



NO BULL

Contributed/LindseyWyllie.com

Justin Josey leaps his competition for the win at Friday night's Grant County Freestyle Bullfighting event.

Bullfighters deliver dangerous thrills at fair

Two cowboys ride —
to the hospital

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Freestyle Bullfighting at the Grant County Fair delivered what organizer Trever Hamsher promised would be "the most intense extreme sport you will ever see."

The entertainment had the bullfighters jumping over the bulls, dancing around the bulls — and trying not to become gored by the bulls.

Justin Jose of Apache, Oklahoma, won the event up against a bull named #21 Jump Street with a score of 87.

Jesse Tennet of Springfield placed

second, and Sean Peterson of Summerville took third.

The bulls had the upper hand over Liam Bertolacci and Bradon Johnson, who left the arena by ambulance.

Bertolacci, 19, who's been in the business of bullfighting for just a year and a half had a torn lung. He was released from Blue Mountain Hospital in John Day the following day.

Johnson was treated and released with a knee injury.

Hamsher said he hopes their recoveries go well.

"They'll heal up," he said.

"I want to say thank you to everyone that came out and supported it, and thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors, along with the fair office and fair board," Hamsher said. "I hope to see everyone there next year."



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Bull and cowboy look eye to eye.

Rodeo youth bring home buckles

78 participate
in this year's
Cowkids Rodeo

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Sunday's Cowkids Rodeo gave youth an opportunity to compete as they learn the ropes of the sport.

There were 78 participants from Grant County and as far away as Redmond and Ontario.

Simmie Waddel took the reins again this year as the organizer of the event.

"They enjoy being able to participate in a real rodeo," she said. "The Cinnabar Mountain Playdays are great, but they don't have the opportunity to ride any roughstock."

She said the closest youth rodeos are in central Oregon and in Idaho.

The rodeo had youth through

age 5 riding sheep, or wooly bullies in Cowkids terminology. Ages 6-9 could ride calves and the junior and senior divisions could ride steer.

"I'd like to give a big thank you to those that donated stock," Waddel said. "Willis and Melanie Kimball donated the calves, Mike Carr and John Clark provided steers, plus the McDaniel family, Martin family and the Waddel family."

There were 22 belt buckles given away to winners.

Trinity Hutchison, 15, of John Day, Waddel's daughter, has been competing in rodeo since she was 2 years old.

On Sunday, she earned one buckle for goat tying and another for dummy roping. She also placed third in barrels and competed in pole bending.

Hutchison said goat tying is her favorite event, and she competes in barrels and pole bending with her 5-year-old filly Paulina.

She hopes to one day compete

in a professional rodeo. She said she likes having the local rodeo with out-of-town participation.

"It's a good experience to get you started, and it's something to look forward to because you have the opportunity to win a buckle at the end, if you do good."

Waddel said she's been organizing the Cowkids Rodeo for six years. She handles all aspects of preparing for the rodeo, and then on rodeo day, many volunteers come out to help with timing, running gates, pushing stock and helping the youth.

"I'd like to thank all the volunteers who keep everything running smooth," she said.

Besides the other Grant County Fair sponsors, she said her big donors are Pioneer Feed, which gives half the cost of the buckles, and Bar W-B, which donates Wrangler blankets.

Mary Ann Vidourek also embroiders the hats and blankets for a minimal cost.

Waddel said the buckles are a special prize to the winners.

"It's a trophy that they can wear," she said. "My kids enjoy hearing people ask about how they won it. It's something that they earned, not just something they went out and bought."

Cowkids Rodeo, first-place winners

Peewee Division
Wooly bullies: Nolan Mobley
Dummy roping: Paxton Waggoner
Pole bending: Kodee Kimball
Barrels: Kodee Kimball
Goat tail untying: Kodee Kimball

Youth Division
Calf riding: Taylor Parson
Dummy roping: Colton Clark
Pole bending: Denni Coleman
Barrels: Denni Coleman
Goat tail untying: Taylor Churchfield

Junior Division
Steer riding: Riley Robertson
Dummy roping: Lacy Churchfield
Pole bending: Lacy Churchfield
Barrels: Lacy Churchfield
Goat tying: Lacy Churchfield

Senior Division
Steer riding: Opie McDaniel
Dummy roping: Trinity Hutchison
Pole bending: Regan Johnson
Barrels: Denali Twehues
Goat tying: Trinity Hutchison



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Brothers Run organizer Megan Workman is joined by Shilo Burton, Mindy Hutchison, Melissa Galbreath and KC Dickens, helping at the finish line of Saturday's race.

Community comes together for Brothers Run 5K

Proceeds benefit Grant County scholarships

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Participants in Saturday's Brothers Run 5K Walk/Run kept two Mt. Vernon brothers in mind as they raised money for Grant County student scholarships.

This year, 69 runners and walkers were at the Seventh Street Complex starting line.

The 5K honors Mt. Vernon brothers Taner Gilliam (June 24, 1993-July 19, 2010) and Arthur "AJ" Dickens (June 6, 2002-Dec. 10, 2015).

When the event was first organized in 2011 by their sister Megan Workman, proceeds were split between a scholarship fund and the Muscular Dystrophy Association; Dickens had Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

This year, Workman is keeping the donations local to benefit the Taner Gilliam and AJ Dickens Scholarship Foundation for graduating Grant County high school seniors.

"It was a great way to honor the boys' memory," Workman said after Saturday's race.

She thanked the participants and volunteers during a gathering where they gave away prizes.

"We're really excited to donate so much to the scholarship fund this year," she said. "I'd like to thank the whole community for being a part of this event."

First to cross the finish line was Tanner Elliott of Canyon City with a time of 17:05.

Savannah Wyllie of Loop, Texas, was second, and first in the women's division, with a time of 20:24.

Several friends and family members volunteered to help hand out water and record times, including Sandy Johnson, Gilliam's grandmother.

"It's a good cause for our boys with family and friends," she said.

Those who would like to send in a donation can mail it to: Megan Workman, P.O. Box 106, Mt. Vernon, OR 97865. Make checks payable to The Brothers Run or Taner Gilliam Memorial Fund.

For more information, contact Workman at 541-620-1822 or 541-448-2535.

Knowles hopes to extend finals streak

Mt. Vernon bulldogger places third in Hermiston

By Matt Entrup
EO Media Group

Mt. Vernon steer wrestler Trevor Knowles has made the Wrangler National Finals every year since 2004, and entered last week's Farm-City Pro Rodeo in Hermiston that his uncle helped found 28 years ago feeling the pressure of keeping that streak going.

"It's been a rough year for me," said the cowboy of a season that has him at No. 21 in the world standings. "Long story short, my dad's health wasn't real good this spring. I came home for quite a while, and then he started doing a little better and I decided I could go compete again. So I've

been trying to make a comeback here since June."

After an initial hot streak that saw him win the aggregate in Sisters and place second in Reno, Nevada, things have cooled considerably, and Knowles needs to make up about \$7,000 to get into the running for the finals.

"It always turns, and I'm getting impatient," he said. "You know, it's August and I'd like to have some opportunities to fill my pockets in the next 60 days."

He earned a bit of that, \$1,301, in Hermiston after a 4.8 in the second performance of the Farm-City Pro Rodeo on Thursday finished third place in Round 2. He had a 7.5 in the afternoon's slack to give him 12.3 combined, but he didn't place in the aggregate.

Mike McGinn posted the best single time at the rodeo, 4.1, to win Round 2, and Clayton Hass won the aggregate with a 10.3.



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