



Bullfighting draws standing-room only crowd

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Six freestyle bullfighters took on Hamscher Fighting Bulls Saturday in John Day, thrilling a standing-room only crowd at the fourth annual freestyle bullfights during the Grant County Fair.

A small delay at the start came when the first bull in the chute crashed around, breaking the gate, but that was just an indicator of how raucous the show would be from that point.

None of the six had an ambulance ride, but one bullfighter, Jerry Jacobs of Buckeye, Arizona, took a stomping from his "opponent." He stayed in the ring and fought the good fight for 82.5 points.

He was topped by champion Coy Kraut of Queen Creek, Arizona, who won the \$1,500 prize with 84 points against a bull named Leap Frog.

The remainder of the \$3,000 payout was broken down for the other competitors.

Kraut was in the ring at the Grant County Fairgrounds a couple years ago at age 15 for an exhibition round.

Tyler Lingbeck of Salinas, California, who was last year's champion and is currently in the top 40 in the world standings, scored 80.5.

Organizer Trevor Hamscher said his bulls will have traveled to about a dozen freestyle fights by the end of the year in Oregon, Canada, Washington, Nevada, Idaho, Utah and California.

Hamscher said he's grateful to all



Contributed photo/LindseyWyllie.com
Bullfighter Jesse Tennent of Springfield finds himself in a compromising situation with his 'opponent.'

the volunteers behind the scenes who make the event possible.

"I feel extremely blessed that we had the turnout that we did and that people support the bull fights at the fair," he said.

At the halfway point of the night, fair court adviser Deanna Maley announced the 2020 Grant County Fair and Rodeo queen and princess with 2019 Queen Court-

ney Nichols handing out flowers.

The new queen is Kelsei Kiser of Fox Valley and Katie Barker of Dayville will reign as princess.

Barrelman and entertainer Clint "Wolfy" Selvester kept the audience engaged as he bantered with announcer Marty Campbell.

At one point, when the crowd wasn't quite noisy enough, Campbell joked that they might turn the



The 2020 Grant County Fair and Rodeo court was announced Saturday night. From left, 2020 Queen Kelsei Kiser of Fox Valley, 2020 Princess Katie Barker of Dayville and 2019 Queen Courtney Nichols of Dayville.



Contributed photo/LindseyWyllie.com
Coy Kraut, 17, of Queen Creek, Arizona, takes the bull by the horns for the win Saturday night.

bulls loose in their backyard if they didn't fire up — the audience obliged.

Other bullfighters in the ring included Clay Moore of Belen, New Mexico, 78; Jesse Tennent, Springfield, 76; and Cody Escobedo, Gilbert, Arizona, 72.

Tennent came back for an encore exhibition round to close the night.

SHOOTING THE BREEZE Healthy habits

Anyone I've ever talked to about hunting has a story or two where they've experienced something which could be described as a sterling example of "what not to do." Whether greenhorn mistakes or veteran omissions, anyone can have accidents. I bang the drum of safety quite often, but I feel it continually deserves merit. I know, I know, these "pep talks" and statistics could bore the socks off of several dozen hot wings waitresses, but it's when we get lax that accidents happen.



Dale Valade

I, for one, cringe when I see streaming videos of cheechacos indulging in complete idiocy with firearms. Recklessness, immaturity and ignorance fuel these beer-guzzling imps and their fatuity. As an aside, alcohol and guns have no place together. Not only does it give responsible shooters a bad name, it's exceedingly dangerous. I think shooting is and should be fun, but safety can never be compromised. We are constantly representing shooters everywhere with our actions and must never fail to cast a positive light on the shooting and hunting community.

Each year, approximately 1,000 people in the U.S. and Canada are involved in hunting-related accidents. Around 10% result in fatalities. Recent estimates claim there are almost 6,000 hunting accidents involving tree stands nationally. In Indiana alone, 55% of hunting accidents involve folks falling out of tree stands.

According to the Loder-Farren report of 2014, there are approximately 123,000 firearms accidents in the U.S. annually, though only 144 resulted in fatalities that year. It's not clear how many of those were hunting related. In Oregon, between 2008-2017, according to ODFW stats, there were 41 hunting accidents, 10 of which resulted in fatalities. Some of these were self-inflicted, some were due to mistaken or no identification of target but all could be attributed to negligence. Safety, you make it happen.

Many states require blaze orange apparel to hunt on public land. Oregon only requires it for youth under the age of 18. Though it's not required by law, I highly recommend wearing it. It's pretty cheap insurance and tough to be mistaken for a game animal when wearing it. Blaze orange is no sure thing and cannot replace responsible gun handling in any case.

Treat every gun like it is loaded, never point your gun at anything you don't intend to shoot and be sure of your target and what's beyond it. Don't even touch the safety or the trigger until you're ready to shoot. Following basic gun safety rules, dressing appropriately and taking the time to really identify our targets will result in safer hunting and shooting experiences for everyone.

The future of hunting and shooting very much depends upon what we do. There are many who would like to see both banned from existence, and when carelessness leads to accidents, it provides these antagonists with literal ammunition in the fight for our rights. Let's take extra special care when we are out enjoying our hunts and plinking. When everyone goes home, everyone wins.

Do you enjoy our articles? Write in to shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com!

Dale Valade is a local county gent with a deep love for handloading, hunting and shooting.

Junior Rodeo has a record 107 contestants

Volunteers make a difference at traditional Grant County Fair event

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

This year's Grant County Junior Rodeo was well attended Aug. 11 at the Grant County Fairgrounds in John Day.

Organizer Shilo Burton-Harper said 107 contestants entered, "a record for this little junior rodeo" that's part of the Grant County Fair.

Burton-Harper and co-organizer Brittany Desadier hosted the event with the assistance of over 25 volunteers.

"This is one of the few single-day junior rodeos still being put on in Oregon," Burton-Harper said.

Chad Finley, who won the calf roping event at the Aug. 9-10 Grant County NPRA Rodeo, was out in the arena as a volunteer at the Junior Rodeo.

"I have nephews and my cousins' kids involved," he said. "I like to help out and get young kids involved in rodeo."

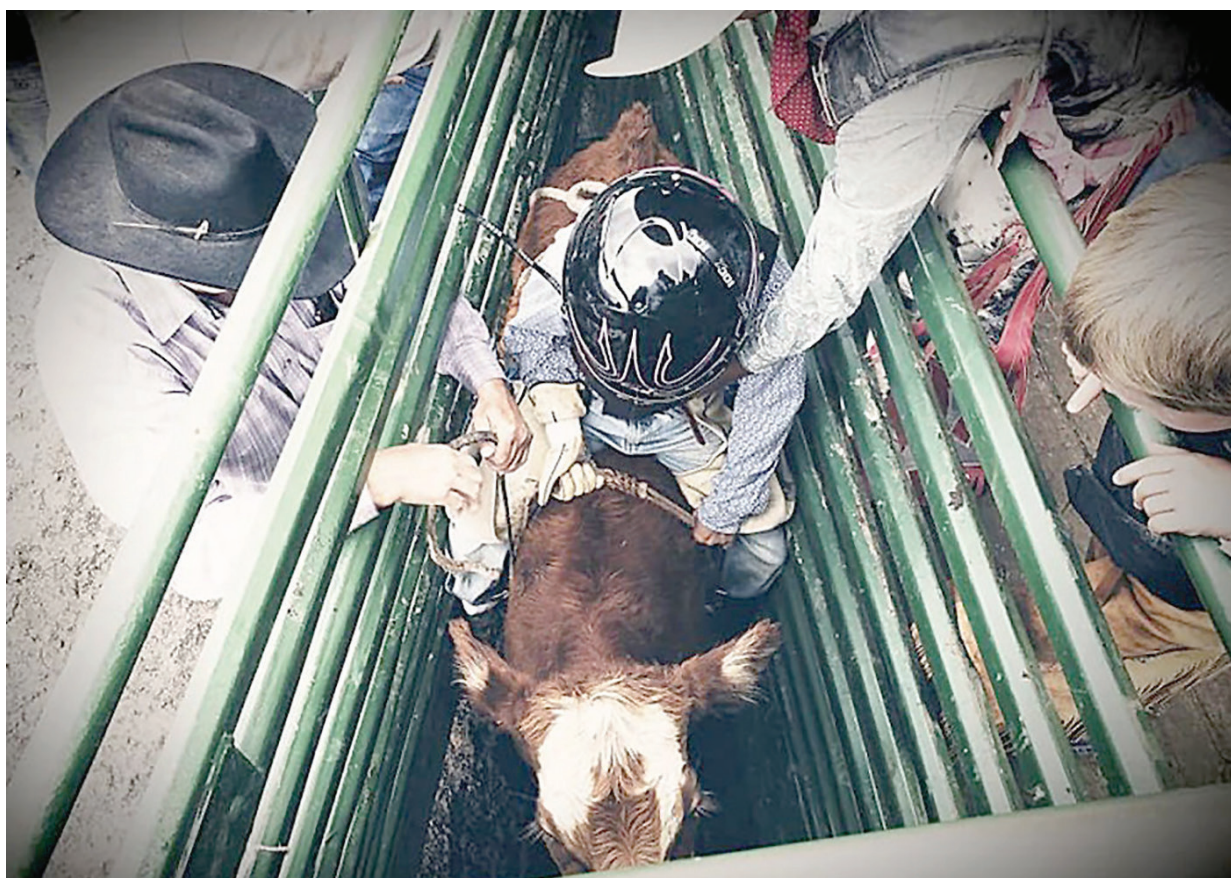
He was in the arena assisting when 6-year-old Bransyn Harper charged out of the gate in the mutton bustin' event, staying on for several seconds, though he was not officially competing with that age group.

"I couldn't keep up on foot," Finley said.

Burton-Harper said she appreciated all who helped with the event.

"This would not have been possible without sponsors and supporters of America's rodeo youth," she said.

Volunteers included: announcer Jake Taylor, Brit-tany Doherty, Emma Winkel-man, Andrea and Jeff Finley, Christy Finley, Chad and Whitney Finley, Monte Legg, Trevor McCoy, Jim Hamscher, Trevor Faulkner, Daryl Burton, Jim and Carrie Merek, Jordan Desadier, Meghan Tremblay, Colleen Wylie, Tonya and Jason Rosebrook, Tara Finley, Nicole Israel, Kyla Emerson, Denali Twehues and more.



Contributed photo/Carrie Merek
Clay Merek of White Bird, Idaho, has his rope tightened during the steer riding event Aug. 11 at the Junior Rodeo at the Grant County Fairgrounds in John Day. Merek won the event for his division.

ALL-AROUND WINNERS

Peewee: Kingslee Green
Youth: Paysen Green
Junior: Gabby Bartolotta
Senior: Talyn Sandifer

PEEWEE DIVISION

Mutton bustin'
First: Raynes Russell
Second: Madison Rockhill
Third: Kingslee Green

Barrel racing

First: Rhilynn Compton
Second: Jace Davis
Third: Millie McCoin

Pole bending

First: Kingslee Green
Second: Cole Holly
Third: Kane Robison

Goat tail untying

First: Kingslee Green
Second: Raynes Russell
Third: Jace Davis

Dummy roping

First: Kingslee Green
Second: Jace Davis
Third: Blake Kimball

YOUTH DIVISION

Calf riding

First: Taty Harper
Second: Paysen Green
Third: Emmett Oliver

Barrel racing

First: Cooper Holly
Second: Paysen Green
Third: Tavin Desadier

Pole bending

First: Laine Winebarger
Second: Paysen Green
Third: Cooper Holly

Goat tail tying

First: Jadon Snow
Second: Cooper Holly
Third: Paysen Green

Dummy roping

First: Tate Turner

Second: AJ Freese

Third: Taty Harper

JUNIOR DIVISION

Steer riding

First: Steven Davidson
Second: Kase Schaffield
Third: Gavin Foglio

Chute doggin'

First: Kase Schaffield
Second: Coy Mathiasen
Third: Earl Oliver

Breakaway

First: Earl Oliver
Second: Zoey Beam

Barrel racing

First: Carlie Palmer
Second: Corley Holliday
Third: Gabby Bartolotta

Pole bending

First: Gabby Bartolotta
Second: Bailey McCracken
Third: Zoey Beam

SENIOR DIVISION

Steer riding

First: Clay Merek
Second: Frankie Beam
Third: Coy Schaffield

Chute doggin'

First: Garrett Foglio
Second: Cody Eskew
Third: Coy Schaffield

Breakaway

First: Talyn Sandifer
Second: Brooke Blevins

Barrel racing

First: Talyn Sandifer
Second: Sarah Clark
Third: Laramie Kizer

Pole bending

First: Sarah Clark
Second: Talyn Sandifer
Third: Brook Blevins

Goat tying

First: Brook Blevins
Second: Macey Moore
Third: Clay Merek

Frankie Beam of Prairie City, left, and Clay Merek of White Bird, Idaho, show off their steer riding awards. Beam took second place, and Merek took first in the senior division at the Aug. 11 Junior Rodeo in John Day.
Contributed photo
Carrie Merek



Kingslee Green of Madras won All Around Contestant in the PeeWee division for ages 5 and under at the Junior Rodeo.

Contributed photo
Brittany Desadier