “I don’t know, I just like doing it because I’m competing against my siblings and my friends.”

The siblings have been compet-

ing in various competitions over the course of the summer with the Youth Rodeo Association and will be competing in several more in the coming years. Rylee will be competing in the Northwest High School Rodeo Club, while Tinlee and Brantley will participate in the Oregon Junior High Rodeo.

For the people who have the means and the curiosity to give barrel racing a go, Rylee gave advice.

“Find a good horse,” Rylee said. “You should for sure know how to ride before you get a horse because there’s a lot of girls that I compete with who will get a crazy good horse, but don’t know how to ride.” ■

Gas discount in Grand Ronde

Grand Ronde Tribal members, as well as Tribal and Spirit Mountain Casino employees, can receive a 30-cent per gallon discount on gasoline at the Tribally owned Grand Ronde Station convenience store.

There are, however, a few rules. Tribal members and employees must go inside and show either their enrollment card or employee identification card to receive the discount. ■

a lush lamatsin event

CONTEST POWWOW

BASKETBALL

TOURNAMENT

3-ON-3

WHEN:

Saturday, Aug. 19 (8 a.m.-finish)

WHO CAN PLAY:

Coed, Middle and High School Brackets
Men's Open, Women's Open
*TEAMS OF 4

WHERE:

úyxat Powwow Grounds
9600 Highway 22 (Hebo Road),
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

OTHER INFO:

All teams must have a coach (18+)
PRIZES FOR 3 POINT CONTEST and 1st-3rd PLACE

FREE REGISTRATION
DEADLINE IS AUG. 18 AT 10 P.M.
recreation@grandronde.org | 503.879.1369

CLICK TO REGISTER

SCAN TO REGISTER

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF
GRAND RONDE &
ALL ARE WE WATER COLLECTIVE
PRESENT

Grand Ronde Surfers Clinic

Sponsored by
CTGR Youth
Empowerment
& Prevention

No
experience
necessary!

Learn How to Surf from a Professional Surfer!

When: August 25th
9:00am - 2:00pm
What: Surfing Clinic & Ocean Safety
Where: Otter Rock, OR
Who: For Members & Descendants of
The Confederated Tribes of
Grand Ronde
Ages 10 - 18

Sign Ups are Open!
Visit
allarewesignup.as.me/
grandronde
Learn more at:
allarewe.org/events/grandronde

*All Are We provides all the surfing
equipment including: surfboards,
wetsuits, & booties