

HEPPNER

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Queen Rondi follows family rodeo tradition

Queen Rondi Lynne Robinson of the 1995 Morrow County Fair and the Oregon Trail PRCA Rodeo traces her local roots to 1884 homesteaders, the M.J. Devins and the Robinson family pioneer settlers. Rondi is a fifth generation member of Heppner area ranch families.

The 18-year-old daughter of Kirk and Delia Robinson, Queen Rondi is a 1995 Heppner High School graduate following in the footsteps of family members. She has a younger brother, Royal, a freshman at HHS this year.

Heppner school ties as well as royalty roles have become a part of her family's traditions. Rondi's grandmother, Merlyn Kirk Robinson, was the 1947 fair and rodeo queen at Heppner. Merlyn's sister, Evelyn Kirk Broun, was a princess on the 1939 court of Maxine McCurdy Gilman. And Rondi's aunt, Kyrnn Robinson Parham, was a princess on the 1977 court of Mary Ann Proctor Munkers.

Supported by her two pretty brunette princesses, Michelle Meakins and Stephanie Skultety, this blonde queen quips that court positions as well as life have their ups and downs. During her 4-H years, Queen Rondi says she enjoyed horse shows, particularly hunt seat over fences. But she joked that she never perfected the art of gracefully falling off a horse. In jest, she says that she wasn't

Queen Rondi Robinson

Height: 5'7"

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Blond

Parents: Kirk & Delia

Age: 18 yr HHS graduate

Activities: 4-H, FFA, drama club, Volleyball basketball, prom court, homecoming court, past rodeo princess,



trying to give a trick riding demonstration when her saddle turned during the court's grand entry at the Arlington Rodeo. But that embarrassing incident was treated with good humor with the retort that "it was one way to warm up after a teeth-chattering parade route" in Arlington due to cool spring weather.

Growing up on a ranch also has its highs and lows, she recalls, as there were some horse-related wrecks associated with training horses, trail rides and cattle drives. She also suffered a knee injury that required two surgeries while playing high school basketball and at her graduation time, she was ill with mononucleosis.

But obstacles can be over-

come and court responsibilities weigh heavily on court members, says Rondi. She added that courts have the opportunity to present a positive role model for younger girls, educated people about ranching lifestyles and to promote fair and rodeo as important county-wide events.

More than putting on a happy face, court members must have horses groomed to perfection along with immaculate tack and meticulously clean and pressed court clothing, Queen Rondi emphasizes. And just as important, she claims, is the friendly persona projected by court members that depicts this county's great Eastern Oregon hospitality.

A busy summer has included the usual "hurry up and wait" appearances at parades in Spray, The Dalles, Hermiston and Boardman, as well as Arlington, Sisters and Joseph. With a bevy of ribbons to attest to this year's court parade wins, these girls will also be participating in the Pendleton Round-Up parades.

Like other fashions, royalty dress styles have changed through the years. The once traditional pant outfits have been replaced with a more glamorous version of the old style leather riding skirts with vests. Queen Rondi's off-white, fringed, ultrasuede attire with accents provides a pleasing contrast to her princesses' burgundy outfits.

During her growing up years, Rondi was a 4-H and FFA member, where she held offices and won ribbons and trophies with horse, sheep and beef projects. In high school, she was a varsity volleyball and basketball team member. She played major roles in plays presented by the Drama Club and she was a member of the Out-

Rodeo is more than a sport, it's a lifestyle

Rodeo is more than a sport. It's a lifestyle. It's a taxing lifestyle to be sure, but one that is infinitely rewarding to those that choose to pursue it.

Rodeo is the only sport in the world to have developed from the skills required in a work situation and even today it retains the fierce independence of the ranch hands of the 1800s who turned it into sport.

Pro Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) rodeos are held in 46 states within the United States and four Canadian Provinces.

The Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo (OTPR) is coming to Heppner on August 18-19. This is one of the top professional rodeos in the Northwest; many of the top cowboys and cowgirls will be competing. Bring the whole family and join in the fun at this year's rodeo, a tradition in Morrow County for 73 years.

Friday, August 18, the rodeo performance will start at 7:15 p.m. On Saturday, August 19, Slack will start at 7:30 a.m. and the afternoon performance will start at 1:15 p.m. General admission tickets for adults is \$8, \$5 for children 6-12 and children under five years of age will be admitted free.

Champions that will be competing for \$25,000 in prize money this year include: Clint Corey, Joe Beaver, Mike Beers, Dee Picket, Rod Lyman, Brad Gleason, Fred Whitfield, Bob-



Randi Rae Britt is leading women's professional barrel racers association, Columbia River Circuit.

Hurley, Allen Bach and Mike Hammer. Local contestants are Ron, Tony and Steve Currin, Jerry Gentry, Mike Mahoney, Kyle Robinson, Cliff Dougherty, Mark Holmquist, Butch Knowles, Steve Miller and Brett McDowell, as well as top cowgirls in the Northwest: Randi Britt, Annie Hisler, Mary Ann Munkers, Trisha Mahoney, Janice Davis and Maureen Crossley.

Renowned rodeo announcer, Bob Tallman, will be on hand to present the action of this year's rodeo, along with Bruce Kimsey, Ike Pryor and Dan Neuman, famous rodeo clowns and bullfighters. During his 20 plus years as a PRCA rodeo announcer, Tallman has announced the National Finals Rodeo eight times and was "Announcer of the Year" in 1982 and 1987. Tallman is famous for his crowd involvement, making him one of professional rodeo's most popular announcers.

This year's major sponsors of the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo include: Graybeal Distributing, Morrow County Wheat Growers, Les Schwab, Morrow County Grain Growers, Coca Cola Bottling Co., Finley Buttes Landfill, Carner Auto Center, Mike Partlow Cattle Co., Gardner's Mens Wear and the Bank of Eastern Oregon.

Highlights of the weekend include: The Oregon Trail All-Around Saddle, sponsored by Gardner's Mens Wear and made by Rich Boyer, the sixth annual Memorial Mike Currin OTPR Professional Calf Roping Champion Buckle and the "Top Hand High School Rodeo Athlete" from Morrow County.

Frank Beard's "Dodge Magnum V-10", sponsored by the OTPR Committee, Carner's Auto Center and Dodge, will be a featured attraction. This bull was ridden at the Mollala Pro Rodeo for \$12,000 earlier this year.

A "Cowboy Auction" featuring Morrow County Team

Ropers will be held at the Heppner Elks Club Saturday night, followed by dancing to the music of the "Beck-A-Roos", sponsored by the Bank of Eastern Oregon, featuring James Mason, the top fiddler in the Northwest.

The Morrow County Rodeo on Sunday, August 20, starting at 1:15 p.m., will feature local and alumni rodeo athletes from Morrow County.

Events include: stickhorse races, for ages three and under, four and five year olds and six and seven year olds, with trophies furnished to the top three places in each age group by Bob and Sherree Mahoney and Peterson's Jewelers.

In the following events, buckles will be presented: mutton busting sponsored by Court Street Market; calf riding sponsored by Paul Hisler Jr. family; breakaway roping sponsored by Green Feed and Seed; steer wrestling sponsored by the Bob Steagall family; cow riding sponsored by Coast to Coast; pee wee barrels sponsored by Murray's Drug; junior barrels sponsored by the Healy family; senior barrels sponsored by Peterson's Jewelry; steer dobbing sponsored by Dick Temple, DVM; jr. goat tying sponsored by Turner 4; goat tying sponsored by Wrangler's Horse Club; open calf roping sponsored by Van Marter and Kahl Insurance; team roping sponsored by Pettyjohn Hardware and Heritage Land Company; and the all-around champion buckle sponsored by Les Schwab Tire Center.

The featured event of this rodeo is "The Morrow County Amateur Calf Roping" with a championship saddle donated by Greg Demers and made by saddle maker Lee Ansotequi. The Morrow County Amateur Calf Roping event has been a tradition in Morrow County since 1950.

Cost of admission for the Morrow County Rodeo is \$5 for adults, \$3.50 for children 6-12 and children under five are admitted free.

Sports physicals slated for August 16

Free physical exams for Heppner and Lone students wishing to participate in sports for the 1995-96 school year will be held this Wednesday, Aug. 16, at Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

All seventh graders, sophomores, lone sixth graders and anyone new to the district planning to participate in sports is required to have a physical.

Those unable to take advantage of the physicals Aug. 16 must make an appointment for a physical at their own

expense. Girls' physicals will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. and boys' from 7 to 9 p.m.

Fair & Rodeo section in GT

Included in this week's issue of the Gazette-Times is your 20-page Morrow County Fair & Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo special section.

The special section contains articles and advertisements to help you enjoy this year's fair and rodeo.



Queen Rondi Robinson with her horse she rides



**We Will Be
Closed Saturday
For Fair & Rodeo**

Morrow County Grain Growers

Lexington 989-8221 1-800-452-7396

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Fun
At
The
Fair**