

**RODEO**

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prepare them for the next level of rodeo.

Sam McCracken, in the intermediate division, said he was glad to be competing again with his horse.

"I was happy to be back," he said.

He competed in all the events and said goat tying was his favorite.

"I like it because it relates to other events, like calf tying," he said.

Monte Legg and others held a goat flanking and tying clinic after Sunday's rodeo to help kids learn the technique. Five youths stayed an extra hour for the lessons.

"A lot of kids come back and compete year after year," said Didgette McCracken. "It's amazing to look back and think of where they came from and how much they've improved."

The next CMP rodeos will be the weekends of July 21-22 and Aug. 4-5, which will be a "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" event. The events are

free for spectators.

A CMP membership is \$30 for an individual, \$45 for a family, and entry fees are \$2 per event or \$10 per day. CMP youths must participate in at least four playdays to be eligible for year-end awards.

For more information, contact McCracken at 541-575-3520, Emma Winkelman at 541-620-1199, Janet Plocharsky at 541-792-0077, Tiffnie Schmadeka 541-620-2881, Tasha Marciel 541-620-0704 or Nicole Israel 541-620-2624.



Tatyn Harper competes in the junior division for figure eight at the Cinnabar Mountain Playdays rodeo.



Isabelle Rosebrook holds up her ribbon in the goat tail untying event. Volunteer Sam McCracken, left, holds the goat in place. Monte Legg is in back.

Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter



Taylor Hamilton competes in junior figure eight at the Cinnabar Mountain Playdays kids rodeo series on Saturday, June 16, at the Grant County Fairgrounds.



Riley Hansen competes in the goat tail untying event at Saturday's Cinnabar Mountain Playdays kids rodeo at the Grant County Fairgrounds.



Bransyn Harper competes at the Saturday, June 16, youth rodeo.

**SPIKERS**

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She said, while her team played well, they still had some unforced errors and missed serves, "little things that we're hoping to perfect before we leave (June 23)."

Moore said her daughter Alcie, who is on the team, enjoyed playing AAU volleyball when they lived in Phoenix, Arizona, and Alcie had hoped to continue when they moved to the John Day area last year.

Some of the Grant Union girls played AAU volleyball in middle school, but not in the higher age group.

"This is the first time that they've competed on a national level," Moore said. "It's fun. Making this happen, I wondered, 'What am I doing to myself — I'm already busy.'"

She added, "It's a lifetime experience for these kids."

Moore said she paid for the trip to nationals up front, and the girls will hold fundraisers to repay the money.

McKeely Miller, a member of the Gold Digger team, said when the group came together after spring sports, they were able to jump back into the game after only a few practices.


"We are just used to playing together as a team, and we adjust really well to each other," she said. "It's a great opportunity to be able to play volleyball at such a high level."

Moore said the girls are already talking about competing next year.

Moore is the AAU coach, and the Grant Union varsity coach this fall will be Ali Abrego, who teaches at Humbolt Elementary School. Abrego was hired for the coaching position after former head coach Shae Speth moved out of state. The Grant Union volleyball team won the 2A state championship title last season.

Moore said she's pleased that Abrego will lead the Grant Union team this fall.

"I think Ali will do a great job with them," she said.



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**VOLUNTEERS/STAFF**


- Avery Hughes
- Chris Northway
- Debi Hueckman
- GU Boys Basketball
- GU Gold Dance Team
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